



ADRC Highlights

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TOPICS

Participation in International Conferences

¶ Second Regional Ministerial Conference of Disaster Management Authorities in Central Asia under the “Central Asia plus Japan” Dialogue

¶ UNESCAP/JAXA Policy Makers’ Dialog and Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management in the Asia-Pacific

ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

¶ Ms. Hazar Fadhl Dammag (Yemen)

¶ Mr. Nuwan Prasantha Madawan Arachchi (Sri Lanka)

Announcement (Report from ADRC Internship)

¶ Ms. Misato Nishizawa

¶ Mr. Guillaume BERNARD

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● Participation in International Conferences

Second Regional Ministerial Conference of Disaster Management Authorities in Central Asia under the “Central Asia plus Japan” Dialogue

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) participated in the Second Regional Ministerial Conference of Disaster Management Authorities in Central Asia under the “Central Asia plus Japan” Dialogue held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic on 18-19 September 2014. This conference, organized by the government of Japan, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic, and UNDP Kyrgyzstan, aimed to discuss the possible creation of a high level forum for disaster management authorities involved in DRR under the “Central Asia plus Japan” Dialogue. The participants included representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as the Embassy of Japan in the Kyrgyz Republic, JICA, and other international organizations.



During the conference, participants discussed the most urgent DRR issues facing the region as well as future opportunities for cooperation. ADRC presented information on the outcomes of DRR programs conducted in various Central Asian countries, and identified needs and areas for future DRR cooperation in the region. At the end of the two-day conference, the participants agreed to establish and regularly convene a forum for the heads of the disaster management authorities in Central Asia for discussing efforts to strengthen regional cooperation in reducing, preventing, and responding to disaster risks. In addition, an expert level working group of disaster management authorities in Central Asia will be established to support this forum.

UNESCAP/JAXA Policy Makers’ Dialog and Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management in the Asia-Pacific: Harnessing Information and Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems

ADRC participated in the meeting named above, which was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), from 23 to 25 September 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. About 80 participants attended the meeting including representatives of relevant agencies, businesses, and academic



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institutions in the Asia-Pacific region. The meeting primarily covered the following topics.

- Natural disaster risk reduction
- Humanitarian and community support for disaster risk reduction and management
- Contributions of space technology and GIS for disaster risk reduction and management
- Use of space technology and GIS for information management during disasters
- Use of space technology and GIS for economic and business resilience
- Integration of space technology and GIS for disaster warnings and evacuation activities
- Use of space technology and GIS for promoting regional collaboration

ADRC gave a presentation on its activities within the Sentinel Asia program and on the use of satellites within the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

●ADRC Visiting Researcher Report**Ms. Hazar Fadhl Dammaq (Yemen)**

My name is Hazar Fadhl Dammaq and I'm from Yemen. I graduated in 2007 from the Agriculture College in the Department of Soil and Water at Sana'a University. I work at the Ministry of Water and the Environment (MWE) as head of the Water Policy Section. Since 2008, I have been working in water awareness, reporting and evaluation, and correspondence. The ministry aims to contribute to the development of water resources based on the integrated management of water resources and to provide clean drinking water and sanitation services, as well as to allocate water for other uses. It also aims to protect the environment from pollution, to prevent desertification, and to promote the conservation and rational use of natural resources. It strives to achieve these goals by adopting relevant legislation and implementing awareness programs, and by encouraging the participation of local communities, NGOs, other civil society institutions, the private sector, and women in efforts to reform the water and environmental conditions, thereby contributing to the promotion of sustainable development, the improvement of public health, and the alleviation of poverty. The ministry also develops plans to cope with environmental disasters in coordination with the relevant authorities.



In 2008, I worked with a group from the MWE to organize an exhibit at the International Expo Zaragoza 2008 Spain (telling visitors about irrigation systems used in Yemen) for the Yemeni water authorities. From 28-29 Aug 2010, I participated in a training workshop on Rock Falls and Landslides for Disaster Risk Management organized by the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals in Sana'a, Yemen. I also participated in a training course on Ground Water and Artificial Recharge held by the Training Sector for Water Resources and Irrigation (TSWRI) in Cairo, Egypt from 2-28 December 2012 with JICA. I joined ADRC this August as a visiting researcher to share the experiences of my country in disaster management and to study disaster management systems in Japan and other ADRC member countries. This experience will be useful in helping me perform my duties and in minimizing damage from disasters in Yemen, particularly because my country has a lot of problems related to water resources. My research will therefore focus on how to strengthen technical water resource management in Yemen, including issues related to database creation and raising public awareness.

