1. Asian Disaster Reduction Center

1-1. Background for the Establishment of the ADRC

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) opened offices in Kobe, Japan, on July 30, 1998. The major steps leading up to ADRC's creation are outlined as follows:

1）International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR)

At its 42nd General Assembly in December 1987, the United Nations designated the 90's as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and adopted a resolution aiming to sharply reduce damage caused by natural disasters around the world, particularly in developing countries, through joint international actions.

2）World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction

In May 1994, the UN hosted the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama, Japan, to conduct an interim review of the 10-year initiative and propose a plan of action for the future. At the meeting, the "Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World", which pointed out the importance of international cooperation in regions that share common types of disasters and disaster reduction measures, was adopted. Disaster Reduction activities have since been promoted throughout the world based on this strategy.

3）Ministerial-level Asian Natural Disaster Reduction Conference

As the first step in regional level cooperation as per the Yokohama Strategy, the IDNDR Secretariat co-organized a meeting in Kobe in December, 1995 to formulate a policy on disaster reduction cooperation in Asia. Cabinet members involved in disaster reduction from 28 countries attended the meeting, who adopted the "Kobe Disaster Reduction Declaration" that contained ideas for promoting international cooperation in disasters including a proposal by Japan to launch studies into a possible creation of a system that could act as the disaster reduction coordinator in the Asian region.

4）Asian Natural Disaster Reduction Experts Meeting

The Government of Japan and the IDNDR Secretariat co-organized a meeting of experts in October 1996 to hash out how a central disaster reduction system, as written in the Kobe Disaster Reduction Declaration, might be created for the Asian region. Key personnel from disaster reduction bureaus of 30 countries attended. Parties agreed to study the creation of an "Asian Disaster Reduction Center" (tentative name) that would serve as secretariat for promoting activities of the conceptualized system.

5）Asian Disaster Reduction Cooperation Promotion Meeting

The Government of Japan and the IDNDR Secretariat co-organized a meeting in Tokyo in June 1997 to discuss specific activities of the conceptualized central disaster reduction system. Once again attended by key personnel from disaster reduction bureaus of 23 countries, the overall goal was to promote cooperation in disaster reduction efforts through concrete action. It was proposed at the meeting to create an office in Japan as the secretariat for the conceptualized system.

6）ADRC's Official Start

With momentum gathering on this series of meetings, the Japanese government discussed organization, budget and other aspects of the proposed office with other countries involved. Then, with the cooperation of Hyogo Prefecture, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center was officially established in Kobe on July 30, 1998.

1-2. Organization

At the onset, ADRC consisted of 22 member countries, 4 advisor countries and 1 observer organization. Later Armenia joined in August 2000 and Kyrgyz Republic in July 2002 bringing the number of member countries to 24. (For details, refer to Tables 2-1-1, 2-1-2, and 2-1-3).

1-3. Policy and Past Activities

1-3-1. Policy

ADRC operates as a center for sharing disaster reduction information in the Asian region. With this as the fundamental purpose, the following five activities were adopted at the past international meetings.

- □ Collection and dissemination of disaster reduction information
- □ Research into ways to promote cooperation in disaster reduction efforts
- □ Collection of information on emergency aid that differing countries can make available in a disaster situation
- □ Development of publications and programs to increase awareness and knowledge of disaster reduction
- □ Planning of educational and practical programs in disaster reduction

ADRC has pursued the following basic goals since its inception.

(1) Information Sharing
① ADRC provides the following information through its website.
- □ Disaster information
- □ Disaster reduction initiatives
- □ Insights gained from disasters, education in disaster reduction and emergency drills
- □ Disaster reduction technology
② ADRC holds regular meetings for personnel in charge of disaster reduction in member countries and works to build trust amongst members as a means for promoting international cooperation in disaster reduction efforts.
③ ADRC welcomes a limited number of researchers from member countries every year.

(2) Capacity Building in Member Countries
In order for member countries to build disaster reduction capacity, ADRC imparts awareness, education and training programs with member countries and international organizations.

(3) Cooperative Projects
ADRC takes part in joint projects with member countries targeted at building disaster reduction capacity.

