

4-3. Meeting of ADRC Member Countries and its Follow-up Activities

4-3-1. Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2007

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2007: Working Together for a Safer World (ACDR 2007) was held from 25 to 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 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 the ADRC member countries, and from 32 organizations, including the UN, other international organizations, NGOs, and academic institutions, attended ACDR 2007.

ACDR 2007 aimed to further review the progress made in the ADRC member countries 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.



Fig.4-3-1 Chair of ACDR2007 H.E. Mr. Khrapunov

4-3-1-1. Outline of the Conference

The outline of the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2007 is as follows:

- (1) Date: 25 (Mon) – 27 (Wed) June 2007
- (2) Organizers: Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Government of Japan (Cabinet Office), United Nations secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)
- (3) Participants: 136 (government officials from ADRC member countries, representatives of international and regional organizations, NGOs, academic institutions and others)
- (4) Venue: InterContinental Hotel, Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

4-3-1-2. Brief Summary of the Conference

<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 the Republic 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 and the tools for implementing the HFA.

Mr. Haoliang Xu, United Nations Resident Coordinator and 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 on disaster reduction. Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director of ADRC, reported on the substantial 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.



Fig.4-3-1-2-1 Vice Chair of ACDR2007 H.E. Mr. Hirasawa

<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, namely, (1) Education and Training for Disaster Risk Reduction, (2) Outreach Activities on Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Disaster Risk Reduction, (3) Broader Application of Scientific Knowledge in Disaster Risk Reduction, (4) Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction, and (5) Public-Private Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction. 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. As an innovative disaster management support system making use of space observation, the JAXA/ADRC joint initiative “Sentinel Asia” was introduced.



Fig. 4-3-1-2-2 Mr. Xu, Mr. Khrapunov, Prof. Itoh, Mr. Suzuki

<Closing Ceremony >

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 thanked the government of Kazakhstan for hosting the Conference.

<For Information >

The proceedings of the ACDR 2007 including all the presentations and speeches made at the Conference are posted on the Website <<http://web.adrc.or.jp/acdr2007astana/index.html>>.



Fig. 4-3-1-2-3 Technical Session

4-3-1-3. Conference Summary

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2007 took place for the first time in Central Asia, in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan on 25 to 27 June 2007. Hosted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, ACDR 2007 was conducted in collaboration with the Government of Japan, the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC).

As a regional forum that fosters dialogue, information sharing and cooperation among member countries of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center, the Conference reported on significant accomplishments and major gaps in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in the region. It also identified and discussed critical issues and concerns as well as effective strategies for meeting the challenges ahead. A total of 136 participants including dignitaries and government officials from 22 countries, and representatives of 32 organizations, among others, UN and international organizations, NGOs, financial sector, and civil society, as well as experts from academic institutions, meteorology, hydrology, geology, environment, and development fields, attended the Conference.

Mindful of the important accomplishments and challenging tasks of governments and all other stakeholders with respect to the HFA, the participants conveyed their resolve to preserve and to sustain the gains in disaster risk reduction and to promote further cooperation among countries and partner stakeholders in the region. Moreover, they recognized the need for accelerating the implementation of the HFA priorities for action at various levels. Overall, the participants agreed on the need to address the following major concerns and challenges:

(a) Effective governance for disaster risk reduction

The Conference acknowledged the critical role of governance at national, local and community levels, and the significance of political will and sustained commitment in ensuring effective disaster risk reduction. It highlighted a number of good practices in mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development processes, including policies, plans, and programmes, and into priority national sectors. It presented exemplary cases of strengthening legal frameworks, national platforms, and multi-stakeholder coordination and cooperation. Furthermore, the Conference recognized the need to review further and to strengthen existing legal frameworks and national platforms for disaster risk reduction as well as systems for disaster preparedness and response. It noted the need to make known standing national platforms and functioning national mechanisms for coordination for possible networking with existing regional and international platforms. It also noted the proposal of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan to develop a sub-regional mechanism for enhanced coordination in disaster risk management in Central Asia.

(b) Education and training for effective disaster risk reduction and building a collective culture of safety

The Conference acknowledged the important role of education and training in ensuring effective disaster risk reduction. It reported on a number of education and training initiatives at various levels and good practices in ensuring safety in schools. The participants recognized the need to promote and strengthen further such initiatives toward achieving a collective culture of safety. Health-related education was also considered as a priority concern for the coming years. The participants took note of the forthcoming first Regional Workshop on Education for Disaster Risk Reduction for Asia and the Pacific that will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 8-10 October 2007.

