ICHARM announces with great pleasure the launch of “UN/ISDR Comprehensive Tsunami Disaster Prevention Training Course” from 3rd June to 10th July, which is supported by JICA and in collaboration with UN/ISDR.

The Indian Ocean Tsunami on 26th December 2004 caused about 230,000 casualties and enormous property damage along the Indian Ocean. This giant loss is basically due to the lack of proper awareness and preparedness for tsunami disasters from national government level to local level.

Japan has a long experience with tsunami disasters. The 1896 Meiji-sanriku Tsunami caused about 22,000 casualties, for example. Because of that, Japan has been making major efforts to enhance tsunami disaster prevention.

To make good use of such experiences toward tsunami disaster countermeasures in developing countries, ICHARM launches the “UN/ISDR Tsunami Disaster Prevention Training Course” for section chief-level personnel who are responsible for promoting tsunami disaster mitigation.

The course lecturers include prominent university professors, experienced technical experts, and disaster management personnel at the national to local levels, including Professor Shuto of Nihon University, who is the world-class expert in the field of tsunami study.

The overall objective is to develop human resources who work for comprehensive tsunami disaster mitigation including structural measures, tsunami early warning systems, local disaster management plans in developing countries. After returning their home countries, they are also expected to share the information and know-how acquired through the course among fellow personnel in tsunami disaster mitigation.

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Outline of the “UN/ISDR Comprehensive Tsunami Disaster Prevention Training Course”

1. Background
Funded by the European Commission, UN/ISDR is now conducting many 2-year projects of “Building Resilience to Tsunamis in the Indian Ocean” in order to promote tsunami countermeasures in developing countries.

As one of the projects, ICHARM will conduct the “UN/ISDR Comprehensive Tsunami Disaster Prevention Training Course”. The total amount for the project is $200,000.

2. Organizers
Implementing organization:
   International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICARM)

Supporting organization:
   Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

3. Period
3rd June – 10th July 2008 (6 weeks)

4. Participant
Total: 11 members
   Mr. Ujjwal Kumar
       Section Officer, Government of India Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs
   Mr. LALLOO PRASAD SONKAR
       Adviser (Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme), Government of India Planning commission
   Mr. Juriono
       Coordinator on Drill and SOP's Division Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI)
   Mr. Teuku Alvisyahrin
       Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture Syiah Kuala University, Indonesia
   Mr. Weka Mahardi
       Staff of Sub Directorate Rehabilitation and Utilization Coasts and Ocean Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia
   Mr. WISYANTO
       Researcher on Technology for Natural disaster Mitigation Agency for The Assessment and Application of Technology, Indonesia
   Mr. Murthala Mohamed Didi
       Director, National Disaster Management Centre, Maldives
   Mrs. Rilweena Asiath
       National Project Manager United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Maldives
   Mrs. JAYASUNDARA Mudiyanaselge Sriyani Jayasundara
       Assistant Director (Preparedness and Planning), Disaster Management Centre, Sri Lanka
   Mr. Senadhipathi Mudiyanaselge Saman Palitha Bandara
       Assistant Director (training and public awareness) Disaster Management Center, Sri Lanka
   Mr. Sooriya Arachchige Ranjan Jayawardana
       Chief Irrigation Engineer Irrigation Department, Sri Lanka

5. Curriculum
1st and 2nd week: Lectures and practices on tsunami and its countermeasures, etc.
3rd week: On-sight Survey along Sanriku Coast
4th week: Interim report, practices on Tsunami propagation mapping, Google Earth, etc.
5th week: On-sight Survey along Ki-i Coast
6th week: Making and presentation of Action plan