1-3-2. Past Activities

It is of utmost importance to establish cooperative relationships with concerned nations and organizations. The purpose of this is to gather extensive and accurate data on disaster reduction and to disseminate it in the Asian region.

With this in mind, the center has actively attended relevant international conferences, visited various countries to conduct surveys, and welcomed organizations and individuals for tours and study programs. Since 1999, the center has held an ADRC international meeting every year for member countries, advisor countries and international organizations such as the UN. With cooperation of the Japanese Government and the United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003 was held in Kobe in January 2003 (described later).

ADRC has also been enhancing its information services that were launched in the year of ADRC's inception to provide information on disasters around the world. It continues to build a

database of disaster reduction systems and other relevant information (described later) provided by member countries through past international meetings and makes the information available.

Through these activities, ADRC has gained recognition in international circles. In fact, ADRC was named one of the ten success stories at the IDNDR Programme Forum held as the conclusion to the 10-year international disaster reduction effort in Geneva, Switzerland, in July 1999.

Furthermore, in February 2000, ADRC launched a joint international project in cooperation with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), aimed at reinforcing disaster management in the Asian region by building a cooperative framework for disaster response. As part of this initiative, OCHA opened the Asian Disaster Response Unit within the offices of ADRC and assigned an advisor on disaster management to head up that office. The two organizations are sharing information and working closely together to promote activities.

In this fiscal year ADRC promoted human resource development projects to improve capacity to respond to disasters in the Asian region by jointly sponsoring with OCHA the Asian Meeting for "Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM)" (held in Kobe, August, 2002) and the "UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Asia Induction Course" (March, 2003).

In August 2001 OCHA's Relief Web was brought to Japan with their operations for providing humanitarian and disaster relief information to the world over the Internet. Their activities to promote information sharing in the Asian-Pacific region have contributed to strengthening disaster management, emergency aid and humanitarian support.

At the Canberra Conference of the Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN) held in March 2001, ADRC made a proposal to introduce a standardized ID number for disasters worldwide (GLIDE), which is now being jointly developed and promoted with Relief Web and the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters of Louvain Catholic University (CRED) in Brussels, Belgium, as a means to effectively utilize disaster information archived around the world. ADRC continues to contribute to sharing disaster reduction information on a global basis.

Since 2002 when ADRC was appointed as an Inter-Agency Task Force member of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), it has been actively supporting ISDR activities. ADRC attended the preparation meetings for the "World Summit on Sustainable Development" held in Cambodia (November, 2001) and Indonesia (May, 2002) and contributed to the effort to include an item concerning "disaster reduction" in the political declaration of the Johannesburg Summit.

At the "3rd World Water Forum (March, 2003)" ADRC jointly convened a session with the ISDR Secretariat under the theme "Living with Risk - towards effective disaster reduction," which illustrates close coordination with the ISDR Secretariat in contributions toward the implementation of the international disaster reduction strategy.

In addition to all of the above ADRC has accepted 15 guest researchers from member countries to provide knowledge and training on disaster reduction and cooperation with a view to enhance disaster reduction capacity of the Asian region.

Table 1-3-2-1   <Major Activities>

Jul. 30, 1998	Opening ceremony at IHD Center Bldg. Attended by approx. 150 individuals.
Sep. 1, 1998	Launched worldwide disaster Information. <Issued 156 bulletins as of March 25, 2001. >
Oct. 1998	Visited member countries. (Korea, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Thailand, Russia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and China)
Nov. 7, 1998	Visit by Bangladeshi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Abdus Samad Azad.
Nov. 9-13, 1998	Participated in WHO international workshop for intensified emergency response, in the Western Pacific Region (Manila, Philippines). <Announced start of ADRC. >
Dec. 1, 1998	Launched database of disaster reduction human resources. <Approx. 1,400 individuals from 51 countries are registered. >

