



ADRC Highlights

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● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Third Online Tsunami Seminar

ADRC held its Third Online Tsunami Seminar on 26 January 2021. The speaker for the third and final installment of this series of tsunami seminars was Dr. OHTSU Nobuhito, Senior Researcher at the National Research Institute of Fire and Disaster, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, which is within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. He gave a presentation entitled "Community Space Design for Tsunami Disaster Risk Reduction."



26 January 2021: Third Online Tsunami Seminar

He started by presenting a map of Kushimoto Town in Wakamaya Prefecture, showing the tsunami vulnerability of some of the town's residential areas and buildings (e.g., town hall and fire station). He suggested that the ideal option for ensuring people's safety from a tsunami would be to resettle vulnerable residents and relocate the town office and fire station away from the anticipated tsunami inundation areas in advance of the next disaster. However, given the difficulties involved in implementing this option, and the amount of time it would take, the next best option would be to design a practical evacuation method for vulnerable residents. He emphasized the importance of understanding the following:

- How a safer space design can reduce the need to evacuate
- What methods can be used to measure and predict evacuation speed/time
- How to apply this practical evacuation method in zoning

In tsunami-prone areas, total evacuation time can be impacted by space-related factors such as evacuation routes, the distances of evacuation sites from residences, the location of higher ground, target evacuation points, and the location of tsunami evacuation buildings. The Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 revealed some limitations of space design when it came to the evacuation of pedestrians (e.g., routes and distances to higher ground). To improve space design for the evacuation of pedestrians, planners need to evaluate the following options for saving lives.

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- 1: Advance relocation: Moving vulnerable people before the tsunami occurs.
- 2: Vertical evacuation: Going up to higher floors of a building designed for tsunami evacuation. However, it should be noted that this option can be risky, as it will be difficult to escape such a building in the case of fire. Also, tsunami buildings for vertical evacuation may not be tall enough to account for higher tsunamis.
- 3: Horizontal evacuation: Moving towards higher ground.
- 4: Secondary evacuation: Going to evacuation sites, such as schools and shelters.

Furthermore, he stressed that it is important to measure evacuation speed to ensure that vulnerable residents can evacuate safely.

Mr. NAKAGAWA Masaaki, Executive Director of ADRC, concluded the seminar by expressing his hope that this program will contribute to the tsunami DRR efforts of the organizations involved. He noted that ADRC will continue to disseminate tsunami DRR information.

ADRC would like to express its sincere gratitude to all the participants. Please visit the following site for details of the Tsunami Online Seminar: <https://www.adrc.asia/acdr/2020tsunami.php>

GLIDE Stakeholder Meeting

On 10 February 2021, ADRC organized a GLIDE Stakeholder Meeting online. The goal of the meeting, which was intended to serve as a follow up to the meeting held in Geneva in FY2019, was to discuss the promotion of the GLIDE system. A total of 16 people attended from GLIDE partner organizations, such as the UN, international organizations, and research institutions.

ADRC Executive Director Mr. Nakagawa gave opening remarks, acknowledging participants' attendance at the meeting as well as their cooperation in GLIDE establishment and operation. After recent updates were given on the GLIDE system, the meeting proceeded with a discussion of technological and organizational improvements, followed by an active discussion among participants. A new tool, the GLIDE API, has recently been developed and is expected to be introduced by stakeholders. Also, the partner organizations will continue their discussions regarding the establishment and operation of a steering committee.

Dialogue between Students of Hosei University and ADRC

There are many kinds of DRR programs in Asian countries. For example, investigating ways to strengthen buildings for seismic resistance is one effective means of mitigating damage caused by earthquakes. In this issue, we would like to introduce students from the Department of Global Politics in the Faculty of Law at Hosei University, whose studies are focused on “International Development and Peacebuilding.”



Dialogue with Students of Hosei University

Continued

ADRC had a meeting with them to discuss the latest DRR activities (with special focus on earthquake management) in Indonesia.

Although these students had planned to conduct research overseas this year, their study abroad programs were paused due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Thus, they are instead collecting information on good practices in Japan. ADRC and students from Hosei University had an online meeting for sharing experiences and knowledge. In this meeting, we confirmed our mutual interest in the disaster-resistant construction of houses and public buildings in Indonesia. Also, ADRC informed the students about a community DRR program known as "Town-Watching," which is a tool for strengthening the disaster response capabilities of communities.

ADRC wishes them the best of luck in DRR in Indonesia.

● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries**(ACDR2020) Report from Member Countries: Kazakhstan**

In this issue, we would like to take this opportunity to highlight extracts from Kazakhstan's report on Theme 2 "Disaster Preparedness and Response Measures Amidst COVID-19," which is introduced in the ACDR2020 website.

In this report, firstly, general overview of COVID-19 statistics and dynamics in the country (Kazakhstan) is presented, which shows a significant increase after the lifting of restrictive measures in the form of a "state of emergency".

Measures to prevent COVID-19 outbreak and spread are developed at the government level by a specially created interagency commission. Authority responsible for disaster management takes an active part in nationwide measures to fight with COVID-19, particularly in terms of informing the population and carrying out special treatment of settlements.

Despite the exposure of Kazakhstan's vast territory to most natural disasters known to mankind, since the beginning of the pandemic there have been no major emergencies in the country.

The most «expected» was the risk of flooding in several regions. In this regard necessary preparatory measures have been developed.

Cases of household fires involving coronavirus infected have not been registered since the beginning of this year. Forest and steppe fires do not pose a particular threat in terms of infection with coronavirus, while the risk of an earthquake in the seismic metropolis of Almaty requires careful attention and preparation. Despite the lack of Kazakhstan's practical experience in response to large-scale emergency during the pandemic, civil protection authorities carrying out preparatory activities taking into account the current epidemiological situation: instructions/algorithms are being developed, scenarios are being worked out, forces and means are readily available.

You can see this full report, as well as other reports on the ACDR2020 website: <https://acdr.adrc.asia/>.

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