

# **“Town Watching for Disaster Reduction” for effective and successful risk communication**

**United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, JAPAN)**

**Thematic Session (Cluster 2):**

**Effective and Successful Risk Communication**

**- as an Integral Part of Disaster Risk Management -**

**20 January 2005**

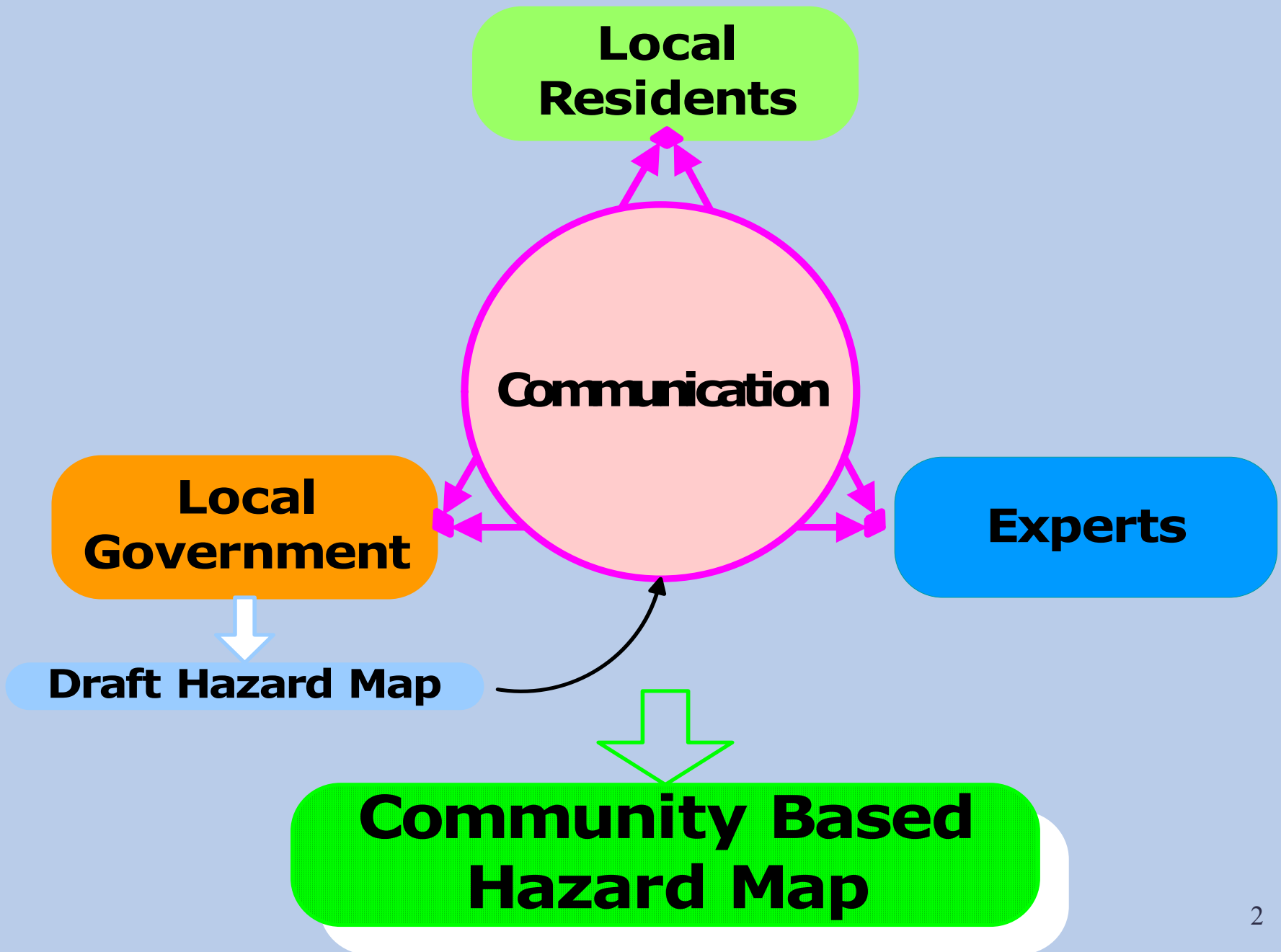
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# Community Based Hazard Mapping




# Town Watching for Disaster Reduction

**Step 0: Learn About Disasters**



**Step 1: Know Our Town/Field Survey**



**Step 2: Develop a Map**



**Step 3: Conduct Group Discussions  
and Make Presentations**

# Step 0: Learn About Disasters

- ◆ Lectures on disasters in the local community
  - Mechanisms of natural hazards
  - Historical events
  - Causes of local vulnerabilities
  - Countermeasures
  - etc.
  
- ◆ Introduction to the Town-Watching concept
  - Objectives
  - Schedules of activities
  - Expected results

# Step 1: Know Our Town / Field Survey

- ◆ Each group walks around the streets in the local community, looking to identify both **positive** and **negative** features relating to disaster risk management activities.
- ◆ Group members make notes and take photographs.



## Step 2: Develop a Map

- ◆ Group members create a community based hazard map, manually integrating their observations and findings on a large-scale base map.



# Step 3: Conduct Group Discussions and Make Presentations

- Group discusses about:

"What are the potential **problems?**",

"What are the possible **countermeasures?**",

"Who should be **responsible for implementing particular countermeasures?**"

- Presentations to share the results of the group discussions



# Good Practice 1: Town-Watching for Floods in Seoul, Rep. of Korea (Conducted by ADRC with Typhoon Committee)





## Good Practice 2:

Disaster Prevention Education Program for Children:

### **“Exploration for Disaster Prevention”**

by General Insurance Association of Japan (GIAJ) and  
Nippon Volunteer Network Active in Disaster (NVNAD)

- ◆ GIAJ and NVNAD jointly developed the program in 2003.
- ◆ This program is designed for elementary school students.
- ◆ Children can enjoy learning about disaster prevention and risks in daily life.



# Summary

The major merits of **Town-Watching** are that people are better able to:

- ◆ Develop a concrete image of disaster reduction activities among all stakeholders including government officials, experts, local residents, etc.
- ◆ Autonomously identify problems in their own communities
- ◆ Share opinions and reach a reasonable social consensus through face-to-face discussions

 **Activates Risk Communication !** <sup>10</sup>

# Dec. 2004 Tsunami Disaster in Indian Ocean

If we know about Tsunami, people can evacuate safely !



Hikkaduwa, Gall Province, Sri Lanka<sup>11</sup>



**Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)**

**<http://www.adrc.or.jp/>**