

## **Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2013**

**Kobe, Japan, 23 January 2013**

### **Conference Summary**

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2013 was held in Kobe, Japan on 23 January 2013. The Conference was jointly organized by the Government of Japan, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

A total of 83 delegates participated in the conference including high level officials from 25 governments, 15 international and regional organizations, academic institutions and private sectors.

The objective of the conference was to further promote information sharing, exchange opinions and enhance partnerships in view of discussing a Post-HFA framework. Three topics were addressed at the Conference; (1) Space Based Technologies for DRR, (2) Engagement of Private Sector in DRR and (3) Global Trends on DRR and Towards a Post-HFA.

#### *Space Based Technologies for DRR*

The impacts of disasters on life and property are increasing in recent years. It is necessary to identify the accurate damage areas for recovery activities. In recent years, as the leading geospatial technologies, remote sensing satellite images and geographic information system (GIS) have become invaluable tools in the assessment of disaster areas.

The Conference affirmed that the satellite data can be applied and used for various phases of disaster management through research results in many countries including Japan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. In pre-disaster, satellite data can provide updated land use maps by showing elements at risk and the vulnerabilities of the elements can provide updated land use maps. Also several cases were demonstrated regarding post-disaster urban recovery, where satellite imagery helped to develop better strategies for future recovery as well as to record the post disaster recovery process. For future activities, ADRC made midterm report on its survey on utilization of satellite image in ADRC member countries, concluding that needs were found in capacity building of experts, potential Data Analysis Node (DAN) and satellite data for pre-disasters.

### *Engagement of Private Sector in DRR*

Private sector in DRR has received increasing attention as seen in the statement of the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in 2012. The conference noted critical role of private sector and discussed its effective engagement in DRR as proved in recent mega disasters in the Asia Pacific region through good practices and discussion.

The Conference recognized the need and interdependence of private sector with local government, communities and civil societies in disaster management and the importance of Business Continuity Plan (BCP) in disaster management plans. Capacity building and information dissemination are recommended to promote for improvement of private sector's resilience against disasters. The ADRC's survey on current BCP status of private sector in the APEC regions uncovered recent development of BCP especially in large and medium sized companies and recommended to raise public awareness, mobilize government support system and remove bottlenecks identified in order to further promote Business Continuity Management including BCP.

### *Global Trends on DRR and Towards a Post-HFA*

Followed by briefing of the background of HFA and ISDR's efforts of monitoring and promoting HFA implementation, ISDR announced the launch of the Global Assessment Report (GAR) 2013 in May 2013 and summarized the main findings of GAR2011; falling mortality and increasing economic losses; risks associated with drought remain high; a range of emerging risks associated with extremely low-probability hazards, and sequential crisis (such as the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami) which are difficult to model; analysis of the progress of the HFA implementation showing similar trend in the past 4 years with less progress in priority 3 and 4; loss accounts and probabilistic models facilitating more considered decision for investment on DRR based on cost-benefit assessment; addressing disaster risks must be internalized in and sometimes generated by development process such as program for eradication of poverty; the importance of ensuring political authority and policy coherence across the sectors; and decentralization of the responsibilities of disaster management in consideration of capacity development of the local actors.

In conclusion, the Conference extended gratitude and appreciation to participants and raised expectations for further advancement of DRR policy and discussion of a Post-HFA.