



ADRC Highlights

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ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

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● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Study Tour on School and Community-based Disaster Risk Management for UNICEF Kyrgyzstan

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted a study tour on school and community-based disaster risk management for 13 government officials and policy makers of the Kyrgyz Republic in cooperation with UNICEF Kyrgyzstan. The tour was conducted for one week, from 31 August to 5 September 2019 during “Disaster Preparedness Week” in Japan. It enabled the participants to share and learn methodologies and best practices in DRR in Japanese schools and communities.

The participants started their tour with a visit to Sona Area Tokyo, a disaster prevention experience-learning facility, and learned practical knowledge about earthquake disasters and ways to protect themselves. On 1 September, they observed a Nine Prefectural and Municipal Government Joint Disaster Management Drill in Funabashi City, Chiba Prefecture. First, they visited exhibition booths displaying DRR knowledge and technologies. Next, they observed a drill exercise whose elements included road opening, information collection, search and rescue at many types of affected sites, and medical relief collaboratively conducted by various organizations at the main venue. The participants were impressed by the large scale of the collaborative drill and learned lessons on good coordination practices to ensure effective action.

The participants also visited schools in Yokohama and Kobe to observe DRR education in schools and develop ideas on practical DRR lessons. They were given an overview of the DRR education system in Japan by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and learned how Japan enhanced DRR education based on lessons learned from the experiences of past disasters by the explanation from Hyogo Education Board.

It is hoped that the participants will make good use of the knowledge, technologies, and methods they learned from the study tour to effectively implement the “Project for Supporting Safe School Program” in Kyrgyz Republic.



Observing the joint disaster management drill in Chiba

● Participation in International Conferences

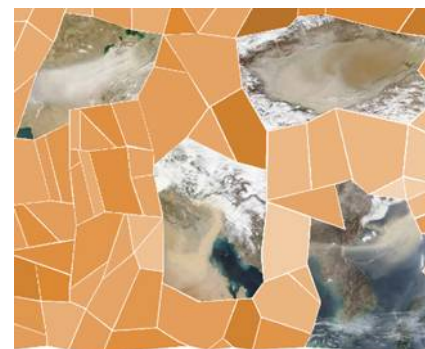
Expert Group Meeting to Combat Sand and Dust Storm, UNESCAP

ADRC participated in the Expert Group Meeting on Sand and Dust Storms, which was organized on 27-28 August 2019 at the United Nations Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand. Sand and dust storms (SDS) have received priority attention by UNESCAP and pose a formidable challenge to achieving the

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Sustainable Development Goals and targets adopted as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Several ADRC member countries in Central and South Asia have suffered from their impacts. It's important to recognize that climate change will have big impacts on SDS in terms of their area, frequency, and magnitude. ADRC gave a presentation on satellite remote sensing technologies for monitoring SDS and explained its interests in medium- and long-term SDS impact assessment simulations that take into account the impacts of climate change.



Sand and Dust Storms in Asia and the Pacific:

Opportunities for Regional Cooperation and Action

(Right) UNESCAP Publications



● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Mr. Ozgur Tuna Ozmen (Turkey)

I am Ozgur Tuna OZMEN, a geophysical engineer in the Department of Planning and Risk Reduction in the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), Turkey. Turkey is a transcontinental country located mainly on the Anatolian peninsula in Western Asia, with a smaller portion on the Balkan peninsula in Southeast Europe. It is prone to three main types of natural disasters: earthquakes, floods, and landslides. The majority of the population (72%) lives in seismically active areas.

Our primary mission is to build a disaster-resilient society in order to raise awareness about disasters and create a disaster-sensitive culture of living in Turkish society. Another key purpose of AFAD is to operate the integrated disaster management system associated with the National Disaster Management Strategy, which covers all phases and actors in the disaster management cycle in the most effective way, before, during, and after the disaster.

ADRC was established in July 1998 to promote multilateral cooperation for disaster reduction focusing on three pillars of activity: information sharing, capacity building, and cooperation. Many of us know that sharing experiences and knowledge of real life disasters, and creating opportunities to network with people who have expertise in a variety of related areas, are indispensable for effective disaster reduction.

ADRC's Visiting Researcher Program has given me a great opportunity to learn about good examples of disaster risk reduction in Japan. I hope that the countries in this network will be able to develop the skills and tools needed to prepare for and respond to disasters, and to reduce their risks in future disasters.



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