



Summary Report(draft)
Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2015
March 15, 2015
TKP Garden City Sendai Kotodai, Sendai, Japan

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2015 was held on March 15, 2015 as a public forum of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDDR) organized from March 14-18, 2015 in Sendai, Japan. ACDR contributed in confirming the achievements of the HFA as well as provided inputs for the core actions on improving capacity for disaster risk reduction in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The conference had brought 180 participants from 29 countries with representation from national and local governments, inter-governmental organizations, and representatives of NGOs, academia, and private sectors. This event had built on the experiences and lessons on disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Asia in the last decade, including lessons from super typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines (November 8, 2013), the Great East Japan Earthquake (March 11, 2011), the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (January 17, 1995), and the debris flow in Negeri Lima, Maluku province, Indonesia (July 25, 2013). Participants recognized that the sharing of experiences and lessons on DRR was essential to further improve disaster risk management systems and to consciously apply the lessons in similar areas of similar contexts. The sharing of these experiences was anticipated to further inform the strategies and actions, both at national and local levels, to support the implementation of the post-2015 framework. At the onset, the conference highlighted that the role of community and private sector needs to be strengthened in order to achieve a more efficient and effective DRR system.

The highlights of the conference are indicated below.

1. *New ADRC Activities in Support of Post-2015 Framework.* One of ADRC's achievements in HFA, during the past 10 years, is the promotion of multilateral cooperation for DRR in close collaboration with its 30 member countries, UN, other international and regional organizations, NGOs, academia, and the civil societies. In support of the post-2015 framework, ADRC proposed two strategic activities. One is the "utilization of high-technology for DRR" and the other is the "engagement of local industries to the community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM)".
2. *Build Back Better than Before.* The conference validated the importance of "Creative Reconstruction" that puts emphasis on "build back better", and wherein various sectors of society allow harmonious coexistence. This concept was exemplified in the 20 years' efforts from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, as observed and validated by the HFA Research Committee.
3. *Efficient and Effective Early Warning System.* The conference recognized that there was an urgent need to utilize advance and emerging technologies, promote cooperation and put in place effective and efficient early warning systems to address water induced disasters to better prepare the nations and communities to minimize the risk of disasters and have a resilient society in Asia.

4. *Wider Collaboration and Alliance for DRR.* The reports from Philippines, Kyrgyz, and Nepal demonstrated some challenging areas in disaster risk reduction efforts that need greater institutional and funding support. To address these pressing challenges, the conference indicated that wider collaboration and alliance among multi-stakeholders, such as engaging the private sector, shall be promoted.

5. *Promote “whole-of-society” approach towards building disaster resilience.* Managing disaster risk reduction is not just a problem of the government and the affected people but a challenge for the global economies and societies at large. The impact of recent disasters are increasingly crossing borders and causing disruptions to human lives, particularly on livelihood, business, and trade. Against this backdrop, the conference recognized the importance of promoting the “whole-of-society” approach, which may be operationalized by having a disaster risk management team comprising governmental agencies, civil society organization, academe, private sector, and other stakeholders representing various sectors of the society. This approach can be considered in localizing and implementing the post-2015 framework.

6. *Engage in dynamic partnership with business sector.* The new paradigm now puts premium on livelihoods and business continuity in disaster affected areas to further improve faster recovery and reconstruction. The development of a menu of financing and enterprise options to ensure expeditious recovery is likewise an imperative. The conference emphasized the need to engage more dynamic partnerships with the business sector not only to support the provision of relief goods and services, but also, to alleviate the economic impacts of disasters.

In order to take these key messages forward, ADRC will undertake constant review of its ongoing and forthcoming activities to ensure that the recommendations are integrated. In particular, all existing programs, such as knowledge sharing, value adding to DRR efforts, and human resource development shall be evaluated and strengthened to greater address the needs of member countries. ADRC shall also look into the recommendations concerning the promotion of inter-regional/sub-regional cooperation, the utilization of advanced and emerging technology, the adoption of “build back better” principle, the application of “whole-of-society” approach, and the engagement of the private sector on DRR.

In considering these recommendations, ADRC is mindful that political commitment to empower local governments and communities is a key factor in achieving our DRR goals. With this mind, ADRC member countries reaffirmed continued commitment to make communities, municipalities, and cities resilient to disasters. Moreover, member countries reaffirmed continued action to save lives and livelihoods from disasters as well as implement relevant activities in support of the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

At the closing, the conference expressed profound appreciation to the Government of Japan as the host country, and to UNISDR and ADRC for organizing the event.