



ADRC Highlights

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● Announcements

Greetings from new ADRC Executive Director, Mr. Koji Suzuki

It is my pleasure to serve Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) again, a decade after my first term of service, especially as we mark the important milestone of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of this regional center. I am grateful that our member countries have been generously supporting this network. Since the establishment of ADRC in 1998, there have been a variety of developments in regional and international initiatives aimed at achieving greater resilience in Asia and the Pacific. ADRC must redefine itself in a way that allows it to play a more substantial and tangible role in collaborating with these ongoing DRR initiatives.

On my first day back with ADRC in April, I participated in a meeting where I heard the final reports of the ADRC Visiting Researchers. In that meeting, three young, promising officers from Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam gave presentations on the research they conducted at ADRC and shared the DRR challenges in their countries. I was struck by the realization that those Visiting Researchers are really invaluable assets to this work. ADRC plays an important role in facilitating communication with member countries through those Visiting Researchers.

We have seen a lot of developments in the science and technology for DRR. Excellent achievements have been made by universities, research institutes, and the business community. However, there seem to be some gaps between those developments in science and technology and their practical application for DRR. ADRC could be the catalyst for bridging those gaps, focusing more on the business community.

ADRC is a network of members advocating for more resilience in Asia and the Pacific. The Kobe Office is the secretariat of the network tasked with facilitating the ADRC mission. I am honored to be working with you on achieving this mission and looking forward to future opportunities to connect with you in person in the coming months.



● ADRC Staff Profile

Mr. Seiji Otsuji, Researcher

My name is Seiji OTSUJI, and I was assigned to ADRC by the Hyogo prefectural government in April 2018 to succeed Mr. Kazuhito UEDA. I first began working for Hyogo Prefecture in 1996, more than 20 years ago, in the field of land development permission. Over my years with the prefecture, I have been responsible for various duties in many fields, including company retention and attraction, guidance for agricultural cooperatives,



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and workers' welfare issues.

I've been living in Kobe since 1996, and thus have not experienced any massive disasters like the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake. But I would like to improve my knowledge and skills through my job with ADRC so that I can provide relevant services to the public.

My main responsibilities at ADRC are related to ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee and conducting JICA training courses. It is my great pleasure to be able to contribute to ADRC's mission of promoting international cooperation on disaster reduction. I look forward to your warm support and guidance during my time working at ADRC.

Personnel Change

Ms. Kyoko Kondo as Former Executive Director and Mr. Kazuhito Ueda as researcher retired from ADRC at the end of March 2018. All of us at ADRC offer our best wishes for his continued success.

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