

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2010 (ACDR2010)

17-19 January 2010

Kobe Portopia Hotel, Hyogo, JAPAN

Concept Note

Background

January 2010 is the 15th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, which claimed more than six thousand people's lives and brought about devastation to Kobe and other areas in Hyogo. It is also the halfway point of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA), which was adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) also in Kobe, Hyogo in 2005 in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean Tsunami.

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2010 (ACDR 2010) to be held on 17-19 January 2010 should therefore provide an opportunity for countries in Asia to evaluate their progresses and achievements they have already accomplished, to discuss gaps and challenges they are facing and to share new policy tools and ideas in implementing HFA so that they could learn from each other and thus further strengthen their efforts for disaster risk reduction (DRR) objectives.

Furthermore, the ACDR2010 will provide valuable inputs to the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR to be held in October 2010 in Incheon, Republic of Korea, and also to the mid-term review process of the implementation of HFA.

Public Forum: Application of Space Technology to DRR

Date and time: 16:00-18:00, 17 January 2010
Venue: Room Kairaku, Portopia Hotel, Kobe
Session Coordinator: Dr. Lal Samarakoon, AIT (Asian Institute of Technology)
Rapporteur: Mr. Makoto Ikeda, ADRC

Objectives

The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, 2008¹ encourages high technology and scientific application to disaster risk reduction (DRR). The use of space technologies for DRR is one of the areas in which countries have growing interest. For instance, in 2008 and 2009, the ADRC through the scheme of Sentinel Asia² provided its

¹ Adopted at the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held on 2-4 December 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

² Sentinel Asia is a "voluntary and best-efforts-basis initiatives" led by the APRSAF (Asia-Pacific Regional

member countries with imagery data 32 times for damage assessment upon their requests.

Also, recognizing the significance of the space technology application to DRR, the ADRC has come to function as an Asia-Pacific Regional Support Office of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) since June 2009, with the support of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in Vienna.

In this forum, the panelists from different countries and institutions share the information of various initiatives and practices in the area of application of space technology to DRR, discuss gaps and challenges, and explore how to further promote relevant activities.

Issues to be addressed:

Participants are expected to:

- Share information on recent developments and good practices in the application of space technology to DRR, and
- Explore gaps and challenges to further enhance the utilization of space technology to DRR across Asia.

Session 1: Lessons learned from Recent Disasters in Asia

Date and time: 11:00-12:30, 18 January 2010
Venue: Room Kairaku, Portopia Hotel, Kobe
Session Coordinator: Mr. Naoto Tajiri, Cabinet Office, Japan
Rapporteur: Ms. Takako Chinoi, ADRC

Objectives

Asia is susceptible to various natural disasters. Due to high level of exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards together with intensifying natural hazards due to, *inter alia*, climate change and environmental degradation, disaster risks has been increasing in recent years across Asia. For instance, last year, a series of typhoons devastated metro Manila area in the Philippines and several earthquakes in Sumatra, Indonesia caused widespread destruction.

It is widely recognized that learning from experiences is an indispensable part of efforts toward DRR. There are many tools which have been developed to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and lessons learned from past disasters to future generations

Space Agency Forum) to share disaster information in the Asia-Pacific region on the Digital Asia (Web-GIS) platform and to make the best use of earth observation satellites data for disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region.

In this session, several member countries share their experiences of various types of natural disaster events they have faced and invaluable lessons they have learned through such experiences. The session also provides chances to learn several new technologies and tools for sharing the knowledge and lessons accumulated with different generations and different places.

Issues to be addressed:

Countries are expected to:

- Share information on their recent experiences for recent disasters;
- Discuss issues and challenges that countries faced and explore how to better address them in preparation for future disasters; and
- Examine several tools developed to share information on the experiences of past disasters and on new technologies.

Session 2: DRR Policy Review of ADRC Member Countries

Date and time: 13:45-17:00, 18 January 2010
Venue: Room Kairaku, Portopia Hotel, Kobe
Session Coordinator: Mr. Jerry Verasquez, UNISDR Asia & Pacific
Rapporteur: Ms. Goulsara Pulatova, UNISDR Central Asia

Objectives

It is now halfway point for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA). UNISDR in cooperation with many partners is now in the process of the mid-term review of HFA. This session tries to assess the progresses, identify good practices across Asian countries and then discuss how to accelerate their efforts toward achieving the goals set in the HFA for years to come.

Also in this session, the ADRC introduces its new attempt the “DRR Policy Peer Review”, which is aimed to facilitate mutual learning process among member countries through the review of one country’s policies by peer countries. The themes selected as this year’s review is “promoting disaster risk education and raising public awareness”, which is concerned with priority 3 of HFA.

Issues to be addressed:

The ADRC member countries are expected to:

- Share information on how other countries are implementing HFA:
- Identify common issues and challenges and explore how to solve them by learning from other countries’ experiences and good practices;
- Discuss how counties, international and regional organizations and other relevant institutions should work together to further implement HFA in the remaining five years.

Session 3: Sub-regional Cooperation for Disaster Risk Reduction

Date and time: 9:00-12:00, 19 January 2010
Venue: Room Kairaku, Portopia Hotel, Kobe
Session Coordinator: Mr. Atsushi Koresawa, ADRC
Rapporteur: Ms. Yumi Shiomi, ADRC

Objectives

Countries primarily respond to natural disasters on their own. However, Asia has experienced large-scale natural disasters which tend to impact beyond national boundaries. Under such circumstances, there has been the growing commitment on regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction and more importantly in the sub-regional levels such as ASEAN, SAARC, Central Asia-Caucasus and Japan-China- Korea.

This session has been designed to facilitate the active exchange of information on DRR activities at sub-regional level and to share their experiences and new ideas toward achieving common goals.

Issues to be addressed:

Sub-regional cooperation platforms are expected to:

- Promote information sharing on their sub-regions' initiatives and activities on DRR each other;
- Identify and learn from good practices and lessons that exist in other sub-regions; and,
- Discuss common issues and challenges, and seek solutions to them.