

ACDR2013 Opening address  
Shigeru ITOH  
Chairman, ADRC

Your Excellency Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Yoshitami KAMEOKA.  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor to deliver opening remarks as Chairman of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) here in Kobe.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to your participation in this Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2013 as co-chair of the conference.

Recently, countries around the world have experienced natural disasters of unprecedented scale and nature, such as the Thailand flood in 2011 and the Great East Japan Earthquake. And also in the last year, we had a lot of natural disasters such as Typhoon/Hurricane in US and Philippines, as well as earthquakes in Iran and Myanmar.

In particular, the March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami has caused devastation in north-eastern parts of Japan along the Pacific coast. Although the course of recovery process has barely begun, we have learnt a lot of lessons. ADRC, coordinating with IRP, would like to share those precious results with our member countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

ADRC, since its inception, has been promoting multilateral cooperation for disaster risk reduction in close cooperation with its member countries, UN and other international and regional organisations, NGOs, academia and the civil society.

As you know, the discussion on the “post Hyogo Framework of Action” has begun. In this process, towards “mainstreaming of the disaster risk reduction”, we heard that issues such as 1) integrating various sectors of the society, including private sectors, into disaster risk management, 2) enhancing the disaster management methods by new technologies based on scientific knowledge became hot topics and we choose them as the today’s agenda. Therefore, I hope this conference will provide opportunities for countries to share recent experiences learn from each other and contribute the discussion on the post-HFA.

I would like to conclude my remarks by promising that ADRC will continue to work with its member countries to further strengthen countries’ capacity against future disasters and make necessary preparations. We will make every effort to achieve our common goals, sustainable development through building the resilience of nations and communities to natural disasters.

Thank you very much.