

Disaster Reduction Alliance (DRA)



Large-scale disasters, both natural and man-made, occur frequently around the world with growing extent of diversity and complexity. To tackle such disasters, a wide variety of knowledge, wisdom and resources need to be mobilized and effectively integrated.

With a view to this, those institutions and centers situated in the Kobe New Eastern City Center (HAT-Kobe), decided to form a loose alliance (Disaster Reduction Alliance), so as to exert synergy effect in promoting international corporation towards disaster reduction.

Chairman: Dr. Yoshiaki Kawata (Executive Director, Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI))

DRA Secretariat: Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI)

foster global change research in the Asia-Pacific region, increase developing country participation in that research, and strengthen interactions between the science community and policy makers. In order to achieve its goals the APN conducts a number of different activities that include supporting collaborative research and training activities; organizing scoping workshops to develop new research projects; disseminating global change information to scientists and policy makers; and providing opportunities for scientists and policy makers to discuss regional research priorities and other global change issues. URL <http://www.apn.gr.jp/>



Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) was established in 1998, to actively promote multilateral cooperation for disaster reduction in the Asian region, where natural disasters occur with high frequency. ADRC conducts information gathering and dissemination; capacity building; and international cooperative project with member countries in Asia. URL <http://www.adrc.or.jp/>



International EMECS Center

In many parts of the world there are bodies of seawater that are almost entirely enclosed by lands. These bodies of water are called enclosed coastal seas. As they are vulnerable to pollution because of the bad seawater circulation, special attention has been needed. Based on this awareness, in 1990, the first International Conference on the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS '90) was held in Kobe, Japan. Additionally, the International EMECS Center was established in November 1994. It is an international organization for the researches and the information exchanges aiming at the preservation and the appropriate utilization of the environments of enclosed coastal seas throughout the world. URL <http://www.emecs.or.jp/>



Japan International Cooperation Agency Hyogo International Center

JICA intends to convey Japan's know-how and technologies mainly in forms of dispatching Japanese experts and accepting foreign trainees. Combining necessary equipment with those human resources, JICA implements projects that can support and facilitate the sustainable development of countries. Besides, JICA carries out Japan Overseas Senior/Young Volunteers program and disaster relief activities. URL <http://www.jica.go.jp/>



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Kobe

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) coordinates humanitarian assistance in partnership with national and international organizations for effective humanitarian action. OCHA Kobe has two functions, disaster response and information service, performed by Asian Disaster Response Unit (ADRU) and ReliefWeb respectively. URL <http://www.reliefweb.int/>



United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) was established in Nagoya, Japan in 1971, aiming to strengthen and improve the capabilities of regional development planners and planning implementation in developing countries. It has four responsibilities; Training, Research, Advisory service, and Information dissemination. In April 1999, UNCRD Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office was established in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, to disseminate the lessons of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Disaster in 1995. URL <http://www.uncrd.or.jp/>



Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Research Center (EDM)

The Earthquake Disaster Mitigation Research Center (EDM) was established in January 1998 under the framework of the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN). On April 1st, 2001 EDM was moved from RIKEN to National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED). URL <http://www.edm.bosai.go.jp/>



World Health Organization (WHO) Centre for Health Development

WHO Centre for Health Development, established in the city of Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan in 1996, is the global and interdisciplinary research arm of the World Health Organization and it addresses major challenges to health and welfare systems development in the 21 century. Its mission is to develop and to coordinate international collaborative research as well as to nurture partnerships and global networks. It also disseminates information initiating in the area of 'Cities and Health', 'Ageing and Health' including 'Traditional Medicine' and 'Health and Welfare Systems Development' including 'Women and Health'. URL <http://www.who.or.jp/>



The Institute of Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) Kansai Research Center

With "Industry and The Environment" as the theme of its research, IGES Kansai Research Center develops innovative policy instruments for the realization of sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, and conducts strategic and practical research into formulating environmental strategies. As a new IGES center for activities in the Kansai region (the area which includes Kobe, Osaka and Kyoto), IGES Kansai Research Center conducts research, cooperating with universities, research institutes, private companies and environment-related organizations in the region. URL <http://www.iges.or.jp/>



The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial