



ADRC Highlights

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● Participation in International Conferences

ADRC/IRP Attends Third Session of UNESCAP's Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangkok

The third session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand on 27-29 November 2013. The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) sent a representative from the IRP secretariat to attend. The forum's many participants included officials from UNESCAP member countries as well as experts from intergovernmental organizations.



During the session entitled "Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development," Mr. Shingo Kouchi, ADRC Senior Expert and IRP Senior Recovery Expert, praised the ability of the governments and people of UNESCAP member countries to promote recovery and reconstruction following large-scale disasters. Mr. Kouchi also noted that ADRC and IRP have long been assisting ADRC member countries in their efforts to utilize Japanese technologies, experiences, and lessons related to disaster risk reduction. This assistance includes the Visiting Researcher (VR) Program, a capacity building program wherein ADRC offers three months of training to government officials. In fact, ADRC has been pleased to see many former VRs now playing a central role in the ministries in charge of disaster management in their home countries.

Mr. Kouchi also emphasized the importance of everyday preparedness by citizens, in addition to government efforts, when a massive disaster strikes. Two major events, ADRC's "Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction," to be held in Tokyo on 4-6 March 2014, and IRP's "International Recovery Forum," to be held in Kobe on 21 January 2014, will present evidence of the progress made in the areas of disaster reduction and preparedness in preparation for the next UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction scheduled for 2015.

ADRC/IRP, together with UNESCAP and its member countries, would like to continue to support efforts to strengthen the disaster reduction capabilities of affected communities. For more information, please contact Shingo Kouchi (kouchi@recoveryplatform.org).

First Sentinel Asia Joint Project Meeting Step-3 (JPTM)

The 1st Sentinel Asia* Joint Project Meeting Step-3 (JPTM) was held on 27-29 November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. It was organized jointly by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) of Thailand. Under the Sentinel Asia framework, ADRC functions as a

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single gateway for processing emergency observation requests, screening those requests, and forwarding approved requests to the relevant space agencies. At the meeting, ADRC reported on the status of the emergency observations that have been implemented, and presented suggestions for improving the questionnaires that are sent out after emergency observations have been conducted.

The topics discussed at this meeting were as follows:

- Status reports (overview of the status of Sentinel Asia, introduction of new members, overview of emergency observations, DPN/DAN** reports)
- Project management (direction of project Sentinel Asia project development, data sharing/dissemination, planning for the of UNWCDRR in Tohoku in 2015)
- Mitigation and preparation (Sentinel Asia Success Story in the Philippines and others)
- Working Group activities (Flood WG, Wildfire WG, GLOF WG)
- Emergency response (Facebook, enforcement of DAN activities, role of project managers (PMs) in the Charter as international activity, PM training)
- Recovery (success stories related to the use of space data in the recovery phase)
- Multiple use of satellites (Winds*** and other assets and services of JAXA, QZSS)

* Sentinel Asia is an international project aimed at establishing a disaster risk management system in Asia using satellites.

** DPN (Data Provider Nodes): Space agencies that provide satellite images. DAN (Data Analysis Nodes): Universities and other research institutes that analyze satellite images.

*** WINDS (KIZUNA) is a satellite that provides ultra-high-speed Internet connectivity service.

**ADRC Participates in 8th Integrated Workshop of the Typhoon Committee**

ADRC participated in the 8th Integrated Workshop of the Typhoon Committee held in conjunction with the 2nd Training and Research Coordination Group Forum jointly organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Typhoon Committee Secretariat, and the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau in Macao on 2-4 December 2013. The more than 100 participants who attended the meeting included representatives of Cambodia, China, D.P.R. Korea, Japan, Lao, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, the US, and Vietnam, as well as representatives of the organizing institutions. The participants discussed “Forecasting, Warnings, and DRR Strategies in the Mitigation of Tropical Cyclone Impacts in a Multi-hazard Environment,” which was the main theme of the meeting.

For the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, Japan's Cabinet Office gave a presentation on the damage caused by typhoons in 2013 and on ADRC activities such as the Visiting Researcher Program. Delegates from the Philippines and Vietnam gave a presentation on the damage caused by Typhoon Haiyan and the current status of response efforts, and the WMO and Japan Meteorological Agency reported on the

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assistance they offered, such as the provision of typhoon information. As a result, there were fruitful discussions on such topics as the enhancement of cooperation among member countries. During this session, the WMO suggested that a manual be developed for processing emergency requests from member countries, as similar requests are likely to be made in the future, and that an emergency network be constructed among the Typhoon Committee Secretariat and member countries. A decision was made to investigate this issue further.

The Typhoon Committee has two other working groups covering meteorology and hydrology, in addition to the working group on disaster risk reduction. This time, the three working group meetings and the Training and Research Coordination Group Forum were held together as an integrated event. For more information, visit the typhoon committee website:

http://www.typhooncommittee.org/8IWS_2TRCG/8IWS_2TRCG.html.

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