
4-3. Collaboration with International Organizations

With support from the Cabinet Office of Japan, ADRC has been promoting cooperation and collaboration with various UN organizations such as, among others, UN/ISDR, UN/OCHA, UNDP, UNESCO, UN/ESCAP and WMO.

4-3-1. Collaboration with UN/ISDR

ADRC is working in close collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) in promoting disaster reduction activities worldwide.

4-3-1-1. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

With a strong recognition of the need for international and regional collaboration in disaster reduction efforts, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 1987, designating the 1990's as the "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR)" to promote disaster reduction activities, in order to drastically reduce the negative impacts of natural disasters. The World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction was held in Yokohama in May 1994 as a mid-term review of the IDNDR, adopting the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action as future guidelines for effective disaster reduction.

The United Nations General Assembly put forward a proposal on November 1, 1999, prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to launch a new program "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)" to carry on with the efforts made by the IDNDR. The proposal included the establishment of an Inter-Agency Task Force and an Inter-Agency Secretariat for the implementation of the ISDR.

The resolution was adopted at the UN GA in December 1999, and the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the ISDR was established in January 2000 as the principal mechanism of the UN to implement the strategy under the supervision of the Under-Secretary General (USG) for Humanitarian Affairs. The ISDR, since the time of its establishment till the end of 2005, was composed of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Disaster Reduction and the Inter-Agency Secretariat to effectively implement disaster reduction activities worldwide.

The IATF consisted of members from various stakeholders, providing guidance to the ISDR Secretariat and ensuring the coordination and implementation of the decisions of the IATF, in cooperation with the ISDR Secretariat. The ADRC became a member of the IATF as a regional representative in April 2002, and has been attending the Meetings held in Geneva twice a year.

ADRC has been actively participating in the activities of ISDR/IATF working groups (WG): from 2002 to 2004 in the WG2 on Early Warning and WG3 on Risk, Vulnerability and Impact Assessment; from 2004 to 2005 in the WG1 on the World Conference on Disaster Reduction and WG2 on Reducing Urban Risk and Vulnerability. Since the 12th meeting of the IATF held in November 2005, ADRC has been participating in the activities of the cluster groups on Education on Disaster Reduction and on Environment and Disaster Reduction.

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) was held in Kobe in January 2005 and adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) as guidelines of disaster risk reduction for the following ten years to come (2005-2015). The 11th and 12th meetings of the IATF held in Geneva in May and October respectively discussed the further implementation of the HFA. ADRC reported on its efforts for the promotion of the HFA, in particular, the activities carried out in the context of the International Recovery Platform (IRP) (see Chapters 2-1-2, 2-1-3 & 6), establishment of Tsunami Early Warning System (TEWS) (see Chapter 5) and other initiatives carried out with ADRC member countries in Asia.



Fig.4-3-1-1 12th Meeting of the ISDR/IATF

One of the milestone events ADRC organized during the year towards the achievement of the HFA goals in Asia hand in hand with the UN/ISDR, together with Governments of Republic of Korea and Japan and other UN organizations, WMO, UDNP and UN/OCHA, was the “Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2006” held from 15 to 17 March 2006 in Seoul, Republic of Korea (see Chapter 2-1-1).

ADRC participated in the Third International Conference on Early Warning (EWC-III) with a theme “From concept to action” held in Bonn, Germany under the auspices of UN/ISDR from 27 to 29 March 2006, organized by the German Government. The UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, former US President W. J. Clinton, addressed the Conference as a special guest and held a High-level Roundtable on the Indian Ocean Tsunami, inviting representatives from the countries affected by the tsunami and the donor community.

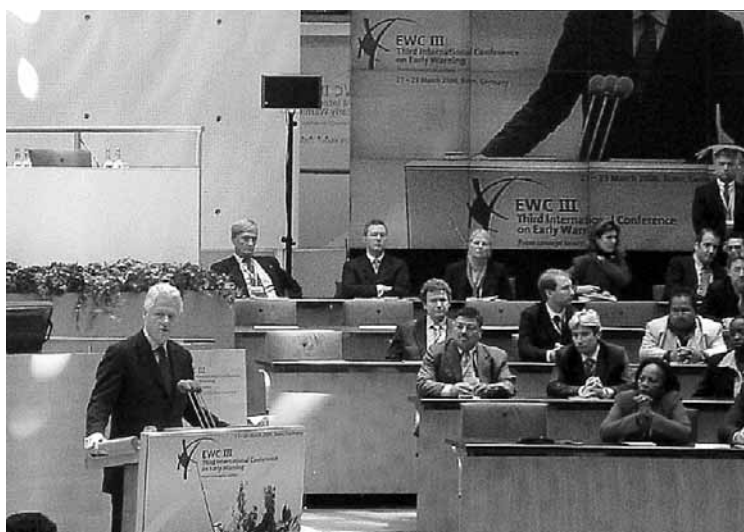


Fig.4-3-1-2 UN special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, President Clinton addressing the EWCIII

4-3-2. Collaboration with UN/OCHA Kobe

With the support from the Cabinet Office of Japan and Hyogo prefecture, the ADRC has been promoting cooperation and collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA) since February 2000. The OCHA Asian Disaster Response Unit (OCHA Kobe since 2001) was established to jointly implement disaster management programs and enhance capacity building for disaster reduction in Asia.