Mr. Nuwan Prasantha Madawan Arachchi (Sri Lanka)

I am Nuwan Prasantha Madawan Arachchi, from Sri Lanka, and I joined ADRC as a Visiting Researcher on 18 August 2014. Currently I work as an Assistant Director (Preparedness) in the disaster preparedness planning division of the Disaster Management Center (DMC) in Sri Lanka. The DMC is a mandated institution responsible for the coordination and implementation of disaster management activities. It is governed by the National Council for Disaster Management, which is chaired by the president of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The mission of the DMC is to constantly work "Towards a

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Safer Sri Lanka.” I am responsible for disaster preparation efforts from the national to the local level (districts, divisions, and Grama Niladharee, Sri Lanka's smallest administrative unit). My work includes disaster management planning and the implementation and coordination of all the preparedness planning activities. I have also spent the last 10 years working as an environmental activist, a climate change and global warming mitigation campaigner, and a researcher and technical officer for disaster-related disciplines.

I earned my first degree (B.Sc in agriculture) at the University of Ruhuna, and then enrolled in the University of Peradeniya to pursue a master's degree in disaster management. Over the course of my studies, I achieved a Fulbright scholarship, which is the most notable achievement in my professional life. This allowed me to study at the Alexandria campus in Washington DC.

I have produced several publications on topics related to the environment and disaster management. During my tenure with the DMC, I have worked in several fields, such as agriculture, youth affairs, the plantation industry, and human right works. I have worked on both a permanent and contract basis. I hope to serve as a dedicated expert in the field of DRM to serve those who are vulnerable to various manmade and natural hazards both locally and internationally.

**● Announcement (Report from ADRC Internship)****ADRC Internship, Ms. Misato Nishizawa**

My name is Misato Nishizawa and I interned at ADRC from 3-9 September, 2014. I am a student at Kansai University at Takatsuki where I am enrolled in the Faculty of Safety Science, the only faculty of its kind in Japan. To solve the broad scope of problems that threaten society as a whole, we are expected to take a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach that applies the study of politics, law, psychology, engineering, and other fields. Though some may consider my field of study to be comparatively new, it is nonetheless very important. The reasons are clear when one considers how many specialists are predicting the near-term occurrence of a Nankai mega thrust earthquake or a massive earthquake in the Tokyo metropolitan region, either of which would constitute a national catastrophe for Japan.

During my internship, I had a chance not only to see the work done at ADRC, but also to visit places like the Hyogo Prefecture Emergency Management and Training Center. I also communicated with Visiting Researchers and a fellow ADRC intern from France. Thanks to the ADRC staff and to all of you, I have been able to learn about other cultures and about disasters in foreign countries. I have very much enjoyed my time at ADRC. Five days may not be a very long time, but I will do my best to use what I've learned from this experience to contribute to the world in the future.

**ADRC Internship, Mr. Guillaume BERNARD**

My name is Guillaume BERNARD and I am from France. I was an intern at ADRC from 18 August to 12 September 2014. My primary task during that time was to write a country report and profile on my home country, France, with reference to the European Union in which it is a member. At the same time, I was able to participate in the same trainings as the ADRC's Visiting Researchers and to go on a study trip to Miyagi Prefecture. There I was able to see the remnants of the Great East Japan Earthquake and to learn about the recovery process. From these experiences, I learned that disasters can be a good opportunity for international cooperation. When we share the same dangers and risks, we can more easily cooperate and put aside our political or cultural conflicts. For instance, the European Union can certainly learn from Asian experiences in flood management; likewise, Japan can learn a lot from the French and European experiences

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with nuclear technologies, potentially enabling better management of the Fukushima situation. When I saw the recovery work going on in Kesenuma City, I felt that the work being done might not be the best way to protect people. From a European point of view, raising the ground level and building new breakwaters seems like a fruitless fight against nature. In Europe, we think that there is a point when people must accept that nature will always win and that human populations must change their ways or make choices to live in different locations. However, it is also true that Japan has a high population density, and this fact complicates lots of things. My internship at the ADRC was a very good experience for me.

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