



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 298
January
2018

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Chairman, ADRC

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Happy New Year 2018

At the beginning of the year 2018, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone from our 30 member countries, five advisor countries, and relevant organizations for their great support and contributions to the activities of Asian Disaster Reduction Center, ADRC.

In 2017, Asia suffered a variety of disasters including floods and landslides in Bangladesh, Nepal and India, the earthquake in Iran and Iraq, typhoons in Viet Nam and the Philippines, and so on. We reaffirm our commitment to moving forward to further improve our capabilities for disaster risk reduction by joining hands to share the lessons learned from these disasters.

ADRC was founded in the City of Kobe in Hyogo Prefecture in 1998, three years after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and this year marks the 20th anniversary. Over the course of these two decades, great strides have been taken in improving efforts for disaster risk reduction in Asia. Even as societies experience tremendous economic growth and urbanization, they face new challenges. In marking the anniversary of ADRC's founding, we would like to strengthen our engagement with our member countries in redefining our key priorities so that we could help develop solutions to the DRR challenges that could face Asia over the next 20 years.

ADRC recognizes the importance of responding to climate change and climate induced disasters, and of closer partnership with policy makers working for development policies to increase investment for disaster risk reduction, which are of high policy priorities of our member countries. We therefore hope to further strengthen collaboration with our member countries, advisor countries, and relevant organizations to accelerate improvements in disaster risk reduction and disaster response capacity. All of us at ADRC are committed to doing our utmost and look forward to working with you towards that end throughout this year.



Masanori HAMADA
Chairman,
Asian Disaster Reduction Center, ADRC

●ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Mr. Brohi Nasur Ullah(Pakistan)

I am Nasurullah Brohi from Pakistan. I am presently working as an Assistant Director for the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Climate Change. I hold a M. Phil (Research Degree) in Social Sciences; a Master's degree in International Relations, and an undergraduate degree in Political Science. I am familiar with various aspects of disaster management through various Wings & Directorates of the NDMA including disaster risk reduction, prevention, preparedness, operations, mitigation activities, and coordination. I have been assisting with the organizational aspects of disaster planning and implementation, and this affords me the opportunity to have input on national policy formulation and to engage in such activities as relief operations, coordination, and relief assistance during emergencies.



Pakistan experiences several climatic variations since its topography ranges from coastal beaches to sandy deserts, plateaus, plains, mountains, and snow-covered peaks. The country is among the most vulnerable nations to climatic changes including earthquakes, floods, GLOFs, landslides, cyclones, drought, and heat waves. One of the most destructive earthquakes ever to strike Pakistan, which occurred in 2005, provided the impetus for the nation to strive for more effective mechanisms of disaster management. Subsequently, the government of Pakistan promulgated the National Disaster Management Ordinance in 2007 as a means to develop a more robust disaster management system. Therefore, the efforts of the NDMA ultimately resulted in the comprehensive National Disaster Management (NDM) Act 2010. Under this Act, the NDMA serves as the body responsible for implementing, coordinating and monitoring disaster management, in addition to preparing national plans for approval by the National Commission headed by the Prime Minister and comprising members including the leader of the opposition, chief ministers of four provinces, Gilgit Baltistan, Prime Minister of AJK, federal ministers and members of civil society.

I have been conducting research on Community-Based Early Warning Systems in Pakistan as an empirical assessment intended to provide a comparative analysis of practices in Pakistan and Japan. Technically speaking, Japan has sound DM mechanisms as well as a particular focus on disaster education, making it a role model for disaster-prone countries like Pakistan. In the meantime, ADRC provides professional education through disaster management research, and helps many nations to avoid losses of life and resources during both natural and manmade disasters.

I am thankful to the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), the government of Japan, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and the government of Pakistan for the opportunity to research disaster management issues that will be tremendously helpful in helping develop my professional expertise in disaster resilience in Pakistan.

Ms. Srikwan Puntatip(Thailand)

My name is Puntatip Srikwan and I am from Thailand. The Kingdom of Thailand lies in the heart of Southeast of Asia. It is a country with a mixture of forest areas, high-lying and low-lying areas, seashores and islands. The climate pattern is controlled by two monsoon winds: the Northeast Monsoon and the Southwest Monsoon. This leaves Thailand highly exposed and vulnerable to natural hazards including floods, drought, landslides, windstorms, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), under the Ministry of Interior, is the principal government agency responsible for integrating national disaster prevention and mitigation efforts in Thailand. I have been working as a Plan and Policy Analyst for the DDPM. I work in the Disaster Prevention Promotion Division to create and strengthen partnerships with social



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organizations and networks. These include an emergency volunteer corps that helps government officials responsible for disaster management with such efforts as disaster prevention and preparedness, including the deployment of disaster early warning systems.

Thailand is currently pursuing a campaign known as “Safety Thailand” which aims to accelerate the creation of a safety culture in Thai society. It also compels cooperation in concrete disaster management efforts with the regional and global community to achieve the important goal of providing safety to the Thai people and improving disaster management in Thailand. Japan is a leading country in disaster management, renowned for its “Safety Culture” and public sector participation in disaster risk management, and ADRC’s Visiting Research (VR) Program has given me a great opportunity to gain experience and to learn best disaster management practices in Japan. This is sure to benefit both myself and my country. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan, ADRC, and the government of Thailand for their kind support.

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