During the fiscal year 2005 OCHA Kobe and ADRC carried out various activities, among others, the International Seminar on Post Disaster Recovery (IRP) (see Chapter 2-1-2), the Second Public Symposium on Post Disaster Recovery (see Chapter 2-1-3) as well as other activities of IRP (see Chapter 6), and the activities in the context of ADRRN (see Chapter 4-2-2).

4-3-3. Collaboration with UNDP

Collaborative relationship between UNDP and ADRC has always existed. ADRC was an active member of the ISDR Working Group 3 on Risk, Impact and Vulnerability Assessments lead by UNDP/BCPR. The GLIDE initiative was endorsed by the WG and has always been supported by UNDP/BCPR (see Chapter 2-6-3). Partnership has grown since the preparatory stage of the International Recovery Platform (IRP) which was launched in May 2005. ADRC currently hosts the Secretariat of IRP and the Kobe hub in its premises and works closely with UNDP/BCPR, UN/ISDR, OCHA Kobe, ILO and other stakeholders (see Chapter 6).

On the regional level, ADRC participated in the Regional Workshop of Central Asian Countries and Russia on “Building Capacity and Preparedness of Population to Emergencies” held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan on 2-3 November 2005, under the initiative of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and UNDP Kazakhstan, supported by UN/ISDR, UNDP/BCPR and UN/OCHA. In Central Asia disaster management is a priority issue and ADRC has been actively contributing to the development of national action plans and regional cooperation jointly with relevant organizations.



Fig.4-3-3-1 Regional Workshop “Building Capacity and Preparedness of Population to Emergencies”

4-3-4. Collaboration with UNESCO

ADRC exchanged the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in January 2005 in order to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between UNESCO and ADRC in education, science and culture, and in particular, to promote effective and efficient disaster reduction activities. The ADRC participated in the UNESCO-hosted disaster risk reduction education program held in the Philippines in 2001. Dr. Badaoui Rouhban actively participated in the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003 and the TDRM Conference as a resource person in the fiscal year 2003.

In addition, UNESCO was assigned to play the leading role in the establishment of a tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean. The ADRC supported UNESCO by providing a training program for government officials, creating tsunami pamphlets, and conducting a survey on disaster awareness in tsunami-prone areas, in order to enhance knowledge and awareness of tsunami disaster reduction among government officials and local people. Developing tsunami educational materials, reported in Chapter 5-6, is also an innovative project carried out in collaboration with UNESCO.

UNESCO is the lead agency of the ISDR Cluster Group on Education for Disaster Reduction. ADRC has been actively participating in the activities of the Cluster Group and contributed to the session organized during the EWC-III held in March 2006 in Bonn.

4-3-5. Collaboration with UN/ESCAP

ADRC has been working closely with the United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (UN/ESCAP) in the pursuit for achieving sustainable development through reducing disaster risk in Asia. ADRC participated actively in the activities of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee in the fiscal year 2005 to promote hazard mapping in member countries as a tool for disaster risk reduction.

4-3-5-1. Regional Workshop

The workshop of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee “Effective Tropical Cyclone Warning” was held on 24-28 April 2005 in Shanghai, China, hosted by China Meteorological Agency and partner organizations. ADRC made a presentation, providing the concept and methodology of “Measuring Vulnerability and Coping Capacity” in the section titling “Impact and vulnerability analysis”, demonstrating some examples of disaster management capacity self-check sheet for citizens and governments based on the Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) approach.



Fig.4-3-5-1 Typhoon Committee Regional Workshop in Shanghai

4-3-5-2. ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee

ADRC participated in the 38th Session of the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee (TC) was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 14-19 November 2005, hosted by the Government of Viet Nam. The Working Group on Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (WGDPP) of the Typhoon Committee acknowledged the Town-watching exercise, which ADRC has been promoting in cooperation with the Government of Japan and other relevant stakeholders, as a tool in developing disaster resilient communities. It also endorsed the promotion of the GLIDE unique numbering system to improve information sharing on disaster events. ADRC participated in the session and presented ADRC’s role in disaster reduction focusing on its experiences on the Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) Approach.

4-3-6. Collaboration with WMO

The collaborative ties between ADRC and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) have been strengthened through the joint development of Tsunami Early Warning System for the Indian Ocean, together with UN/ISDR, UNESCO/IOC and other relevant organizations. The promotion of the GLIDE initiative (GLobal unique disaster IDentifier number) and the activities of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones as well as the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee have also been the common areas of interest to both organizations.

WMO was one of the active contributors and co-organizers of the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2006 held in Seoul in March 2006 (see Chapter 2-1-1).

4-3-6-1. Exchange of MoU with WMO

On 26 July 2005, ADRC exchanged the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for developing closer cooperation with a view to achieving their shared objectives in the disaster reduction field. The areas of cooperation are as follows: 1) Exchange of information and documents, 2) Exchange of representation in current procedures and practices, any conference and meetings, 3) Hold consultations on matters of joint interest and on topics relating to the collaboration, 4) Design and implement joint cooperation projects, and 5) Exchange of relevant publications.

4-3-6-2. Collaboration in the GLIDE initiative

WMO has been actively involved in the GLIDE initiative, which CRED, ReliefWeb and ADRC developed jointly as a tool to enhance disaster information sharing, in particular, sharing of information of meteorological disasters such as typhoons, hurricanes and cyclones. The WMO agreed to apply the GLIDE system to new tropical cyclones (including typhoons, hurricanes and cyclones) and proposed a hazard code system for hydro-meteorological disasters for the application of GLIDE. For further details regarding the GLIDE initiative, see Chapter 2-6-3.