



# ADRC Highlights

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### Asian Disaster Reduction Center

Higashikan 5F, 1-5-2 Wakinohamakaigan-dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe 651-0073 Japan

Tel: 078-262-5540  
Fax: 078-262-5546  
editor@adrc.asia  
<https://www.adrc.asia>

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## ● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

### Ms Uaniceva Lita Megan Ledua (Fiji)

My name is Lita Uaniceva, and I am employed as a Geospatial Analyst for the National Disaster Risk Management Office within the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, and Disaster Management. I began my educational journey at Vatuwaqa Primary School in Suva and continued at Saint Joseph's Secondary School for my secondary education. For higher education, I attended the University of the South Pacific, where I earned a bachelor's degree in Geospatial Science and a Postgraduate Diploma in Pacific Islands and Oceans Stewardship.

In the early stages of my career, I worked as an academic tutor and marker at the University of the South Pacific for undergraduate GIS and Remote Sensing courses. I then joined the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources as a Geospatial Analyst, where my responsibilities included updating and analysing geospatial databases, plotting survey plans, and maintaining Fiji's national cadastral layer. In my current capacity as a Senior Administrative Officer (GIS) at the National Disaster Risk Management Office, I have contributed to various national projects in disaster risk reduction, land use planning, and environmental monitoring.

These experiences have shaped my passion for learning, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity provided by the ADRC to participate in this year's Visiting Researcher (VR) Program. Learning from in-house experts at the ADRC has been an eye-opening experience, and it will significantly contribute to my capabilities as a geospatial analyst in disaster risk reduction.



### Mr Lee, Young Kyu (Republic of Korea)

Hello, my name is Young Kyu Lee, and I am from Korea. Recently, Korea has been facing significant political turmoil due to the impeachment of the president. To make matters worse, a tragic plane crash claimed the lives of 179 people not long ago. Amid these difficult circumstances, I have come to the ADRC as a VR. While I am grateful for this opportunity, I cannot help but carry a heavy heart. I currently work for the KFPA (Korean Fire Protection Association), and with the support of Korea's Ministry of the Interior and Safety, I was able to participate in this VR program.

On January 17, 1995, the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake occurred. At that time, I was a high school senior, preparing to graduate. Since Japan is Korea's neighbouring country, the horrific scenes of the earthquake remain an unforgettable memory for me to this day. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. On January 17, 2025, I, along with other researchers participating in the ADRC VR program, attended the 30th-anniversary



**Continued**

commemoration ceremony under the guidance of ADRC staff. The solemnity of the event left a profound impression on me.

This is my first visit to Kobe. Unlike the typical street scenes in Korea, where cigarette butts and flyers are often scattered, I was struck by how clean the streets are here. Seeing Kobe now, 30 years after the earthquake, feels like witnessing a prime example of the “Build Back Better” slogan in action.

I hope to learn from Japan’s disaster management technologies and culture, which lead the way in Asia, and bring this knowledge back to Korea to share with many others. The three-month VR program provided by the ADRC will undoubtedly become an unforgettable experience for me. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone at the ADRC on behalf of the Republic of Korea.

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ADRC has been receiving VRs from member countries since 1999. As of February 2025, 138 officials from 28 member countries have engaged in this program. During their stay, VRs learn about Japan’s advanced DRR knowledge, technologies, and international cooperation in this field.

This year, six VRs from member countries—including Ms Uaniceva and Mr Lee introduced above—have traveled to Japan for on-site training from January to March 2025. In the next two editions of the ADRC Highlights, we will introduce more VRs.



VR Program FY2024

## ● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

### **JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program: Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Considering Climate Change for the African Region JFY2024**

The JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program “Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Considering Climate Change for the African Region 2024” was held from 25 November 2024 to 4 February 2025, with the cooperation of JICA Kansai. It was conducted in a hybrid format, with both online and in-person programs in Japan, and was attended by 8 government officials from 8 countries: Cabo Verde, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, and Somalia.

The course aims to assist participants to formulate an action plan by learning methods of local DRR plan-making for disaster risk reduction in their country. The participants attended lectures, joined site visits and made a community-based hazard map based on DRR town watching activity. They also participated in workshops to learn how to formulate a local DRR plan. ADRC would like to express its sincere gratitude to all the supporting organisations and universities for their cooperation in conducting the course.



Making a community-based hazard map

## ● Announcement

### **Publication: A Record of the International Collaboration in Space-Based Responses to the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake**

It is important to archive records and lessons learned for future generations and for other regions where major disasters are anticipated. ADRC has been supporting the effort to collect good practices for applying satellite remote sensing technologies to disaster management. One such record of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake entitled “A Record of the International Collaboration in Space-Based Responses to the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake” was released by the Cambridge Scholars Publishing in November 2023, written by Dr KAKU Kazuya, Visiting Researcher of the ADRC.

The book provides a record of the generous and friendly support provided to Japan by other countries and the international community. In the wake of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, 27 satellites from 14 countries and regions repeatedly and collaboratively observed the disaster area from space to support disaster response activities. Through the response to the earthquake and subsequent tsunami, it was empirically proven that space-based responses with international collaboration can effectively support relief efforts during mass catastrophes.

The book examines activities related to the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and others conducted by Sentinel Asia (SA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) between 2006 and 2014 to derive the requirements for applying satellite remote sensing to disaster response support. It could serve as a reminder to those seeking to ensure preparedness for future calamities. The book could also be a textbook on the application of satellite remote sensing in disaster management.

For more information, see the below links.

Hardback and paperback:

<https://www.cambridgescholars.com/product/978-1-5275-4636-3>

E-book:

[https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Kazuya\\_Kaku\\_A\\_Record\\_of\\_the\\_International\\_Collaboration?id=PdriEAAAQBAJ](https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Kazuya_Kaku_A_Record_of_the_International_Collaboration?id=PdriEAAAQBAJ)



Publication: A Record of the International Collaboration in Space-Based Responses to the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake

### **ADRC Publication: Natural Disasters Data Book 2023**

ADRC publishes the Natural Disaster Data Book annually to provide a statistical and analytical overview of disasters. The Data Book covers occurrences of disaster events, deaths, affected people, and economic losses, focusing on seven disaster types: drought, earthquake, extreme temperature, flood, storm, wildfire, and volcanic activity.

The latest edition for 2023, as well as previous Data Books, can be found at the following website (in English only).

Natural Disasters Data Book 2023:

[https://www.adrc.asia/publications/databook/DB2023\\_e.php](https://www.adrc.asia/publications/databook/DB2023_e.php)

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