

5. The United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR)

5-1. Outline of the WCDR

The United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) was held from January 18 to 22, 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan. The Conference had almost 4,000 participants from 168 states, and provided a unique opportunity to promote a strategic and systematic approach to reduction of vulnerabilities and risks to hazards. It underscored the need for, and identified ways of, building the resilience of nations and communities to disaster. The Conference adopted the “Hyogo Framework for Action: 2005-2015” as a guiding framework for the next decade on disaster reduction.

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) participated in the WCDR, and organized an International Symposium, a Public Forum, several parallel sessions, poster sessions and an exhibition.

5-2. Thematic Sessions

The Thematic Sessions discussed the five themes identified as the priority areas of work for the next ten years through the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan for Action (The five themes were; 1. Governance: institutional and policy frameworks for risk reduction, 2. risk identification, assessment, monitoring and early warning, 3. knowledge, innovation and education: to build a culture of safety and resilience, 4. reducing the underlying risk factors, and 5. preparedness for effective response).

In response to the tsunami event in the Indian Ocean, a special technical session was held to support the enhancement of tsunami warning systems in the Indian Ocean by sharing experiences from Pacific countries.

The ADRC participated actively in sessions; Post-disaster Recovery, Risk Communication, Data for Evidence-based Policy Making, Reducing Risk through Effective Use of Earth Observations and Promotion of Tsunami Disaster Mitigation in the Indian Ocean.

5-2-1. Post-disaster recovery: Lessons learnt, challenges and future options
