

2-2. Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2016

Information sharing among member countries, advisor countries, and other relevant organizations is indispensable for strengthening the network of people working for disaster risk reduction in Asia. ADRC convenes an annual international conference attended by disaster risk management officials from member countries and disaster experts from international organizations to promote sharing of information and ideas, and to enhance partnerships among participating countries and organizations. The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2016 was held in Phuket, Thailand during 25-26 February 2016. The conference was organized jointly by the Government of Thailand, the Government of Japan, the United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), and ADRC. The 98 participants included high level government officials from 24 countries, as well as representatives of international and regional organizations, the academic community, and the private sector.

The key topics addressed at ACDR2016 were as follows:

1. Mega-disasters
2. Strengthening DRR through capacity development training and education
3. Science and technology supporting CBDRM: Upgrading DRM at the local level



Fig.2-2-1. Participants of ACDR2016

ACDR2016 began with opening remarks by Dr. Masanori Hamda, ADRC Chairman, followed by remarks from Mr. Julio Surje of UNISDR, Dr. Masao Nishikawa, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination of the Cabinet Office of Japan, and H.E. Mr. Sutee Makboon, Deputy Minister of Interior of Thailand. The keynote session featured presentations by Dr. Narayan Bahadur Thapa, Under Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal, Dr. Masao Nishikawa, and Mr. Suporn Ratananakin, Advisor to the Director General of Thailand's DDPM.

Session one focused on Asia, which is facing rapid economic growth and progressive urbanization, leading to increased risks. In this session, participants shared lessons for DRR efforts in all phases of disaster, including preparedness, emergency response, recovery,

reconstruction, and development, based on the diverse experiences of member countries.

In session two, through the discussion of issues and efforts of member countries, regional organizations, and academia, the following suggestions were made for promoting DRR training and education in Asia: (1) Provide more opportunities to learn good practices and lessons learned from disaster experiences, (2) Promote regional cooperation to avoid the duplication of opportunities, (3) Effectively utilize world class training institutions for providing quality training, and (4) establish internationally compatible academic degrees in DRR to encourage students who are willing and motivated to learn about DRR.

Session three focused on enhancing CBDRM approaches and the utilization of advanced technologies such as on-site visualization using light-emitting sensors, internationally standardized landslide early warning systems, unmanned aerial vehicle and drones, and integrated information communication technology platforms. These technologies are essential for improving the ability of communities to cope with new DRR challenges.

Closing remarks were given by Mr. Suporn Ratanakin, Advisor to the Director General of the DDPM of Thailand. ACDR2016 was a great success thanks to the important contributions of all the speakers and the active involvement of all participants.

ACDR2016 documents and the final conference summary are available on the ADRC website at http://www.adrc.asia/acdr/2016_index.html.