

in June 1997 to discuss the specific activities of the proposed central disaster reduction system. Once again, key personnel from the disaster reduction bureaus of 23 countries attended the meeting, whose overall goal was to promote cooperation in disaster reduction efforts through specific actions. A proposal was made at the meeting to establish an office in Japan to serve as the secretariat for the proposed system.

(6) Establishment of the ADRC

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

1-2. Composition

At the outset, ADRC was comprised of 22 member countries, four advisor countries, and an observer organization. Armenia joined later, in August 2000, followed by the Kyrgyz Republic in July 2002, Pakistan in July 2005, and Yemen and Bhutan in December 2007, Azerbaijan in 2009, and the Maldives in 2010 bringing the number of member countries to 29. In March 2004, the US joined as the fifth advisor country to ADRC.

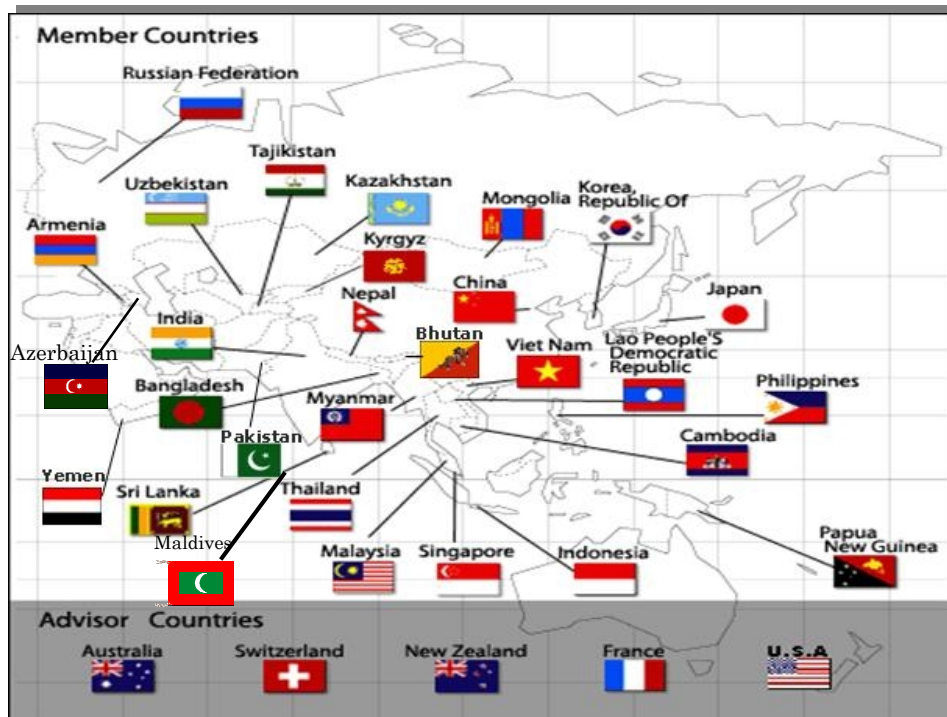


Fig. 1-2-1 Member and Advisory Countries