



ADRC Highlights

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● Participation in International Conferences

Northeast Asia Forum on Technological Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Reduction: A Forum for Trilateral Cooperation on Disaster Management between China-Japan-Korea

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) participated in the Northeast Asia Forum on Technological Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), on 16-17 December 2019 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The forum was organized by the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat and the UNDRR. The public forum participants came from disaster management organizations and research institutions in all three countries. ADRC and the Geoinformatics Center at the Asian Institute of Technology presented information on the Visiting Researcher (VR) Program, Town-Watching Programs, and Sentinel Asia in a session on international disaster risk reduction. In this session, ADRC proposed that information on the status of hazard map development be shared among the three countries and highlighted the importance of collaboration between China, Japan, and Korea on DRR.



Symposium: Human Resource Development and Space Data Utilization for Disasters

ADRC participated in a symposium entitled Human Resource Development and Space Data Utilization for Disasters, which was organized by Yamaguchi University and Udayana University on 9 January 2020 in Bali, Indonesia. The symposium was attended by about 30 participants representing local disaster management organizations, Tokyo University, the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience, and the organizing institutions, Yamaguchi University and Udayana University. ADRC presented information on Sentinel Asia and the activation of emergency observations. ADRC also explained how emergency observations are requested during disasters and how to become a member of the Sentinel Asia program.



● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Mr. Beda Nidhi Khanal (Nepal)

My name is Beda Nidhi Khanal and I am from Nepal. I have earned master's degrees in Public Administration and Sociology and am working as an under-secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nepal. I have also worked as the chief of the National Emergency Operation Centre at the central level and as a chief district officer at the district level as well. In my role at the national level, I was responsible for disaster preparedness and response. I worked in the Disaster and Conflict Management Division, where I contributed significantly to the development of various legal frameworks, policy instruments, and institutional arrangements for disaster risk management in Nepal. When working at the district level, I fully experienced how poorly these policies are implemented in real life on the ground.



Nepal is vulnerable to multiple hazards, which result in a multitude of disasters throughout the country. These disastrous incidents claim large numbers of lives and cause significant economic loss every year. The nation's geography, geological position, and impacts of climate change are the primary causes of disasters. Rapid and unplanned urbanization, environmental degradation, variations in nature and type of disaster, and an inadequate understanding of disaster risk management have further intensified disaster risks in Nepal. Since the restructuring that was undertaken in 2015, Nepal has started implementing a federal governance system with new constitution. Under this new system, the government has recently endorsed new acts and policies for disaster risk management. The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017, the Disaster Risk Reduction National Policy 2018, and the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Action Plan 2018-2030 are key examples of those policies. These policies and plans are being implemented at the local level throughout the country by all three tiers of government in the new structure. The applicability of these new policies is being tested and the results are yet to be calculated.

To address the various perspectives of disaster risk management in Nepal, some policies and guidelines are still being developed at different levels. Mitigating gaps, creating new policy demand, prescribing policy adjustments, or influencing policy formulation are always challenging tasks. These require extensive experience and knowledge as well as evidence to prove the new need for structural, legal, and institutional reforms in the system. Japan has been a model for effective disaster risk reduction based on modern approaches and methods in all areas of concern. The knowledge and experience gained and practiced by a developed country like Japan will benefit Nepal as it seeks to strengthen its disaster risk reduction structures. I believe ADRC's Visiting Researcher Program has provided me a good opportunity to gain experiences and learn about the best practices of disaster risk management both at the policy making and implementation levels. This platform is sure to benefit me and my organization in the days to come. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan, ADRC, and the government of Nepal for their strong support for this research program.

Mr. Nima Tshering (Bhutan)

I am Nima Tshering from Bhutan, where I work as a District Disaster Management Officer for Dagana District. I joined Bhutan's Civil Service as a District Council Secretary for Samtse District in May 2005 under the Department of Local Governance, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs. I completed my Master's Degree in Public Administration at the Royal Institute of Management in 2013.

