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Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 395
February
2026

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● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2025

Following the previous issue, we present a report on the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2025 (ACDR2025), held in December 2025.

Session 1: National DRR Progress and Challenges

Moderated by Dr Mandira Singh Shrestha (Director, Water Center 21 Pahal, Nepal), this session showcased how technology and regional collaboration can jointly advance disaster resilience in complex and high-risk environments.



(Left) Speakers of Session 1, (Right) Moderator Dr Shrestha

Mr NEGORO Satoshi (COO, Head of Global Business Group, Spectee Inc.) introduced technology for "visualising crises in real-time with the use of AI in social media." This technology facilitates early warning and timely response efforts.

Mr NAGAISHI Takaki (Senior Solution Sales, Public & Enterprise Unit, Synspective Inc.) shared how SAR Satellites are utilised for monitoring and assessing disaster damage, with examples from Japan.

Mr OKAMOTO Atsushi (General Chief Engineer, National Land Conservation Consulting Division, Asia Air Survey Co., Ltd.) reported the use of Aerial Survey, which is photogrammetry for creating maps, in disaster response and recovery efforts, with examples from Japan.

Dr Nuraini Rahma Hanifa (Project Collaborator, National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia) reported efforts to develop new technology on Earthquake Early Warning Systems (EEWS) for Indonesia, where a prototype is already completed.

Dr KAWAKITA Shiro (Senior Researcher, Research Unit I, Research and Development Directorate, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) reported how disaster assessment maps that overlay satellite images on Web GIS are produced and analysed under "Sentinel Asia" – a voluntary partnership of space agencies and related organisations. He showed use cases from the Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia.

Ms So Byung Im (Assistant Director in Disaster Management Policy Division, Ministry of the Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea) reported an innovative technology regarding "ICT-based real-time disaster situation monitoring." This technology also allows public participation in reporting public safety-related information.

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Ms Jennyline Fan (Senior Assistant Director, International Affairs Branch, Singapore Civil Defence Force, Singapore) reported the Government's use of technology for smarter disaster management and response, including space-based monitoring and risk sensing. She also introduced SIDEX, as an avenue for regional and global technological collaboration in building resilience.

Dr Shrestha concluded that it is important for member countries to learn about new technological innovations through their networks and apply those suited in their respective local situations. She also encouraged members to embrace Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and strengthen collaboration with science and technology communities.

Session 2: Societal Foundations for Inclusive DRR—Economic and Social Return on DRR Investment

In this session, five speakers highlighted experiences and initiatives across Asia that empower women, youth, and marginalized groups in disaster risk reduction and related activities, with particular attention to the societal foundations (i.e., fairness, equity, and participation) that make such initiatives possible and sustainable.



(Left) Speakers of Session 2, (right) Moderator Prof. Bambang

Ms Dam Thi Hoa (Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation, Viet Nam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority, Viet Nam) reported on Viet Nam's initiative that enabled rapid coordination among government agencies, international organisations, and NGOs during Typhoon Yagi in 2024, allowing assistance to be mobilised efficiently. She conveyed that effective disaster response cannot depend on one institution alone, but through partnerships that require long-term relationships, trust, and coordination.

Mr Hisan Hassan (Chief Executive, National Disaster Management Authority, Maldives) stressed that communities are not passive recipients of aid, but the first responders on the ground in the event of a disaster. While infrastructures are rebuilt stronger, these alone are not enough without community ownership and capacity. He stressed that community-based and culturally sensitive approaches are essential for disaster risk management, especially in diverse societies.

Mr Lawrence Anthony Dimailig (Assistant Director, Disaster Monitoring & Analysis, AHA Centre) reported that the inclusive DRR practices in the ASEAN region are guided by the following actions: developing regional guidelines for disaggregated disaster data; cross-learning among member states on adopting the "Whole of Society" approach in DRR; and putting inclusiveness into the societal systems, moving from policy commitments to operational practice.

Ms SAYA Setsuko (Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre) shared insights on "How to design an inclusive Early Warning Systems (EWS)." She pointed out that structural inequalities (e.g., informality, gender gaps, and digital divide) must be addressed to make EWS inclusive. She also emphasized that EWS is only effective when this is accessible and actionable, reaching those most-at-risk and enabling them to take timely action.

Prof. Orhan Tatar (Director-General, Earthquake Risk Reduction, Disaster and Emergency Management Authority, Türkiye) showed specific efforts on including women, children, and persons with disability (PWDs) in temporary shelters (e.g., accessibility and evacuation methods for PWDs were developed to promote inclusiveness). He noted that inclusiveness contributes to building resilience for all.

Prof. Bambang, who moderated the session, concluded that inclusive disaster risk reduction requires coordinating before disasters, empowering communities, translating policy into action, and leaving no one

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behind.

Wrap-up and Closing

Mr SASAHARA Akiyo, Executive Director of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), summarised the four sessions of ACDR2025 and emphasised that sustained, long-term efforts are essential to prepare for mega-disasters. He identified three priority actions going forward: (1) accelerating national implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, (2) applying technological innovations suited to local contexts, and (3) promoting inclusive disaster risk reduction planning based on disaggregated data.

In his closing remarks, ADRC Chairman Prof. MIURA Fusanori stated that the conference provided a valuable opportunity to share lessons from the 30th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, national experiences in disaster risk reduction, and initiatives in science, technology, and social inclusion. He highlighted three key outcomes of the conference: first, that it generated useful inputs for planning the future activities of ADRC and its member countries; second, that it promoted cooperation to strengthen emergency preparedness and response through science, technology, and communications; and third, that it served as a platform for knowledge sharing, trust-building, and collaborative action toward a safer and more disaster-resilient Asia.

