



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 274
January
2016

TOPICS

Happy New Year 2016

Masanori HAMADA
Chairman, ADRC

ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Mr. Chathura
Liyanaarachchige
(Sri Lanka)

Asian Disaster Reduction Center

Higashikan 5F, 1-5-2
Wakinohamakaigan-dori,
Chuo-ku, Kobe
651-0073 Japan

Tel: 078-262-5540
Fax: 078-262-5546
editor@adrc.asia
<http://www.adrc.asia>

© ADRC 2016



Happy New Year 2016

Happy New Year!

At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone from our 30 member countries who are involved in our work for their great support and contributions to the activities of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC).

Last year, there was an increase in natural disasters all over the world, including Japan. There have been torrential rains and snow storms, as well as huge typhoons and cyclones – a very real result of global climate change. These disasters, and their subsequent floods and landslides, have caused the loss of many lives and the destruction of massive amounts of property. My ADRC colleagues and I are reminded once again that our organization's role and responsibilities when it comes to reducing natural disasters in Asia are only increasing.

In March of last year, the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Sendai, and was attended by representatives from 187 UN member states. The conference adopted four priorities for action: (1) Understanding disaster risk; (2) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; (3) Investing in disaster reduction for resilience and; (4) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

ADRC, in serving as a hub for disaster reduction efforts, will be a key player in promoting and achieving these proposed actions in Asia. It has been nearly two decades since ADRC was founded in 1998 after the The Southern Hyogo prefecture earthquake. It is now time for ADRC to prepare strategies for action for the next twenty years, based on the priorities for action identified by the UN.

All of us at ADRC are committed to doing our utmost to ensure the safety and security of the people of Asia in close cooperation and strong partnership with our member countries. We look forward to working with you toward that end over the coming year.



Masanori HAMADA
Chairman, ADRC

● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report**Mr. Chathura Liyanaarachchige (Sri Lanka)**

Konnichiwa! I am Chathura Liyanaarachchige and I am from Sri Lanka. I am presently working as an Assistant Director in the Disaster Management Center of the Ministry of Disaster Management of Sri Lanka. Also I am a committee member, coordinator, and key person involved in several national committees in Sri Lanka such as Building a Common Resilient Framework, the National Center for Lightning Safety, Redress Gender Based Violence, National Committee on Water Safety, and Preparation of Institutional Disaster Management Plan in Sri Lanka.



Various types of disasters have struck Sri Lanka over the past three decades, and the likelihood of the recurrence of natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, landslides, and cyclones is bound to increase in the future. The Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26 December 2004 is considered the largest and most devastating natural disaster in the history of the country.

Disaster Management Act No.13 was enacted in May 2005, with legal provisions for instituting a disaster risk management system for the country. The Act provided for the establishment of the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM), which is a high-level inter-ministerial body that provides direction for disaster risk management work, and the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), which is the lead agency in disaster risk management and plays a considerable role in coordinating and facilitating the efforts of various agencies.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Sri Lanka and ADRC for giving me the great opportunity to conduct research on the Institutional Disaster Management Plan (IDMP). This is my area of focus and I have been tasked with preparing the guidelines and format for an IDMP in Sri Lanka. There is no argument that Japan is the most disaster-prone country in the world and has experience in addressing all phases of a disaster, including preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery, and rehabilitation, to achieve the goal of being a disaster-resilient country. I am sure Japan's experience and knowledge, along with the ADRC's expertise, will be of great benefit to the DMC. I would also like to express my gratitude and admiration to the ADRC staff for taking such good care of me and all of the visiting researchers during our stay in Japan.

**For Inquiries & Subscription Information**

For more information or details regarding email subscriptions to this newsletter, please email editor@adrc.asia.