



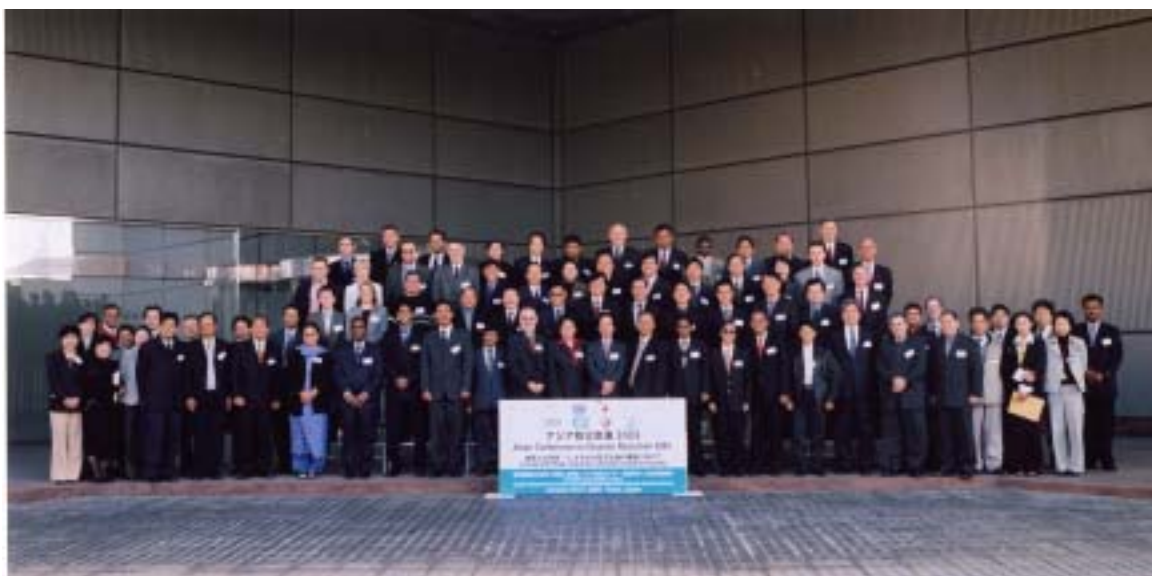
ADRC Highlights

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Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003 — Living with Risk: Towards Disaster Resilient Societies —



The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003 (the 5th ADRC International Meeting and ISDR Asian Meeting) was held in Kobe, Japan from the 15th to 17th of January 2003, co-hosted by the UN/ISDR, the Cabinet Office of Japan, Hyogo Prefecture, ADRC, and the Disaster Reduction Alliance. The conference gathered policy representatives, experts in disaster and risk management from 24 countries in Asia and other parts of the world, and representatives of 26 international and regional organizations.

The aim of the conference was: a) to understand the achievements and challenges in disaster reduction in Asia, b) to develop a paradigm for regional and international cooperation, and c) to build disaster reduction capacity in the Asian region and propose guidelines for its improvement in review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World. Throughout the conference the participants engaged in frank and constructive discussion.

<Recommendations of the Conference>

In order to respond to trends and address challenges emerging in the 21st Century with regard to urban disasters, climate change, and climate related disasters, and to promote cooperation between the various sectors in the field of disaster management, it is necessary to build a framework of international cooperation in the following areas:

- 1) Urban vulnerability and disasters
- 2) Response to climate change
- 3) Multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral cooperation to address emerging challenges
- 4) Enhancement of information management capacity

The Chairperson's Summary adopted by the conference can be viewed from our website http://www.adrc.or.jp/5th/chairperson's_summary.htm

➤ ADRC Cooperative Project 2002 □ Launched projects with Cambodia and Laos PDR

Several new projects were launched on the occasion of the 5th ADRC International Meeting. His Excellency Mr. Nhim Vanda, Senior Minister of Cambodia, and Mr. Nishikawa, Executive Director of ADRC, concluded MOU for a cooperative project "Disaster Management Information Systems Training in Cambodia."



ADRC also started a cooperative project, "Human Resources Development on Disaster Management," with Laos PDR. In Laos, the first workshop will start on the 4th of February.

ADRC would like to contribute to further capacity building in its member countries through these projects.

➤ New Regional Advisor of ADRU/UN-OCHA Kobe □ Mr. Terje Skavdal

Since it was set up in February 2000, the Asian Disaster Response Unit of UN-OCHA Kobe, which is located in ADRC premises, has greatly contributed to improve disaster response and preparedness in Asian region. Ms. Feng Min Kan, who dedicated herself to its activities for two and a half years, left her post last August for her new assignment in UN-ISDR Nairobi. Early in January 2003, Mr. Terje Skavdal, a new regional advisor, arrived in Kobe. ADRC looks forward to providing fruitful outputs of cooperation between ADRC and ADRU/OCHA with the new inputs from Mr. Skavdal.

If you have comments or requests for this Newsletter, please write to ADRC at the address on the right.

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