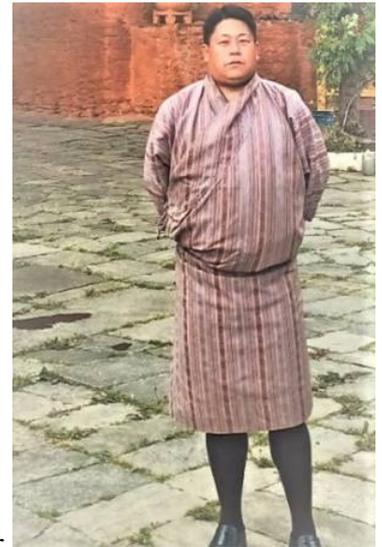
My country, Bhutan, is a small land-locked country located in the Himalayan region between the two densely populated neighbours of China to the North and India to the South. Our country has 20 district administrations and 205 blocks, mostly covered by forests, and it has rich, unique, and diverse cultural heritages.

Bhutan lies in one of the most seismically active zones in the world. Past records show that several

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earthquakes have struck Bhutan and resulted in the destruction of many rural homes, schools, and other government structures worth millions. Bhutan is also vulnerable to many other hazards like glacier lake outburst floods (GLOF), landslides and flash flooding during the monsoon season (June, July, and August), windstorms, structural and forest fires, and hail that affects standing agricultural crops. Disaster risk management is still in the evolutionary stages due to issues including limited financial and human resource availability for capacity building, challenges in coordinating across agencies, and lack of technical skills.

The ADRC Visiting Researcher Program has given me a great opportunity to study, learn, and experience good disaster management practices around the globe and particularly in Japan. During my three-month stay here in Japan, I am confident that I will learn about many vital programs relating to disaster reduction and will have a chance to study Japan's disaster management systems. This knowledge will definitely be useful in helping to develop disaster management contingency plans at the district and local level in Bhutan. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to ADRC, the governments of Japan and Bhutan, and my District Governor, Phintsho Choeden for the support provided to me to participate in this important program.



● Report from ADRC Intern

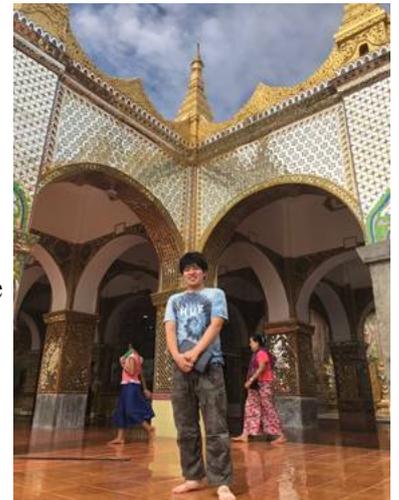
Mr. Takuma Matsushita (Kobe University)

Hello, Everyone. My name is Takuma Matsushita, and I am a first-year master's student at the Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies at Kobe University. I am specializing in International Studies, and am focusing my research on disaster risk management in developing countries mainly in Southeast Asia. Specifically, I'm focusing on community-based projects for disaster risk management, which are frequently referred to as "Community Bosai." I conduct research on how community residents can actively advance community DRR, and thus, need to acquire more knowledge about community DRR. This is why I applied for the ADRC internship.

In fact, ADRC is the most famous public organization doing pioneering work in the area of community DRR. ADRC promotes workshops and town watching programs among community residents to raise awareness of disasters, as this will be the most effective way to implement a disaster resilient society. This experience will also contribute to my research as well.

This is the reason why I interned at ADRC from 2 to 12 February 2020. During this internship, I participated in a variety of events such as the "Mi-Kaeru Caravan" produced by JICA Kansai, a lecture on drought management also conducted by JICA, and a Town Watching activity. I also worked on revising and gathering information for the country reports of the ADRC member countries.

During this internship, I had to do almost everything in English. This was a struggle for me as the materials are very technical. Still, I had many opportunities to talk with the Visiting Researchers and the ADRC researchers. This opportunity has expanded my network and knowledge in a way that was only possible through ADRC. The internship was only 10 days long, but I had some stimulating experiences here. Thank you to everyone at ADRC and also at Kobe University for making this internship possible.



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