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# **ADRC** Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

## Participation in International Conferences

## Participation in the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of Sentinel Asia

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) attended the 2nd meeting of the Sentinel Asia Steering Committee held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 19-20 January 2017. The meeting was also attended by JAXA, which serves as the secretariat of the Sentinel Asia Joint Project Team, other space agencies in Asia working, and image analysis organizations, and ADRC participated to facilitate connections between these organizations.

Day 1 started with opening remarks by the two co-chairs, Dr. Lal Samarakoon, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), and Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director, National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED). These were followed by a briefing by JAXA on the Steering Committee Mandate and status and lessons learned from emergency observations conducted thus far. ADRC then reported on the advantages of earth observation satellite imagery at diverse phases of DRR and the challenges of Sentinel Asia operations from the viewpoint of DRR organizations. To start the discussion, ADRC gave some examples of emergency situations in which satellite imagery can provide useful information that can facilitate DRR operations, including mega disasters that have extensive geographical coverage across borders, floods affecting remote locations that are difficult to access and that last several weeks, volcanic eruptions that hinder the use of airplanes, and others. All of these help demonstrate the

advantages of satellite imagery for DRR purposes. Space agencies and research organizations reported on DAN activities.

Day 2 focused on a basic approach for discussing the strategic plan for the 10th anniversary and beyond, which will be discussed throughout the year in preparation for the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), scheduled for the fall of 2017.



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