



ADRC Highlights

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●Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2015

1. Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2015

Information sharing among member countries, advisor countries, and other relevant organizations are indispensable for strengthening the network of people working on disaster risk reduction in Asia. The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) convenes an annual international conference attended by disaster risk management officials from its member countries and disaster experts from international organizations to promote the sharing of information and opinions, and to enhance partnerships among participating countries and organizations. The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2015 was held in Sendai, Japan on 15 March 2015 as part of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) held 14-18 March 2015. The WCDRR aimed to confirm achievements of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and clarify the core actions on improving capacity for DRR in the HFA2, its successor framework. ACDR2015 was organized jointly by the government of Japan, the United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), and ADRC. It was attended by a total of 180 participants, including high level government officials from 29 countries as well as representatives of 23 international and regional organizations, the academic community, and the private sector.

The key topics addressed at ACDR2015 were as follows:

1. ADRC's priority actions related to the HFA and the Post-2015 Framework
2. Creative reconstruction initiatives by Hyogo Prefecture since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake
3. Lessons learned from typhoons and in Philippines and future challenges in this area
4. HFA implementation status and future challenges in Kyrgyz
5. HFA implementation status and future challenges in Nepal
6. ICIMOD's regional DRR efforts to improve disaster management capacity in the HKH region

ACDR2015 opened with remarks by Mr. Ryosei Akazawa, State Minister of the Cabinet Office of Japan, followed by remarks from Ms. Feng Min Kan, Head of the Asia and the Pacific Office of UNISDR. Dr. Masanori Hamada, Chairman of the ADRC, expressed sincere gratitude for their participation in



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ACDR2015, then reviewed the ADRC's core activities: information sharing, capacity, building, and strengthening the resilience of communities. He proposed new two activities to promote the Post-2015 Framework: (1) utilizing more advanced technologies, such as space science, in DRR, and (2) strengthening the resilience of communities by involving local industries.

Mr. Sugeng Triutomo, formerly a long-time ADRC point of contact in Indonesia's BNPB, Senior Advisor of BNPB, moderated a panel discussion on the progress made toward the HFA and the challenges involved in promoting the Post-2015 Framework in ADRC's member countries and regions. The list of presenters follows.



Mr. Akinori Sugimoto, Superintendent of Emergency Management, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, “Lessons from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Over the Past 20 years.” The Hyogo prefectural government presented results achieved from an evaluation of the 20 years of efforts undertaken since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Creative reconstruction was strongly recommended in the Post-2015 Framework.

Mr. Alexander P. Pama, Administrator, Office of Civil Defense, Philippines: “The Philippine Experience: Making Resilience Happen.” The Office of Civil Defense in the Philippines gave a presentation on its successes in disaster risk reduction and management, with special attention to the lessons learned from Typhoon Yolanda (I.N. Haiyan) and best practices from Typhoon Ruby (I.N. Hagupit).

Mr. Kanatbek KARYBAI UULU, Chief Specialist, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Kyrgyz: “For the good of Kyrgyzstan.” The Ministry of Emergency Situations in Kyrgyz showed progress toward the HFA and recommended “enhancing the coordination of DRR activities carried out by all stakeholders and at all levels, with particular emphasis on the local level.”

Mr. Rameshwor Dangal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal: “An Overview of Disaster Risk Management in Nepal.” The Ministry of Home Affairs in Nepal reported on its HFA progress, especially highlighting the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRC), and concluded by saying “Nepal expects solidarity and support from participating agencies and development partners with regard to DRM financing and technology.”

Dr. Mandira Singh Shrestha, Senior Water Resources Specialist, ICIMOD: “Regional Efforts in Disaster Risk Reduction in the HKH Region: Challenges and Opportunities.” ICIMOD talked about ICIMOD and disasters in the Himalayan region, particularly emphasizing the effectiveness of progressive initiatives using satellite technologies and mobile phones.

At the closing ceremony, remarks were given by Mr. Kiyoshi Natori, ADRC Executive Director. ACDR2015 was a great success thanks to the valuable contributions of all the speakers and the active involvement of all participants.

2. Other Activities Related to ACDR2015

The ADRC also organized two other public forums as follows:

(1) Efforts to Promote the Disaster Resilience of the Private Sector in the Asia-Pacific Region: Learning from the Good Practices of Private Companies

ADRC organized this public forum on 16 March 2015. Its objectives were to further promote the recent practices of business entities and regional networks in promoting the development of local resilience in the Asia-Pacific region, which is highly vulnerable to natural disasters. Eight speakers from seven organizations gave presentations on their DRR activities, and these were followed by a panel discussion. Some 60 people participated in the forum.

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(2) Building Resilience at the Local Level: Learning from Experiences Aimed at Achieving Sustainable Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction Activities in Asia

ADRC organized this public forum on 17 March 2015. Jointly organized by BNPB (National Disaster Management Authority, Indonesia), JICA, and ADRC, this forum featured good practices in community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR), highlighted the importance of involving multi-stakeholders, including efforts to establish good connections between national and local governments in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Japan, and provided new insights for upgrading disaster resilience program initiatives in a sustainable manner. Approx. 80 participants, most of whom are engaged in disaster risk reduction and community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) in Asia, actively participated in discussions held during the forum.



● Participation in International Conferences

ADRC/IRP Participates in the Preparatory Meeting for the Earthquake Preparedness Conference in Metro Manila, Philippines

The Preparatory Meeting for the Earthquake Preparedness Conference, hosted by the Carlos P. Romulo Foundation for Peace and Development and co-hosted by the Zuellig Family Foundation and the Manila Observatory, was held in Manila, Philippines on 25 February 2015. To show its support for this meeting, ADRC sent a representative from the IRP secretariat to attend. More than 90 participants attended, including government officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, managers from the private sector, and experts from international organizations.

Mr. Shingo Kouchi, ADRC Senior Expert and IRP Senior Recovery Expert, gave a presentation entitled “Reconstruction, Recovery and Preparedness: Lessons Learned from Japan’s Experience: Towards Comprehensive Disaster Management in the Philippines and Japan.” In his remarks, he expressed great appreciation for every effort made by both the public and private sectors to prepare for possible earthquakes in the Metro Manila area. As is the case in Japan, it is widely recognized in the Philippines that the government and local enterprises need to promote public-private partnerships and a multi-stakeholder approach towards effective regional disaster mitigation/prevention and reconstruction/recovery. Mr. Kouchi also stressed that IRP has been working closely with many stakeholders in the Philippines, and that ADRC/IRP will seek opportunities to provide technical assistance for the Philippines’ efforts to prepare for future earthquakes.

Based on the concept of “Building Back Better than Before,” IRP would like to continue making efforts toward the realization of disaster-resilient communities in the Metro Manila region by sharing Japanese technologies, experiences, and lessons learned from the past. For more information, please contact Mr. Kouchi (kouchi@recoveryplatform.org).

For Inquiries & Subscription Information

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