



# ADRC Highlights

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## ● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

### JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program: Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction for Central and South American Countries JFY2024

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program course entitled “Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction for Central and South American Countries JFY2024,” from 20 May to 12 July 2024 in cooperation with JICA Kansai.

It was attended by 14 participants from 12 Central and South American countries: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Peru.

The program consisted of 4 weeks of online and 4 weeks of face-to-face lectures and exercises to learn about Japanese experiences and technologies in disaster risk reduction. It also included site visits in Hyogo, Tokyo and Iwate Prefectures to observe various countermeasures including sediment-related disaster countermeasures at the Nigawa Landslide Museum and flood control measures at Kitakami River in Ichinoseki City. At the end of the course, the participants developed a draft local plan for DRR in their own countries through an 8-step workshop. After returning to their respective countries, they are expected to actively engage in DRR measures to reduce humanitarian and economic losses due to disasters.

ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all the organisations and universities that contributed to the success of this course.



Study visit to the Nigawa Landslide Museum (catchment well) in Hyogo Prefecture

### Update on the UN-SPIDER RSO Meeting

On 10 June 2024, an online meeting was held for the United Nations Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) Regional Support Office (RSO). UN-SPIDER is a multilateral platform promoted by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) to

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facilitate the use of space-based technologies in disaster risk reduction and emergency response. UNOOSA is the UN agency responsible for space-related policies, and is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.

(The RSO supports the UN-SPIDER program at a regional level. ADRC has been active as an RSO since signing a cooperation agreement with UNOOSA on 4 June 2009, at the 52nd session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).)

At the 10 June meeting, ADRC Project Director SUZUKI Koji explained the progress of a project for use of the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS) in disaster risk reduction. QZSS is a system that the National Space Policy Secretariat, Cabinet Office of Japan, is considering deploying in cooperation with nine countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The project technology uses QZSS (known as Michibiki in Japan), a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) developed and operated by the Japanese government, to transmit disaster-related information. This advanced technology can provide disaster-related information even in areas where regular communication infrastructure is lacking or is disrupted due to disaster. In Japan, partial operation began in 2018. The feasibility for general implementation of the technology in the Asia-Pacific region is being evaluated through surveys and by taking prototype receivers to the region to conduct demonstrations.

At the start of the meeting, UN-SPIDER explained that, until now, efforts to utilise space-based technologies for disaster risk reduction on the UN-SPIDER platform have been related to optical satellites and SAR satellites, and therefore use of GNSS (QZSS) technology for disaster risk reduction is very unique.

## **● Participation in International Conferences**

### **EPWG Workshop on Strengthening Early Warning Early Action for the Vulnerable Communities in APEC**

The EPWG Workshop on Strengthening Early Warning Early Action for the Vulnerable Communities in APEC took place in Da Nang, Vietnam, on 24-25 June 2024. The workshop aimed to share professional and technical information in natural disaster risk management among APEC economies and was attended by some thirty experts from the APEC region. It was organised by Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, which is Vietnam's focal point in the APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG).

ADRC Research Director KODAMA Miki and Senior Researcher SHIOMI Yumi participated in the event. In Session 3 (Best Practices and Lessons Learned), Ms SHIOMI made a presentation entitled Utilisation of State of Art Communication Technologies for CBDRM and Emergency Management. Through the workshop, participants actively shared their lessons learned and views on Early Warning and Early Action for the vulnerable communities.



EPWG Workshop participants

## ● Report from ADRC Intern

### Mr Tatul Atalyan (Ehime University)

My name is Tatul Atalyan, and I am currently a PhD student from Armenia specialising in Disaster Risk Management at Ehime University. As a JICA SDG scholar, I have had the opportunity to intern at some of Japan's leading organisations with the support of JICA. I chose to intern at ADRC due to its extensive experience and expertise in disaster risk management.

During my internship from 1 July to 19 July, I contributed to the development of the Natural Disasters Databook 2023. My role involved analysing and comparing data on natural disasters in 2023 and the past 30 years (1993-2022), focusing on occurrences, deaths, affected populations, and economic losses. Additionally, I analysed climate-related disasters during the same periods and assessed the global and regional COVID-19 situation, with a focus on ADRC member countries.

Throughout this period, I gained valuable insights and developed key skills. I adopted the discipline, time management, and teamwork practices inherent in the Japanese work environment, enhancing my understanding of Japanese working culture. Additionally, I improved my ability to produce insightful tables and graphs from complex datasets and strengthened my analytical skills by interpreting and presenting detailed information effectively.

I am grateful for the opportunity to intern at ADRC and for the skills and experiences I acquired. These learnings will significantly contribute to my ongoing research and professional development in disaster risk management.



## ● Recent Disasters in Asia

### Floods and Other Disasters in Member Countries

In July, floods and other disasters were reported in a number of ADRC member countries.

Floods and landslides have been reported in Pakistan, Myanmar, India, Nepal, Viet Nam and China. Sentinel Asia has been conducting emergency observations in Myanmar, Viet Nam, Nepal, India, Philippines, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic (as of 23 July 2024).

For more information, please visit the following websites.

- ADRC: <https://www.adrc.asia/>
- Sentinel Asia: <https://sentinel-asia.org/>

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