(c) Raising awareness and understanding on natural hazards and risks, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction through public outreach and people-centered early warning systems

The Conference emphasized that disaster risk reduction is both a scientific subject and a human issue. As such, disaster risk managers and national meteorological and hydrological services should, in addition to scientific capacity building, build the capacity of the community they serve by reaching out to them. In particular, public outreach activities and mass media campaigns would contribute effectively to raising public awareness and understanding of natural hazards and risks, climate change, and disaster risk reduction. In this regard, the Conference encouraged the development and implementation of outreach programmes and the promotion of people-centered

early warning systems, with the involvement of public and private sector partners, as a capacity building initiative for disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, the Conference welcomed the initiative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to develop and pilot a multi-stakeholder public outreach on meteorological and hydrological services for disaster risk reduction, including the promotion of climate change adaptation, in the region.

(d) Capacity development for earthquake risk mitigation and ensuring building safety

The Conference cited the prevalence of earthquake risks in the region and acknowledged the importance of capacity building in earthquake risk mitigation. In particular, the Conference underscored the need for increased capacity at national and regional levels for inspection, evaluation, retrofitting of schools and hospitals, enforcement of building codes, and integration of disaster risk reduction into urban planning. In this regard, the participants recognized the need to enhance community awareness on the importance of earthquake-resistant houses and to promote further cooperation in capacity development for earthquake risk mitigation at regional and sub-regional levels.

(e) Science and advanced technology in support of disaster risk reduction

The Conference shared scientific knowledge and information on technological advancements and presented their applications for ensuring efficient and effective disaster risk reduction. It also addressed the wider definition of technology and knowledge for disaster risk reduction and recognized web-based disaster reduction hyperbase systems as an innovative option for their effective application. Moreover, the participants appreciated the usefulness of applied modern technology and encouraged its broadened application for enhancing early warning systems and increasing public awareness of hazards and risks, including taking advantage of existing initiative that are enabling the use of space-based technologies for risk reduction and emergency response activities, such as Sentinel Asia, UN-SPIDER and UNOSAT. The Conference noted the challenge to strengthen collaboration, to promote networking of expertise, and to ensure the effective transfer of scientific knowledge to the community.

(f) Public-private sector partnership and resource mobilization

The Conference emphasized the importance of promoting multi-stakeholder cooperation and collaboration as well as enduring commitment and long-term political will for public and private sectors partnerships in disaster risk reduction. This emphasis stems from the common recognition of disaster risk reduction as a shared concern of governments, businesses, and communities, and from the compelling need to pool resources and expertise of all sectors to work together to reduce disaster risks more effectively. Moreover, the Conference noted the common concern over the need to sustain the gains in disaster risk reduction by ensuring continued and stable resource support, particularly through effective resource mobilization, increased corporate sector involvement, as well as prudent fund utilization and management.

(g) Holistic and integrated approach and innovative strategies for disaster risk reduction

The participants appreciated the holistic and integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and the efforts of stakeholders to find better ways and means for achieving the goals of the HFA. In this regard, the Conference presented good practices in community-based disaster risk reduction and cited the advantages of people-centered approach and combined top-down and bottom-up approach in ensuring participative decision-making and actions at all levels. The Conference recognized the need to promote further the holistic approach to disaster risk reduction, to strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation and collaboration in all levels, and to encourage continued development of effective and innovative strategies and approaches.

In conclusion, the Conference presented and reviewed significant accomplishments, noteworthy achievements, and good practices in disaster risk reduction at local, national, regional, and international levels, including the progress of member countries in line with the implementation of the HFA priorities for action. Moreover, the participants expressed renewed commitment to move forward and to accelerate the implementation of the HFA with a view to achieving its goals and ensuring sustainable social and economic development in the region.

Finally, the participants expressed their profound appreciation to the Government of the Republic of

Kazakhstan for generously hosting the Conference.



Fig.4-3-1-3 Participants of the ACDR 2007

4-3-2. Follow-up Activities

A series of activities following up to the meeting of the ADRC member countries, i.e. Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2007, was carried out in order to further pursue the implementation of HFA in the ADRC member countries.

4-3-2-1. Public Forum “Sustaining Water Cycle for Disaster Risk Reduction”

Taking the opportunity of the 20th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Japanese Association of Hydrological Sciences (JAHS), a public forum “Sustaining Water Cycle for Disaster Risk Reduction” was held at the U Thant International Conference Hall on the 3rd floor of the UN House, Tokyo as follows.