Feb. 15, 1999	ADRC International Symposium at Hyogo Prefectural Hall. <Attended by approx. 250 individuals, from 21 countries. >
Feb. 16-18, 1999	Held ADRC International Meeting at IHD Center Bldg, Kobe, Japan. <Attended by approx. 30 individuals from 21 countries and 1 organization. >
Feb. 23-26, 1999	Attended ESCAP-IDNDR Regional Meeting for Asia (Bangkok, Thailand). <Introduced activities of ADRC. >
Mar. 18, 1999	Visit by Director of IDNDR Secretariat, Mr. Philippe L. Boullé.
May-Jul. 1999	Databases of Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, disaster reduction training, disaster-reduction systems and comprehensive information on disaster reduction by countries available on the Internet.
Jul. 5-9, 1999	Participated in IDNDR Programme Forum (Geneva, Switzerland). <Introduction of ADRC's establishment and activities as an example of a Success Story, and coordinated a session on "Information Technology for Assessment and Simulation Capacities.">
Jul. 12-16, 1999	Visited Governments of Switzerland and France, UN OCHA, Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, Louvain Catholic University, Brussels, etc.
Jul. 23, 1999	Launched program for accepting researchers from member countries. <From Korea, Vietnam, Nepal and Indonesia. >
Sep. 23, 1999	Launched joint project with government of Papua New Guinea <To raise awareness of damage from tsunamis>
Sep. 29-Oct. 4, 1999	Participation in relief team sent to Taiwan
Nov. 5, 1999	Signed Memorandum of Understanding in disaster information collection with the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, Louvain Catholic University.
Dec. 6-8, 1999	2nd ADRC International Meeting at IHD Center Bldg Kobe, Japan. <Attended by approx. 36 individuals from 24 countries. >
Jan. 13, 2000	Participated in the World Bank meeting (Paris, France).
Feb. 7, 2000	Opening ceremony for Asian Disaster Response Unit of OCHA.
Apr. 26-29, 2000	Participated in 3rd International GDIN Conference (Ankara). <Introduction of ADRC activities, VENTEN system. >
May. 3-4, 2000	Visited Republic of Armenia NSSP. <Received intentions to join ADRC. >
Aug. 31-Sep. 4, 2000	Participated in Disaster Prevention Fair 2000 in Kobe
Oct. 24-27, 2000	Participated in SAGIP 2000 (Manila, Philippines). <Reported on sharing disaster reduction information amongst ADRC member countries. >
Dec. 5-7, 2000	3rd ADRC International Meeting at IHD Center Bldg Kobe, Japan. <Attended by approx. 40 individuals from 26 countries and 6 organizations. >
Dec. 8, 2000	Jointly organized Asian Regional Forum on Disaster Reduction in Tokyo with Cabinet Office, Japan.
Jan. 2001	Participated in Disaster Prevention Technology Exhibition in Kobe.
Feb. 5-6, 2001	Organized World Disaster Reduction Conference 2001 at Awaji Yume Butai International Hall with Cabinet Office, Japan.
Mar. 20-23, 2001	Participated in GDIN 2001 (Canberra, Australia). <Reported on VENTEN and proposed Unique ID Project which was approved. >
Apr. 14-27, 2001	Participated in Japanese government mission to survey earthquake damage. <In Gujarat, India>
Jun. 4-8, 2001	Co-organized multinational mission (ADRC member countries) with Indian government to assess earthquake damage in Gujarat, India.
Jun. 18-23, 2001	Participated in international conference on disaster reduction sponsored by WHO Western Pacific Regional Office. <Launched joint project with WHO Health Mapper and ADRC VENTEN. >
Jun. 28-29, 2001	Participated in APDIN Working Group Meeting (Bangkok, Thailand).

