



ADRC Highlights

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Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

Exchange of Opinions with the Legislative Counseling Office of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea

ADRC Staff Profile

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● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

Exchange of Opinions with the Legislative Counseling Office of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea (2019 April 24)

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) welcomed a delegation from the Legislative Counseling Office of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea to Kobe to exchange opinions regarding the legal frameworks of Japan and Korea. The Korean delegations consisted of four legislative counselors, Ms. Ms. Kim, Su-og, Ms. Lee, Seong Im, Ms. Noh, Youjung, and Ms. Kim Yena. Dr. Son, Hyun-Jin, Associate Professor at the Hiroshima Peace Institute, Hiroshima City University also participated in the meeting. Dr. Son developed a report on the legal framework of Japan.

ADRC's Koji Suzuki introduced several initiatives being undertaken between ADRC and Korea, which include the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI) launched by the Sejong Institute and a Collaboration for Disaster Resilience project being organized by the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat. Suzuki also gave a presentation on the development of a legislative framework for disaster risk reduction in Japan, focusing on the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act. Suzuki detailed the latest developments in the legislative framework since the Great East Japan Earthquake, including the background information behind those developments.

In Korea, awareness of disasters, especially earthquakes, increased significantly after the Gyeongju Earthquake of 2016. After that earthquake, the Korean government has put a lot of effort into disaster risk reduction. Some Korean parliament members visited Japan to learn more about disaster risk reduction efforts in Japan. While Japan has a bicameral national assembly system, Korea has a unicameral system. The delegation noted that the National Assembly is planning and preparing new legislation for disaster risk reduction sponsored by lawmakers in Korea.



● ADRC Staff Profile**Kazuyuki Kobori, Senior Administrative Manager**

My name is Kazuyuki Kobori, and I transferred to ADRC from the Hyogo prefectural government as of April 1, 2019. In my previous work in the International Division, one of my missions was to promote a multicultural society, where Japanese and foreign residents are able to mutually understand and support one another. At ADRC, I have many opportunities to communicate with people from abroad. I will put my past experience to use and do everything I can to ensure that they will be genuinely happy to have come to Hyogo, and to have visited ADRC.

This is actually the second time I have worked here in HAT-Kobe, where ADRC is located. The first time I was here, I worked for JICA-Kansai for two years (2012 to 2014) where I was in charge of a training program for people from abroad. ADRC staff were very helpful to me in that role. Some of those staff members that supported me at that time are still in the office, and I am glad to have a chance to work with them again. I feel strongly connected to them as a result of our past experience together.

ADRC is a small organization, but its role is becoming increasingly important given the frequency with which natural disasters occur all over the world. I am therefore very happy to have an opportunity to work at ADRC. I hope to contribute to ADRC by fulfilling my work responsibilities here, and also to learn a lot of things during my stay, and to take advantage of the resources around me to continue my own learning. It might take me some time to become familiar with my new role, but I assure you I will do my best to get up to speed quickly. I look forward to working with you.

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