- (1) Year: 2007
- (2) Organizers: United Nations University (UNU), Japanese Association of Hydrological Sciences (JAHS), United Nations secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) and ADRC
- (3) Participants: 120 people (Experts involved in hydrology, river management, surface/ground water management, water resource management, disaster management, and development; representatives from the media, foreign missions, civil society and the general public)
- (4) Venue: U Thant International Conference Hall, 3F UN House, Tokyo
- (5) Background: Increasing and expanding human activities are affecting the environment in an unprecedented scale, disrupting the stability of natural material and energy cycles that are essential to human survival. Global and local water cycles are the key to some of the most challenging issues confronting the society today.

In the forum, the topic of sustaining water cycle for disaster risk reduction was reviewed from different viewpoints including restoration and sustainability of urban water cycle, groundwater problems in greater Tokyo, integrated water quality management and role of water cycle in sustainability to arrive at new paradigms for sustaining water cycle for disaster risk reduction.

- (6) Summary of discussion: The programme included a keynote lecture by Mr. Y Takahasi (UNU), presentations by Mr. M. Saito (Nippon Koei Co., Ltd.), Mr. T. Hayashi (Akita University), Mr. S. Nishikawa (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport), and Mr. S. Herath (UNU), followed by a panel discussion moderated by Mr. A. Yoshikoshi (Ritsumeikan University).

Throughout the panel discussion, it was stressed that a stable and sustainable water cycle was fundamental to the human beings, but the management of water cycle was becoming more and more complex due to rapid urbanization, change of weather patterns, deterioration of environmental conditions and so forth. Out of all the natural hazards, water-related hazards are most damaging in terms of frequency of events as well as the total losses. Therefore, it is crucial

to adopt new approaches and ideas to address the issue in short-term as well as in long-term perspectives.



Fig.4-3-2-1 Panel Discussion on Water Cycle and DRR

4-3-2-2. Public Forum “Human Security and Disaster Risk Reduction”

Commemorating the opening of the UN/ISDR Hyogo Office in Kobe-Hyogo and the Human Security Photo Exhibition “Human Security for All” in Kobe, a public forum “Human Security and Disaster Risk Reduction” was held at the Hyogo House as follows.

- (1) Year: 2007
- (2) Main organizers: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA), United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), United Nations secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)
- (3) Co-organizers: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), Hyogo Prefectural Government, Hyogo International Association (HIA)
- (4) In cooperation with: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- (5) Participants: 350 (Experts involved in disaster reduction, representative of UN and international organizations/NGOs, civil society, media, general public)
- (6) Venue: Hyogo House, Kobe-Hyogo, Japan
- (7) Background: The concept of human security is conceived as protection of human lives in ways that enhance human freedom and human fulfillment and thus not only is based on people but it also believes in their potential and capabilities, ensuring their survival, livelihood and dignity. The photographs to be exhibited at “Human Security for All” reflect the range of issues of human security including disasters. Natural hazards are becoming a major threat to people’s lives, livelihood and freedom. The opening of the UN/ISDR Hyogo Office coincided with the photo exhibition, thus provided the forum with an opportunity to address the link between risk and vulnerability reduction to natural hazards and human security.
- (8) Summary of discussion: The programme included a panel discussion by Ms. Norika Fujiwara (Actress and Photographer), Mr. Salvano Briceno (Director, UN/ISDR), Ms. Kaoru Kuruu, Associate Professor, Osaka University, Mr. Toshizo Ido (Governor, Hyogo), moderated by Ms. Charmine Koda (Director, UNIC). The forum also had the honour to receive congratulatory remarks from Mr. Kenzo Oshima, Vice President, JICA, as well as closing remarks from H.E. Mr. Ryuichiro Yamazaki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for Kansai Region.

The panel, under the remarkable leadership of the moderator, conveyed an important and strong message to the audience, consisting mainly of the general public. Panelists shared their experiences and views on international cooperation for disaster risk reduction and human security issues. Disaster risk reduction is everyone’s and everyday business and each one of us can contribute to building a safe community. Equally, human security can be achieved through partnerships and cooperation and with incessant and steady efforts by various stakeholders. Education plays an essential role in building the capabilities of the people. The UN/ISDR Hyogo Office will promote these partnerships and collaborative work with various partners in the field in Japan as well as in East Asia.



Fig.4-3-2-2 Panel Discussion on Human Security and DRR

4-3-2-3. Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

To follow up on the outcome of the First Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Beijing, People's Republic of China on 27-29 September 2005 and to consolidate the recommendations of the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2007 held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan on 25-27 June 2007, the Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in New Delhi, India on 7-8 November 2007. ADRC actively contributed to the deliberations of the Conference as well as the preparatory process.