Jun. 28, 2001	Signed Memorandum of Understanding with ADPC（Bangkok, Thailand）.
Jul. 4-6, 2001	Co-organized Consultative Meeting on Regional Cooperation in Natural Disasters with OCHA in Katmandu, Nepal.
Aug. 16, 2001	Opening of OCHA ReliefWeb office.
Aug. 16, 2001	Visit by UN Under Secretary-General, Mr. Kenzo Oshima.
Aug. 28, 2001	Visit by Philippine Chairman of the National Disaster Coordinating Council and Secretary of National Defense, Mr. Angelo T.Reyes.
Aug. 27, 2001	International Symposium on GIS in Kobe, Japan.
Oct. 4-5, 2001	Participated in meeting for the development of ISDR global review of disaster reduction initiatives (Geneva, Switzerland).
Oct. 6-20, 2001	Co-hosted urban search and rescue training in cooperation with Singapore Civil Defence Force
Nov. 6, 2001	Participated in the 1st International Seminar on Disaster Prevention (Seoul, Korea). <Keynote address delivered by Deputy Executive Director, Satoru Nishikawa. >
Nov. 13-15, 2001	Attended JUSTSAP (Hawaii, USA).
Nov. 27-29, 2001	Participated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Cambodia). <Statement included disaster reduction as key element of sustainable development. >
Nov. 29-30, 2001	Participated in the ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee meeting (Hawaii, USA). <Proposed use of the ADRC website to provide typhoon information. Motion was adopted. >
Dec. 1-17, 2001	Co-hosted training on disaster reduction for Educational Officials in cooperation with Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, UNESCO and UNU.
Jan. 9, 2002	Visit by Indian Vice Chairman of the National Committee on Disaster Management, Mr. Sharad Pawar
Jan. 17, 2002	Visit by Japanese Minister for Disaster Management, Mr. Jin Murai.
Jan. 22-23, 2002	Organized 4th ADRC International Meeting (Delhi, India). Attended by 80 individuals from 22 countries and 10 organizations.
Jan. 24, 2002	Co-organized ISDR Asian Meeting (Delhi, India). Attended by 80 individuals from 22 countries and 10 organizations.
Jan. 21-Feb. 22, 2002	JICA seminar on Disaster Management. <Implemented approx. 1 month of training to 14 individuals from 12 countries. >
Feb. 5-7, 2002	Attended OCHA Symposium (Geneva, Switzerland). <Reported on ADRC activities and Unique ID GLIDE Project. >
Feb. 14-15, 2002	Exhibited at 6th Earthquake Technology Expo in Kobe, Japan.
Feb. 20-22, 2002	Co-organized Regional Workshop on Networking and Collaboration among NGOs of Asian Countries in Disaster Reduction and Response with OCHA Kobe, Japan. <Attended by approx. 80 individuals from NGOs in 16 countries, UN organizations, Japanese Cabinet office and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hyogo Prefecture. >
Feb. 21, 2002	Visit by ISDR Director, Mr. Salvano Briceno.
Feb. 24-28, 2002	Participated in Japanese government mission to WTC in New York, USA.
Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 2002	Participated in International Expo in Kazakhstan. <Introduction of ADRC activities and internet disaster reduction gallery>.
Mar. 12-13, 2002	Attended Tropical Cyclone Panel meeting co-organized by WMO and ESCAP. (Myanmar)
Mar. 15, 2002	Tested use of satellites in disaster reduction in cooperation with NASDA and Cabinet Office of Japan
Apr. 25-26, 2002	Participated in the Task Force meeting of International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) as a Task Force member of ISDR.

