



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 226
January
2012

TOPICS

Announcements

Greetings from new
ADRC Executive
Director, Mr. Kiyoshi
NATORI

Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Report from the Second
Expert Group Meeting:
Toward Creative
Learning from the Mega-
Tsunami Disaster

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● Announcements

Greetings from new ADRC Executive Director, Mr. Kiyoshi NATORI

Happy New Year!

It is a great honor for me to assume the position of Executive Director of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC).

In 2011, we were faced once again with numerous natural disasters, starting with the Great East Japan Earthquake in March, followed by a tropical typhoon and flooding in Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries, an earthquake in Turkey, and other disaster events. Together these disasters

claimed a tremendous number of precious lives and destroyed people's valuable assets. It has been ten months since the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami devastated the Pacific coast of northeastern Japan.

This earthquake and tsunami caused unprecedented damage in our country. Recovery efforts in the affected area are going to take very long time. It is important for Japan to disseminate information to other disaster-prone countries regarding the lessons learned and the measures that should be taken in response to future natural disasters. I am committed to the goal of delivering high-quality technical services to member countries, thereby contributing to our common objectives: disaster risk reduction and sustainable development in Asia. I look forward to your ongoing support for these efforts.

(Brief background)

Joined the National Land Agency of Japan (currently the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism) in 1984. Worked as an assistant professor at Nagoya University and as the director for disaster preparedness and international cooperation in the Cabinet Office.



● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Report from the Second Expert Group Meeting: Toward Creative Learning from the Mega-Tsunami Disaster

The Great East Japan Earthquake resulted in the largest number of casualties in Japan since the end of World War II. More than 120 countries and international organizations have extended their support to the affected areas, and recovery and reconstruction efforts are ongoing. The lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent policy developments should continue to be studied to enhance the disaster management capacities of disaster-prone countries and communities, and discussions around these topics should continue to be promoted by relevant organizations and countries.

ADRC held its second expert group meeting with the Japanese Cabinet Office, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the

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International Recovery Platform (IRP), in Tokyo on 16-17 December 2011, with the first meeting having been held last May. The meeting invited policy managers from Japan and other countries in the Asia Pacific region to discuss the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and the major policy changes adopted since then. The meeting also provided opportunities to discuss the relevance of the Japanese experience in the international context and to obtain input and feedback from the experts of other countries. The agenda was as follows:



[Second Expert Group Meeting]

Friday, 16 December	
<u>Plenary Session 1</u>	Opening Remarks Keynote Address About the report of the technical committee of the Central Disaster Management Council Special Report Report from the disaster-affected area, Mayor of Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture Reports from participants from other countries
<u>Thematic Sessions 1</u>	Presentations and discussions in three thematic sessions
Saturday, 17 December	
<u>Thematic Sessions 2</u>	Discussion and wrap-up in three thematic sessions
<u>Plenary Session 2</u>	Presentation of the outcome of the thematic sessions Closing Remarks
Sunday, 18 December	
<u>Field visit to the disaster-affected areas</u> (Miyako city and Kamaishi city)	

The thematic sessions following the plenary session focused their discussions on the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake from three perspectives: 1) early warning systems and public awareness and education, 2) resilience of critical infrastructures and society and 3) organizing response and recovery. Many issues were discussed during the thematic sessions, including how public awareness and education activities complement structural measures, the importance of multi-functionality and redundancy of infrastructure including ICT, and the issue of bridging the gaps in response and recovery by utilizing tools/mechanisms and emerging principles.

The meeting was attended by 112 participants, representing national governments, mostly from the Asia Pacific region, international organizations, Japanese government and aid agencies, NGOs, and research institutions. A report on the outcomes of the meeting, as well as a reports on the thematic sessions, are available on the Cabinet Office website (http://www.bousai.go.jp/kyoryoku/geje_exgmeeting.html).



[Field Visit in Miyako City]

To achieve creative reconstruction from the Great East

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Japan Earthquake, support from international experts is important; sharing lessons learned from the disasters helps enhance the disaster management capacities of all Asian countries. Also, sharing lessons must be done in the context of the Great East Japan Earthquake, for which more than 120 countries and international organizations have extended their support. By facilitating the sharing of opinions between Japanese and international experts at this meeting, ADRC hopes that the partnerships between Japan and the international community will be strengthened in the area of disaster mitigation.

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