Finally, he expressed appreciation that the conference had deepened knowledge exchange and cooperation among countries, and concluded the meeting by expressing his expectation of meeting again at the next conference.



(Left) Mr Sasahara, ADRC Executive Director, (right) Prof. Miura, ADRC Chairman

Field Trip

On 19 December, the final day of ACDR2025, participants visited disaster risk reduction–related facilities in the Mt. Fuji area. The visit aimed to provide on-site learning about Japan's efforts to balance volcanic disaster risk management and tourism, as well as the history and technologies of meteorological observation. In the morning, participants visited the Mount Fuji Research Institute in Yamanashi Prefecture, where Dr Yoshimoto gave a briefing on volcanic monitoring and hazard mapping initiatives. The group then proceeded to the Mt. Fuji Fifth Station (approx. 2,300 m above sea level) to observe safety measures under severe natural conditions and to learn about evacuation procedures during volcanic alerts, deepening their understanding of the balance between volcanic risk and tourism.

In the afternoon, participants toured the Mt. Fuji Radar Dome Museum and learned about the history of the Mt. Fuji weather radar—established following the 1959 Isewan Typhoon (Typhoon Vera)—and the development of meteorological disaster risk reduction in Japan.

Participants expressed strong interest in Japan's integrated approach combining science, technology, and disaster education, and gained insights applicable to strengthening disaster management capacities in their respective countries.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity to experience the resilience-strengthening approaches discussed during the conference in practice, and also a chance for networking and exchange among participants.

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(Left) At Mount Fuji Research Institute, (right) At the 5th Station of Mr. Fuji

● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Mr Hakob Ghazaryan (Armenia)

My name is Hakob Ghazaryan, and I am from the Republic of Armenia. I am the Deputy Head of the Complex Department for Seismic Hazard Assessment for the Regional Survey for Seismic Protection in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

The department implements the following main objectives: monitoring of seismic hazards across the territory of the Republic of Armenia; assessment of seismic hazards and seismic risks of the regions; reduction of seismic risks; evaluation of induced seismicity levels and assessment of other secondary hazards related to seismic activity.

Armenia is considered a developing country. We collect and maintain specialised scientific knowledge from around the world to contribute to our sustainable development. All the theoretical and practical knowledge that I acquire during my work as a Visiting Researcher in the program at ADRC will be applied in my practical work, serving as a valuable resource for achieving national development goals.

Participating in the Visiting Researcher program at ADRC is a valuable opportunity for me to gain practical and theoretical knowledge in my field. The Japanese methods I am learning will make my work more effective and help me solve problems based on data analysis. I believe this program will give me useful knowledge, tools, and techniques for disaster prevention, emergency response, recovery, and earthquake risk management.

I would like to sincerely thank all the staff of ADRC for their kindness, hospitality, and for always being ready to help during my stay in Japan.



Ms So Byungim (Republic of Korea)

My name is So Byungim from the Republic of Korea. I work at the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS), which is located in Sejong City. I am responsible for international affairs related to international organisations (APEC, OECD, UN ESCAP, and ADRC) and cooperation with other countries, including Japan and China, within the Disaster Management Policy Division.

I have approximately 10 years of experience in disaster management. I previously worked in the Social Disaster Response Division, where I dealt with wildfires, major fires, workplace accidents involving casualties, and maritime accidents. I also served in the Safety Improvement Division, where I worked on related tasks, including restructuring pedestrian walkways to improve pedestrian safety and convenience.

Korea is recognised as one of the leading countries in disaster management, particularly for its early warning systems, disaster management ICT systems, and proactive management of emerging risks. In 2025, Korea successfully hosted APEC and is set to host the G20 in 2028, demonstrating its strong commitment to

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international cooperation. In addition, starting in 2026, Korea has been serving as a Co-Chair of the APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) and plans to host an APEC-funded seminar focusing on emerging risk management. Building on these efforts, Korea will further strengthen cooperation with a broader range of international organisations and countries and continue to play a leading role in international conferences, joint exercises, as well as ODA projects and capacity-building programs.

In recent years, as Korea's elderly population has continued to grow, the number of casualties among older adults has increased during large-scale wildfires and other natural and social disasters, making it increasingly urgent to develop evacuation measures for disaster-vulnerable groups. This is why I participated in the ADRC Visiting Researcher Program to develop a disaster evacuation manual tailored to older adults. I believe that this manual will be helpful for improving disaster management for older adults in Korea in the future.

Through my experience in Japan, I will strive to learn from Japan's well-established systems and advanced technologies and apply these insights to contribute to disaster management in Korea. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the ADRC staff for their warm hospitality and kind support, and I will continue to make efforts to promote sustained cooperation among the Ministry of the Interior and Safety of Korea, the Cabinet Office of Japan, and ADRC.



● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program: Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainability and Resilience (Latin America) JFY2025

ADRC conducted the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program course entitled "Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainability and Resilience (Latin America) JFY2025" from 18 November 2025 to 7 February 2026, in cooperation with JICA Kansai.

It was attended by 10 participants from 9 Central and South American countries: Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, 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 Prefecture, the Kyushu Region, and Tokyo to observe various countermeasures including experiences at the Hyogo Prefectural Emergency Management and Training Center, and flood control measures in the Kumamoto Prefecture. 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 home 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.



Stockpile warehouse at the Hyogo Prefectural Emergency Management and Training Center

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