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in June 1997 to discuss activities to be undertaken by the proposed center for 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 a center in Japan to serve as the secretariat for the proposed system.

### **Establishment of ADRC**

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

## **1-2. Composition**

ADRC was established in Kobe, Hyogo prefecture, in 1998, with mission to enhance disaster resilience of the member countries, to build safe communities, and to create a society where sustainable development is possible. ADRC works to build disaster resilient communities and to establish networks among countries through many programs including personnel exchanges in this field.

The Center addresses this issue from a global perspective in cooperation with a variety of UN agencies and international organizations/initiatives, such as the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

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, the Maldives in 2010, the Republic of Iran in 2012, and Turkey in 2018 bringing the number of member countries to 31. In March 2004, the US joined as the fifth advisor country to ADRC.

Reference: Corporate Status

20 years have passed since the establishment of ADRC in 1998. As its member countries have increased from 22 to 31 countries, as well as ADRC and its activities have been well-acknowledged in the DRR field, ADRC has decided to be apart from the umbrella of Urban Disaster Research Institute and reconfigure the domestic organizational structure. On 12 November 2019, ADRC was incorporated as Asian Disaster Reduction Center Foundation and will further accelerate its activities from the fiscal year 2020.

Table 1-2-1 Counterpart List of 31 Member Countries

country	organization
Armenia	Regional Survey for Seismic Protection (RSSP), Ministry of Emergency Situations
Azerbaijan	Ministry of Emergency Situations
Bangladesh	Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief
Bhutan	Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs
Cambodia	The National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)
China	National Disaster Reduction Center of China
India	Ministry of Home Affairs
Indonesia	National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB)
Iran	National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO)
Japan	Cabinet Office
Kazakhstan	Ministry of Emergency Situations
Republic of Korea	Ministry of the Interior and Safety
Kyrgyz Republic	Ministry of Emergency Situations
Laos	National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
Malaysia	National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA)
Maldives	National Disaster Management Authority
Mongolia	National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
Myanmar	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
Nepal	Ministry of Home Affairs
Pakistan	National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
Papua New Guinea	Department of Provincial & Local Government Affairs
Philippines	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC)
Russia	Ministry of the Russian Federation for Affairs for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural (EMERCOM)
Singapore	Singapore Civil Defence Force
Sri Lanka	Disaster Management Centre, Ministry of Defence
Tajikistan	Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense
Thailand	Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), Ministry of Interior
Turkey	Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) , Ministry of Interior
Uzbekistan	Ministry of Emergency Situations
Viet Nam	Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Yemen	Ministry of Water & Environment



Fig. 1-2-1 Member Countries and Advisor Countries

### 1-3. Main Activities

ADRC engages in the following basic activities:

#### Information Sharing

- Provision of disaster information through its website
- Promotion of GLocal unique disaster IDentifier (GLIDE) number system
- Organization of international meetings including Asian Disaster Reduction Conference (ACDR)
- Acting as the hub for using satellite imagery information for DRR

#### Human Resource Development

- Organization of seminars, workshops and training on disaster risk reduction
- Hosting of Visiting Researchers (VRs) from member countries

#### Building Community Capabilities

- Development and distribution of tools for encouraging community involvement
- Assistance to the activities of the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)