



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

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TOPICS

Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

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● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2014

ACDR2014 was held in Tokyo, Japan on 4-6 March 2014. The conference was organized jointly by the government of Japan, the United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). The conference was attended by a total of 119 participants, including high level government officials from 26 countries, as well as representatives of 26 international and regional organizations, the academic community, and the private sector.

ACDR2014 was opened by Mr. Yasutoshi Nishimura, Senior Vice-Minister of the Cabinet Office of Japan, followed by Dr. Shigeru Itoh, Chairman of ADRC, and Ms. Yuki Matsuoka, Head of the UNISDR Office in Japan. Mr. Nishimura began by expressing his deepest gratitude to all of the participants for their support following the Great East Japan Earthquake. He then discussed the importance of the experience gained and lessons learned from that disaster. He indicated that the outcomes of this conference are expected to be incorporated into the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2).

The keynote presentation, by Dr. Satoru Nishikawa, Vice-President of the Japan Water Agency, highlighted Japan's experience and how it might be addressed in the HFA2 and outlined expectations for the upcoming 3rd WCDRR. Prof. Osamu Murao of Tohoku University also gave a talk on "Lessons Learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Current Recovery Efforts."

The key topics addressed at ACDR2014 were as follows:

1. HFA progress and challenges for HFA2
2. Strengthening local capacity for disaster risk reduction (DRR)
3. Human resource development and training
4. Utilization of space technology for DRR

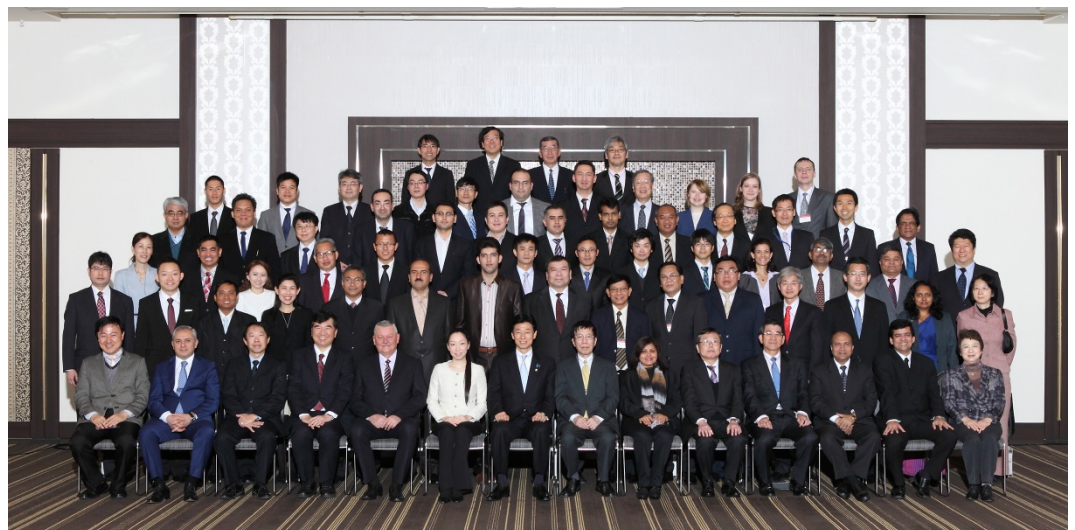
Session 1, entitled "HFA Progress and Challenges toward HFA2," aimed to identify the gaps and challenges that remain in promoting the HFA, as well as to

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share good practices developed in member countries. The session was also expected to facilitate the discussion on HFA2 in Asia.

Session 2, entitled “Strengthening Local Capacity for DRR,” discussed best practices in local level activities in the field of disaster management, highlighting the importance of citizen participation in all aspects of disaster management from preparation to recovery, the development of disaster management strategies tailored to the specific features of local communities, and the promotion of business continuity planning (BCP) among small and medium-sized businesses.



Session 3, entitled “Human Resource Development and Training,” gave an overview of the current situation in this area, and aimed to share good practices and challenges faced in the area of human resource development and training in the region. The session was also expected to facilitate the discussion of future projects in Asia.

Session 4 was entitled “Utilization of Space Technology for DRR.” The HFA stipulates the importance of space technologies in Chapter 2. Strengthening DRR will be facilitated by the accelerated use of various technologies, such as remote sensing, GIS, ICT, risk assessment tools, early warning systems, and weather monitoring technologies.

In closing, Mr. Kiyoshi Natori, Executive Director of ADRC, presented the chair's summary of ACDR2014. He announced that lessons drawn from the conference will provide important feedback that can be used in developing the programs for the upcoming 6th AMCDRR and 3rd WCDRR. The participants also agreed that ongoing ADRC activities, such as those designed to strengthen human networks, will continue to be pursued in member countries. Closing remarks were given by Mr. Masatoshi Yokkaichi, Director of Disaster Awareness and International Cooperation for the Cabinet Office of Japan.

ACDR2014 was a great success thanks to the important contributions made by all of the speakers and the active involvement of all participants. Please visit the ACDR2014 website for more information. http://www.adrc.asia/acdr/2014_index.html

Note: The titles of participants shown above are current as of 1 March 2014.

ADRC DRR Policy Peer Review FY2013

Since 2009, ADRC has been conducting DRR Policy Peer Reviews to help develop the DRR capacity of ADRC-member countries through the promotion of information sharing and through the strengthening of relationships among member countries. The target project selected for review this year, the fifth since the Peer Review process was launched, is a project aimed at improving the earthquake safety of nursing homes and orphanages in Armenia. After the country report was submitted, a reviewer team comprised of Dr. Aiko Sakurai (Associate Professor, Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University, Japan), Dr. Renato U. Solidum, Jr. (Director, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Philippines), and Mr. Junji Moriwaki (ADRC Researcher) visited Armenia to conduct interviews.



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The team visited the National Survey for Seismic Protection Agency, which is involved in DRR activities, to examine its DRR development efforts in Armenia. The team then conducted inspections of nursing homes and orphanages, after which it prepared a draft report of its survey results with all its findings and recommendations. A workshop was also held to gather opinions and comments used in finalizing the report as well as to share good DRR practices from Japan and the Philippines with local participants. This proved to be a very good opportunity for participants to share information and ideas with one another.

This project aims to develop a mutual learning process among ADRC-member countries, rejecting conventional models of one-way learning. After its survey mission ends, the reviewer team compiles a survey report, which it sends to the countries examined as well as to other ADRC member countries, so as to enhance cross-fertilization. ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all of those who have made such important contributions to this project.

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