ADRC *Highlights*

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

● Announcement

Greetings from the New ADRC Executive Secretary, Dr. Yujiro Ogawa

This year marks the 22nd anniversary of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). ADRC conducts a variety of disaster management activities in Japan and all throughout the Asian region. It is an intergovernmental organization comprised of 31 member countries and five advisor countries, and it shares disaster management information with these countries and engages in activities in partnership with other international organizations. Thus far, ADRC has been positioned within the Urban Disaster Research Institute, but last year, its corporate status was changed so that it could develop a broader range of independent activities. In April 2020, ADRC was reorganized as a foundation, and I was appointed to serve as its first executive secretary. Building on my four years of experience serving as the first ADRC executive director from 1998 to 2002, I hope to continue contributing to the disaster management and reduction efforts throughout Asia.

Yujiro Ogawa
Executive Secretary
Asian Disaster Reduction Center

Call for Chapters on "Applying Satellite Remote Sensing to Disaster Management"

Cambridge Scholars are inviting their author community to submit individual chapters to a collection of guest-edited editions. They currently have 150+ titles seeking contributions. The disaster management community is invited to contribute chapters on "Applying Satellite Remote Sensing to Disaster Management." Given its role as an active member of the Sentinel Asia project, ADRC has been supporting the effort to collect good practices for applying satellite remote sensing to disaster management.

As a follow up to "An Introduction to Applying Satellite Remote Sensing to Disaster Management" (https://www.cambridgescholars.com/an-introduction-to-applying-satellite-remote-sensing-to-disaster-management), this book will provide case studies and/or holistic studies on applying satellite remote sensing to disaster management, detailing how it works (including the human factors) and for what fields of disaster management it can be used by various organizations, institutes, or universities in each country/region.

The book's editor, Dr. Kazuya Kaku, Visiting Researcher of ADRC, has supported disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region by applying satellite remote sensing and Web-GIS technologies in his past work at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and his work with the Sentinel Asia

Continued

Project.
    For more information, see: http://www.cambridgescholars.com/t/EditedCollectionsPhysical

● Participation in International Conferences

12th Sentinel Asia Steering Committee (Hyderabad, India)

On 21 and 22 January, 2020, the 12th Sentinel Asia Steering Committee was held at the National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in Hyderabad, India. JAXA and NRSC-ISRO worked together to organize the meeting. ADRC Executive Director Koji Suzuki participated in the meeting as a co-chair of the Steering Committee.

Session Discussion

    At the meeting, an announcement was made that Dr. Lal Samarakoon, the other co-chair and former director of the Geoinformatics Center (GIC)-Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) would retire from his position as co-chair at the end of 2020. To address the vacant post, Mr. Suzuki from ADRC suggested that the co-chairs be selected from the space community and the data analysis community (one person from each). The Sentinel Asia secretariat will hold on online meeting to discuss the selection process with the Steering Committee members.

    New partnerships with the private sector were discussed at the last face-to-face steering committee in Sri Racha, Thailand. One of the challenges that was identified was the location of data servers, as data servers located on the premises of a private company would violate the data policies of some space agencies. Thus, the offer of a donation of ArchGIS might not be accepted by ESRI.

    The Steering Committee also discussed the Sentinel Asia membership of KARI Korea. The Sentinel Asia Secretariat proposed sending KARI a letter asking if they intend to maintain their membership. Co-chair Suzuki proposed that he could informally visit KARI and clarify the challenges involved in their participation. The committee agreed that a co-chair would visit the Republic of Korea for an informal meeting with KARI after April 2020.

    A Special Session organized by ISRO, which is a sponsor of this Steering Committee, highlighted a wide variety of initiatives being promoted by ISRO on space-based technology applications to disaster risk reduction, including disaster monitoring technologies.

Group Photo: Steering Committee Members

● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Ms. Suthathip Dejchaisri (Thailand)

My name is Ms. Suthathip Dejchaisri, and I work as a plan and policy analyst for the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) in the Ministry of Interior in Thailand. I earned my B.S. degree in Natural Resource Management and my M.S. degree in Forest Biology from the Faculty of Forestry at Kasetsart University in Thailand.

Given my position in the Strategy and Budget Division, I have been assigned responsibility for implementing the National Disaster Risk Management Plan 2015 and DDPM strategy plan 2017-2022, coordinating with players in the fields of Disaster Risk Management (DRM), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) at the national and local levels, and initiating a roadmap toward SDGs 1, 11 and 13 for achieving the indicators related to disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Disaster management relies on partnerships among multiple stakeholders including the nation and local governments, NGOs, UN agencies, volunteer groups, private businesses, academia, and -- most importantly—individual people, who have to work collaboratively to ensure the effective coordination of planning, services, information and resources. Japan is prone to disasters but has shown strong resilience in coping with those disasters because of strong governance by multiple stakeholders. Therefore, I would like to study the role of disaster management stakeholders, specifically at the local level, focusing on every stage of the disaster management cycle aimed at achieving participation, ownership, and sustainability, and ensuring that no one is left behind. During my time at ADRC, I have learned a lot about the various dimensions of DRR, including the development of local DRR plans, hazard mapping, urban planning, education, meteorological observations, gender perspectives, and partnerships between the private sector and government. I have also been able to visit many DRR sites. The professional methodology of the ADRC Visiting Researcher program has broadened my perspective on DRR. It has afforded me many lessons that can be put to use in the Thai context, including best practices in disaster management governance and stakeholder engagement strategies.

Lastly, I would like to express my special thanks to the governments of Japan and Thailand for giving me this great opportunity to conduct research in Japan, and my sincerest thanks to the staff of ADRC for the warm welcome. ありがとうございます。