

2-1-5. Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)

Today, NGOs as well as governments and international organizations play an active role in disaster response and reduction in Asia. In addition to the rescue activities immediately after disaster, they work in close cooperation with local communities to provide support in reconstruction and rehabilitation activities, and even disaster preparedness activities, such as disaster education and awareness-raising activities in normal times. However, limited resources of individual NGOs to deal with disasters require them to further enhance their capabilities and strengthen their ties with relevant authorities.

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) co-organized the "Regional Workshop on Networking and Collaboration among Non-Governmental Organizations of Asian Countries in Disaster Reduction and Response" with the U.N. Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Kobe, in February 2002 in Kobe, Japan. The workshop aimed to facilitate international networking and collaboration among disaster prevention/rescue NGOs in the Asian region, and gathered 35 participants from disaster-related NGOs in 16 Asian countries. Upon the consensus of the Workshop participants, it was decided to set up the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) to promote cooperation among related NGOs.

As part of its activities, ADRRN database pages were added to the ADRC website. These database pages, including ADRRN Partnership Database, provide information on the organization of each member NGO, their activities, and event schedules. Moreover, a bulletin board section was added to facilitate exchange of views among members. The registered member NGOs are provided with an ID and password to access these pages via the Internet so that they can update their information as necessary.

In December 2003, the key members of ADRRN were convened to a meeting for the promotion of activities of ADRRN. At the meeting, the attendees took part in lively group works to discuss issues such as what the network makes possible, what is necessary to promote activities of the network, what kind of specific activities should be promoted. At the meeting, it was agreed that ADRRN should establish a framework to operate as an organization. It was decided to start with the preparation of a statement that defines the basic position, principles, and activity policies of the network. It was also agreed to make further efforts for the promotion of ADRRN, including the participation in the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005 to present exhibition to publicize ADRRN activities.

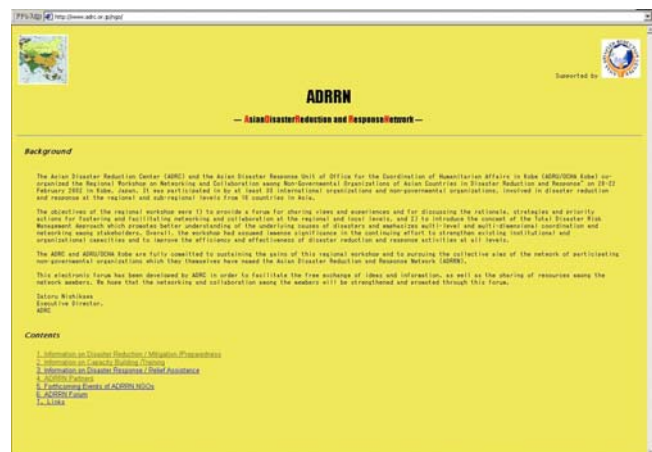


Fig. 2-1-5-1 ADRRN web forum, top page