May. 20-23, 2002	Participated as a resource in "International Emergency Response Workshop" organized by Kyrgyz Republic. <Reported cases of emergency responses in Asia>
May. 27-Jun. 8, 2002	Participated as a resource in "Disaster and Sustainable Development" (coordinated by ISDR) of the final Prep-Com for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Bali, Indonesia).
Jun. 12-14, 2002	Co-organized with ADPC (Bangkok, Thailand) the "Second Consultative Meeting on Total Disaster Risk Management in Asia" (Bangkok, Thailand).
June. 19-21, 2002	Participated as a resource in GDIN ROMA 2002 (Rome, Italy). <Introduced the GLIDE system. >
Jun. 24-25, 2002	Participated as a Task Force member of the ISDR Working Group 2 in ISDR Early Warning Workshop (Potsdam, Germany).
Aug. 7-9, 2002	Organized jointly with OCHA Kobe the "Regional Workshop on Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM)" (Kobe, Japan)
Aug. 9, 2002	Launched jointly with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) "Living With Risk- a global review of disaster reduction initiatives".
Aug. 29-Sep. 2, 2002	Participated in Disaster Prevention Fair 2002 (organized by the Cabinet Office of Japan and Fukuoka City in Fukuoka, Japan)
Aug. 2002	Published the 20th Century Data Book Asian Natural Disasters.
Sep. 25-27, 2002	Participated as a resource in the "Expert Group Meeting on the Role of Regional Organizations and Networks in Strengthening Capacities for Disaster Reduction" (organized by UNDP in Geneva).
Sep. 15-17, 2002	Participated in the ASEAN Experts Group Meeting on Disaster Management (organized by ASEAN and Viet Nam) as a regional observer. <Introduced an approach to TDRM>
Sep. 13-14, 2002	Attended the "Second Humanitarian Relief Conference in Singapore" (held by the Singapore International Foundation in Singapore) to deliver a keynote speech.
Oct. 28, 2002	Participated as a resource in the "International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety in Asian Mega Cities" (organized by the Asian Institute of Technology and supported by the Government of Thailand and the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan)
Oct. 29, 2002	Participated as a resource in the "Symposium on the Indian National Day for Disaster Reduction" and as an observer in the "meeting of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) on Disaster Management" (Delhi, India)
Nov. 7, 2002	Participated as a resource in the "Second International Disaster Mitigation Cooperation Seminar" (organized by the National Institute for Disaster Prevention (NIDP) of the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs (MOGAHA) of the Republic of Korea)
Nov. 15-15, 2002	Participated as a resource in the "ESCAP/OOSA Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management" <Introduced the satellite application experiment for disaster management collaborated between ADRC and NASDA>
Nov. 11-15, 2002	Participated as a resource in the "JUSTSAP (Japan-US Science, Technology and Space Applications Program) Workshop" <Received a request to collaborate on a project of satellite based disaster information sharing in relation to a large oil spill >
Nov. 11-13, 2002	Participated as a resource in the "Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)" held in Shanghai.
Nov. 11-22, 2002	Imparted urban relief training to operatives from member countries in cooperation with the Singapore Civil Defence Force.
Nov. 18-25, 2002	Attended the "ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee Meeting (Chiang Mai, Thailand)" <Proposed an Internet link collection of committee member nations and regions for disaster reduction>
Nov. 21-23, 2002	"The International Seminar on Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation 2002" co-hosted by the Government of India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India. <Provided a presentation on the "Risk, Vulnerability, and Hazard Analysis and Information Systems">

Nov. 24-28, 2002	Presented a keynote speech at the "Asia & Pacific Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)" held in Manila.
Nov. 24-26, 2002	Participated as a resource in the "Asian Seismological Commission 2002 (Kathmandu, Nepal)" <Delivered a presentation on "Seismic Risk Analysis on the Portfolio of Building in JAPAN">
Dec. 4-6, 2002	Presented a keynote speech at the "ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Seminar."
Dec. 19-24, 2002	Organized jointly with the Government of Bangladesh the "Seminar on Improvement of Early Warning Systems and Responses."
Jan. 15-17, 2003	Co-sponsored "Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003" (Kobe, Japan) with the Japanese Government, the ISDR Secretariat, and Hyogo Prefecture. Attended by 250 individuals from 24 countries and 26 organizations.
Jan. 19-Mar. 1, 2003	Organized "JICA seminar for Disaster Management" (Kobe, Japan).
Jan. 30-31 and Feb. 6-7, 2003	Exhibited at the 7th Earthquake Technology Expo in Kobe and Yokohama, Japan. <e.g.Joint experiment with NASDA>
Feb. 4-7, 2003	Co-organized the "Workshop on Disaster Management for Media" with the Government of Lao PDR (Vientiane Province, Lao PDR).
Mar. 4-10, 2003	Attended the "WMO/ESCAP Tropical Cyclone Panel Meeting (Islamabad, Pakistan)"
Mar. 16-23, 2003	Attended the "3rd World Water Forum" and made presentations at three sessions. Jointly held a session with ISDR under the theme of "Living with Risk - towards effective disaster reduction" within the theme "Water and Poverty" coordinated by ADB
Mar. 16-28, 2003	Co-organized "United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC). Asia Induction Course" with UN OCHA (Kobe, Japan)