



ADRC Highlights

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● Announcement

Greetings from New ADRC Executive Director, Mr. NAKAGAWA Masaaki

It is a great honor for me to assume the position of Executive Director of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). I am looking forward to working with all of you on strengthening disaster risk reduction (DRR) capacity in Asia and the Pacific.

Despite tremendous efforts by the member countries based on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), the damage caused by natural disasters has increased in recent years. The recent extreme weather events around the world show that it is a matter of urgency for us to implement DRR strategies that take climate change into consideration. Further, we are now facing the global spread of COVID-19 as a new emerging risk.

People are facing new crises in various regions. However, the word “crisis” does not have only negative connotations. The English word “crisis” comes from the ancient Greek word *krinein*, which also means “turning point.” It is said that the word “crisis” in Japanese is also a word that combines both danger and opportunity. A crisis can thus be taken as an opportunity to devise and develop new methods when conventional methods have become untenable. At this current “turning point,” how should we act to reduce the damage caused by natural disasters? I expect we will identify new avenues to pursue as we explore what methods are being used in the various countries of Asia, with their diverse cultural backgrounds. Although this year’s Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) cannot be held in person, I hope the upcoming ACDR will serve as a valuable opportunity for us to share best practices from around the region through our online interactions.

During this new normal brought about by climate change and COVID-19, ADRC will continue to work with member countries in sharing information on DRR and enhancing human resources. We will continue striving to improve the DRR capacity of our member countries.



NAKAGAWA Masaaki
ADRC Executive Director

Personal Change

Mr. SUZUKI Koji as Former Executive Director retired from ADRC at the end of June 2020. All of us at ADRC offer our best wishes for his continued success.

● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

Report of the ADRC Visiting Researcher Program in FY2019

ADRC has a program that receives Visiting Researchers (VR) from member countries. Every visiting researcher spends about three months at the ADRC learning about Japan's advanced knowledge and technology in the field of DRR and international cooperation. As of March 2020, 117 officials from 27 member countries have taken part in this program.

ADRC invited 6 VRs in FY2019 from Turkey, Korea, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, and Sri Lanka. Each had their own research topic, and they visited local disaster management offices, university, research institutions, NGOs, and others to conduct their research. For instance, they learned about the latest DRR efforts at the Cabinet Office and the Hyogo Prefectural Government Office and studied the utilization of space technology for DRR at Yamaguchi University. They also participated in a community DRR activity called "Iza! Kaeru Caravan!" and had a conversation with local residents. As a result of the program, they gained a great deal of knowledge and experience that they can apply to developing and improving the DRR capacity in their own countries.

In 2020, we also faced big challenges related to COVID-19. The return flights of Mr. Khanal Beda Nidhi from Nepal and Mr. A.M.R.N.K. Alahakoon from Sri Lanka were canceled due to the outbreak. They extended their stay in Japan by about 40 days. They compiled reports on the latest government activities related to COVID-19 in their own countries, as presented in a previous edition of ADRC Highlights. To view these reports, visit: https://www.adrc.asia/publications/disaster_report/covid19.php



Visit to Cabinet Office

● Recent Natural Disasters in Asia

Floods Across Asia

Heavy rain due to monsoons or seasonal rain fronts have been triggering floods and landslides across Asia. India (FL-2020-000164-IND), Bangladesh (FL-2020-000161-BGD), Nepal (FL-2020-000165-NPL) and Myanmar (FL-2020-000172-MMR) have been seriously affected by floods and landslides causing many fatalities in these countries.

In China (FL-2020-000147-CHN), towns and cities along the Yangtze River have been affected by flooding that has caused more than 100 fatalities. Water levels in many rivers in China are still rising and there is a fear that more damage will occur. Japan (FL-2020-000160-JPN) has also experienced heavy rains, triggering floods and landslides, and this has led to serious human suffering, especially on the island of Kyushu.

For more information, please view the Latest Disaster Information on the ADRC website: <https://www.adrc.asia/latest/>.

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