



ADRC Highlights

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Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Reconstruction Conference

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Announcement

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● Participation in International Conferences

Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Reconstruction Conference Held in Geneva, 8-13 May 2011

1. About the Session

The Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) organized by UNISDR was held from 8 to 13 May 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland. More than 2,600 delegates from national/regional organizations and governments came together from all over the world to discuss topics around the theme “Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow: Increased Investment in Local Action.” The meeting built on the findings and recommendations of the Global Platform’s second session held in 2009, as well as the results of the Midterm Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The Global Platform also included the first World Reconstruction Conference (WRC), hosted by the World Bank.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon delivered the keynote address, noting that the aim of the conference was to reduce disaster risk through technology, knowledge and economic tools. He called for accelerating efforts to build resilience and to create a “coalition for action” for DRR, especially as global climate change, increasing weather-related hazards and nuclear safety add an even greater sense of urgency.

Following two days of preparatory meetings, the formal conference began with a plenary session on May 10, and this was followed by roundtable and thematic sessions for the discussion of such issues as reconstruction and recovery, the economics of DRR, and synergies with the international climate change and development agenda. Participants particularly focused on the critical next steps that need to be taken.

Shozo Azuma, Senior Vice Minister for Disaster Management, Japan, gave an overview of the consequences of the recent Tohoku earthquakes and tsunami in Japan and expressed Japan's intent to host a high-level DRR conference to share related experiences and lessons in 2012, and also to host the Third World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015.

2. ADRC's Participation in the Session

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) participated in several side events and gave a presentation on the Great East Japan Earthquake. At a side event entitled “Saving Lives and Improved Coastal Risk Management through Regional Cooperation in Ocean and Marine-Related Early Warning Systems in Asia” organized by WMO, ESCAP, UNESCO-IOC, and the International Group on Wind-Related Disaster Risk Reduction (IG-WRDRR), ADRC gave a presentation on the current situation in the Tohoku region and the response and relief activities that were implemented by the Japanese government following that disaster.

ADRC also organized a session on the “Integrated Use of Space



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Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction” together with SPIDER Global Thematic Partnership (UN-SPIDER, DLR, ADRC, ESRI, and ISPRS). They gave a presentation on the use of emergency satellite observations through the Sentinel Asia Initiative and explained how space-based applications were used effectively during the Great East Japan Earthquake in the identification and assessment of the affected area.

On the IGNITE stage, ADRC and IRP gave a presentation on “The Great East Japan Earthquake: Rethinking Investments for a Safer Tomorrow.” They showed what pre-disaster measures had been taken in the Tohoku region, including both structural components (e.g., seawalls, tsunami evacuation buildings) and organizational components (e.g., awareness efforts, disaster drills), and explained how effective those measures have proven to be in this disaster. Together with the Japanese government, ADRC and IRP also took advantage of the Market Place area to highlight several recent projects on disaster preparedness, response and recovery through a display of posters showing how Japan was impacted by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

**●ADRC Staff Profile No. 41****Mr. Kozo Arakawa, Senior Administrative Manager**

My name is Kozo Arakawa, and I was sent by the Hyogo prefectural government in April 2011 to succeed Mr. Masataka Onishi as Senior Administrative Manager of ADRC. While my career with the prefectural government has covered a variety of fields including public relations and information policy, one of my more memorable positions involved the assessment of the disaster recovery process 10 years after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and determining how information was distributed to earthquake victims and the role of government, media, and NGOs in that process. This is my second time working in the “HAT Kobe” area, a development project symbolic the city's creative recovery from the earthquake. Previously I had spent some time working as a marketing/public relations coordinator for the Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art, which is located adjacent to the ADRC.

My main responsibilities at ADRC are related to business management and financial administration, and it is my great pleasure to be able to contribute to the ADRC’s mission of international cooperation in disaster reduction. I look forward to your warm support and guidance during my time working at the ADRC.

**●Announcements**

Information concerning the Advanced Land Observing Satellite (ALOS) from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

http://www.jaxa.jp/press/2011/05/20110512_daichi_e.html

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