- (1) Date: 7-8 November 2007
- (2) Main organizer: Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
- (3) Co-organizers: United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic and Social Council for the Asia and Pacific (UN/ESCAP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), US Agency for International Aid (USAID), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
- (4) Participants: 385 people from 42 Asian and South Pacific countries, of which 33 were represented at the ministerial level, and 13 UN and international organizations and NGOs.
- (5) Venue: The Hotel Ashok, New Delhi, India



Fig.4-3-2-3 Special Panel Discussion “Development without Disasters”

- (6) Outline: The Second Asian Ministerial Conference was inaugurated by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Honourable Prime Minister of India followed by the Keynote Address by Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the UPA. Mr. Salvano Briceno, Director, UN/ISDR, read the message from Mr. John Holmes, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. Composed of Plenary Sessions, High Level Round Tables, Technical Sessions and Side Events as well as Pre-Conference Events, the Conference reviewed the progress made since the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in the Asia-Pacific region and identified the gaps and challenges which are summarized as call for action in the “Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2007.”

Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia 2007 urges all the stakeholders in the region to follow the recommendations in the areas: (a) Hyogo Framework for Action, (b) mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, (c) early warning and preparedness, (d) climate change, (e) integration of DRR into recovery and reconstruction, (f) partnerships, and (g) regional mechanisms. It also states the agreements by the participating Ministers and high level representatives on the Regional Platform mechanisms, including the Asian Ministerial Conferences and ISDR Asia Partnership, to ensure the effective implementation of the HFA. The Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will be hosted by the Government of Malaysia in 2008.

4-3-2-4. Brainstorming Meeting of the Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction

Recognizing that urbanization, often unplanned or not properly planned, is one of the major causes of the increased vulnerabilities of Asian societies to natural hazards, a brainstorming meeting of the Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction (RTF-URR) was held in Kobe on 23-24 January 2008 under the initiative of the newly established UN/ISDR Hyogo Office.

- (1) Date: 23 (Wed) and 24 (Thu) January 2008
 (2) Convener: United Nations secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) Hyogo Office
 (3) Participants: 28 participants from 14 relevant organizations (Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), ADRC, Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI), Earthquake Megacities Initiatives (EMI), International Recovery Platform (IRP), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Kobe University, Kyoto University, UN Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) Hyogo Disaster Management Office, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN-Habitat, UN/ISDR, United Nations University (UNU-Tokyo), and WHO Kobe)



Fig.4-3-2-4 RTF-URR Meeting

- (4) Venue: 23 January – ADRC Meeting Room, 24 January – UNCRD Meeting Room
 (5) Summary of discussion: The brainstorming meeting provided an opportunity for the participants to inform their respective work areas in urban risk reduction, further discuss with other participants to engage wider discussion, explore possibility of partnership, get to know new avenues, identify priorities and finally ways to optimize benefits arising out of new RTF-URR initiative. It was suggested that the activities of the RTF-URR may be categorized in following key working themes. Each of these themes represents wide range of activities and lead organizations are proposed to take responsibilities to initiate appropriate actions. (a) Policy and Advocacy, (b) Knowledge Management, and (c) Facilitating Joint and Pilot City / Country / Regional Level work. Further details regarding the concrete actions to be taken under each item were agreed to be discussed at the follow-up meeting on 14 February 2008 in Bangkok. For

more details, visit the webpage of the meeting:

(<http://www.adrc.or.jp/events/RTFmeeting20080130/top.html>)

4-3-2-5. Follow-up Meeting of the Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction

The second meeting of the Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction (RTF-URR) was held on 14 February 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand in the margin of the ISDR Asia Partnership meeting to follow up on the outcome of the first brainstorming meeting held in Kobe.

- (1) Date: 14 (Thu) February 2008
- (2) Convener: United Nations secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) Hyogo Office
- (3) Participants: 13 participants from 8 relevant organizations (ADPC, ADRC, EMI, Kyoto University, NSET-Nepal, UNCRD, UNEP, UN/ISDR) and 1 country (China)
- (4) Venue: Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
- (5) Summary of discussion: Further details regarding the next steps and concrete action plan of the RTF-URR were discussed. In the meeting, Mr. Rajib Shaw (Kyoto University) as Chair of the RTF-URR and Ms. Etsuko Tsunozaki (ADRC) as Vice-chair were elected. Participating agencies expressed their intension to lead discussions and coordination in each three themes and complete a matrix the RTF-URR will develop. Lead agencies of each theme are:
 - (a) Policy and Advocacy: ADRC, EMI, UNCRD
 - (b) Knowledge Management: ADPC, Kyoto University, IRP, UNU, NSET
 - (c) Promoting synergies and cooperation: UN-HABITAT, EMI, JICA, UNEP

The second meeting identified several additional partners to be part of the RTF-URR which will be invited to the next meeting.