



# ADRC Highlights

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## ● Announcements

### Greetings from new ADRC Executive Director, Ms. Kyoko KONDO

It is a great honor for me to have taken over as Executive Director of Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) as of July 31, 2015. The year 2015, four years after the Great East Japan Earthquake, has seen heavy snow falls, a series of typhoons resulting in torrential rainfall, and volcanic activities in Japan. In March, we also commemorated the 20th anniversary of the earthquake in Kobe in 1995. That earthquake struck at the beginning of the year following the first World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction held in Yokohama, Japan, and I was working at the IDNDR Secretariat for that Conference. ADRC was established after this earthquake in 1998 and will mark its 20th anniversary in July 2018.



Many Asian countries are facing population increases, economic growth, and urbanization, all of which will bring about opportunities while also increasing the vulnerability of cities and regions. I would like to continue discussing and working on solutions to the challenges we face in the area of sustainable development in Asia based on the Sendai framework, and am confident we will be able to explore helpful new solutions.

I look forward to working with you on these efforts.

#### Profile: Kyoko KONDO

Before joining ADRC, Kyoko Kondo was director of the Policy Planning Office of the National Spatial Planning and Regional Policy Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan. She joined the government of Japan, Cabinet Office, National Land Agency mainly working in the fields of regional development policy, land property policy, and natural disaster reduction. She also worked for the IDNDR secretariat of the UN office in Geneva on the occasion of the First World Conference for Natural Disaster Reduction, and for the OECD/GOV in Paris.

## ● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

### JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Program on "Comprehensive Disaster Management for Central Asia and the Caucasus 2015"

ADRC conducted the Knowledge Co-Creation Programs for disaster management officials from Central Asia and the Caucasus from 23 June to 31 July 2015. This event was conducted with cooperation from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kansai International Center. Central Asia and the Caucasus frequently experience disasters such as earthquakes and landslides, as well as flash floods and other floods caused by melting snow in the mountains every spring. In addition, some of these natural disasters extend across several countries. Promoting regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction in these regions is therefore a significant challenge.

This course aims to convey basic knowledge and experiences related to

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natural disaster management in the trainees' countries. Trainees were asked to identify a major problem in their own countries and to formulate an action plan for addressing it. The course was conducted in Russian for 16 central and local government officials representing seven countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan in Central Asia, and Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Caucasus. Participants attended lectures and visited central and local government agencies, research institutes, private companies, a meteorological organization, and NGOs in order to comprehensively enhance their understanding of disaster management. They also participated in community activities, such as a disaster prevention drill conducted by a junior team of BOKOMI (community-based disaster management organizations organized by the Kobe City Fire Bureau), and went to Niigata, which experienced the Niigata-Chuetsu Earthquake in 2004, to learn about earthquake recovery, as well as landslide and erosion control countermeasures being implemented in the area. In addition, they also visited Hiroshima city for the first time during the training course. They had an opportunity to interact with people affected by a landslide that occurred in 2014 and also learned about the importance of passing down lessons learned from major disasters to successive generations.

It is hoped that the participants will make good use of the knowledge, tools, and methods they learned during this training course to implement various projects and help strengthen the disaster management systems in their home countries. ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all the organizations that contributed to the success of this course.



Visit to an affected area of Niigata Chuetsu Earthquake

**●ADRC Visiting Researcher Report****Mr. Vigen Harutyunyan (Armenia)**

My name is Vigen Harutyunyan and I am from the Republic of Armenia. I work for the Western Survey for Seismic Protection of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situation of the Republic of Armenia (NSSP) whose activities are mainly focused on disaster risk reduction and management. I work as the head of the department of Data Acquisition Processing and Analysis.

This department has been working on the management and supervision of disaster information since the NSSP was established. In addition to performing data analysis, it also collects information obtained from geophysical, geochemical, and seismic network systems. It operates 24 hours a day.

Armenia is considered a developing country. We are trying to collect and maintain specialized scientific knowledge that is likely to contribute to our sustainable development from all over the world. All the theoretical and practical knowledge acquired during my time in the Visiting Researcher (VR) program at ADRC will be applied in relevant fields of practice, thereby serving as an asset to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The opportunity to participate in the VR program at ADRC is of great value to me, as it will allow me to gain both theoretical knowledge and practical expertise in this field. Learning Japanese methodologies will give my work more practical applicability and will enable me to focus more on problem-solving based on data analysis. I am sure that upon completion of the program I will have a sound knowledge of the tools and techniques that I will use for disaster management in my own organization. I am confident that the information and practical experience offered by the VR program at ADRC will be of great importance both to the organization where I work and to my country as a whole.



## ● Announcement (Report from ADRC Internship)

### ADRC Internship, Ms. Norika Yamamura

My name is Norika Yamamura and I am a student in the Faculty of Safety Science at Kansai University. I interned at ADRC from 2 to 8 September 2015. In my university program, I am studying earthquake and disaster prevention, and I was therefore grateful for the chance to work on disaster management issues at the ADRC. During my internship, I had various experiences. I not only handled disaster data updates, but also attended presentations given by my fellow interns from France at the International Industrial Fair 2015 Kobe. I also visited the Kobe City Crisis Management Center and the Hyogo Prefecture Emergency Management and Training Center. I could not speak English very well, but my fellow Visiting Researchers spoke to me in a way that helped me understand them better. Thanks to their support, we were able to exchange many ideas. Thanks to everyone at ADRC, I had a wonderful 5-day experience. I want to do my best to take advantage of what I learned through this experience in the future. I am very grateful to ADRC and Kansai University for giving me such a wonderful opportunity.



### ADRC Internship, Mr. Krisztian Benyo

My name is Krisztian Benyo. I was born in Hungary, but have been studying in France since last year as part of a summer internship program jointly managed by Seine-et-Marne Developpement (an organization responsible for the urban and industrial development of the Seine-et-Marne region in France) and the Hyogo International Association. I spent three weeks at ADRC as an intern, from 24 August to 11 September. My major is mathematics but my research topics are closely related to natural disasters and disaster management since I am working on the mathematical analysis of complex wave and flow-based physical phenomena such as earthquakes, landslides, oceanic currents and coastal wave formations.



As part of my job, I had the pleasure of giving presentations on my various research topics (the theoretical modeling of earthquakes, the mathematical analysis of landslides, and numerical simulations of coastal wave formations) to staff members of ADRC and IRP during a series of short lectures. The rest of my time was spent with other visiting researchers at ADRC participating in professional trainings and various field trips to such sites as the Kobe Fire Bureau, the Hyogo Prefectural Police Station, the Hyogo Prefectural Disaster Management Center, and the Hyogo Prefectural Emergency Management and Training Center.

My visit provided me with a lot of insights about the different aspects of natural disasters. Although I did not have a chance to perform actual mathematical research, getting to know the various actors and factors in disaster prevention, control, and management has been very important to my work. A better overall understanding of this field is a great help in the establishment and analysis of mathematical and other scientific models and simulations.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the entire staff for welcoming me and making my stay such a wonderful experience.

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