



ADRC Highlights

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➤ The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2007 is a Great Success



The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2007: Working Together for a Safer World (ACDR 2007) was held from 25-27 June 2007 in Astana in the Republic of Kazakhstan. It was organized by the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the government of Japan (Cabinet Office), the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). A total of 136 participants from 22 countries, mainly ADRC member countries, and from 32 organizations, including the UN, other international organizations, NGOs, and academic institutions, attended ACDR 2007.

□ Conference Objectives and Topics

ACDR 2007 aimed to further review the progress made in Asia toward the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005, as well as to present good practices and achievements, to identify the challenges that remain, and to propose ways to accelerate the implementation process in the future. It addressed such topics as governance, education, the application of scientific knowledge, public-private partnerships, and community-based disaster risk reduction.

□ Opening Ceremony

On behalf of the host government, Conference Chair, H.E. Mr. Victor Khrapunov, Minister for Emergency Situations of the Government of Kazakhstan, delivered the opening address and read greetings from the Prime Minister, H. E. Mr. Karim Masimov and the President, H. E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev regarding the importance of disaster reduction to the country's internal and external security. As vice chair of the conference, H.E. Mr. Katsuei Hirasawa, Senior Deputy-Minister for Disaster Management of the



government of Japan, thanked the government of Kazakhstan for hosting the conference and stressed the importance of the opportunity that it presented to participants for sharing ideas about the methods of implementing the HFA.

Mr. Haoliang Xu, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Kazakhstan and Prof. Shigeru Itoh, ADRC Chairman, expressed their firm commitment to promoting cooperation on disaster risk reduction in the region.

Messages by Mr. Michel Jarraud, WMO Secretary General, and Mr. Salvano Briceno, UN/ISDR Director, both of whom were unavoidably prevented from attending the conference, were read by Dr. Wong Ming-Chung, Deputy Director of Hong Kong Observatory and Mr. Xu, respectively. Their messages conveyed their intent to further increase national capacities in the region.

In his keynote speech, H.E. Mr. Khrapunov acknowledged the incentive provided by HFA for developing a national platform and promoting international cooperation. Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director of ADRC, reported on the progress made in regional cooperation in Asia. Ms. Goulsara Pulatova, Senior Advisor of UN/ISDR Tajikistan made a presentation on behalf of Ms. Helena Molin Valdes, Deputy Director of UN/ISDR on the remaining challenges in the field of disaster risk reduction.

□ Technical Sessions

Two entire days were dedicated to the technical sessions, which included introductory presentations on governance, country presentations on the status of HFA implementation, and panel discussions on the main topics of the ACDR 2007.

ADRC member country representatives and experts from the key organizations in the field of disaster risk reduction were invited to give presentations at these sessions.



□ Conference Summary

A summary of the active discussions that took place throughout the ACDR 2007 was read by Mr. Suzuki at the Closing Ceremony. The Conference Chair, H.E. Mr. Khrapunov closed the conference by stressing the need to accelerate HFA implementation with an eye toward achieving sustainable development in the region. Participants expressed their profound appreciation to the government of Kazakhstan for hosting the Conference.

The Conference Summary and other related documents will soon be available on the ACDR 2007 website (<http://web.adrc.or.jp/acdr2007astana/index.html>). For more information, please contact the Conference Secretariat (acdr2007astana@adrc.or.jp).