

2. Highlights of 2019/2020

2-1. Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2019

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2019 was held at the Sheraton Ankara Hotel & Convention Center in Ankara, Turkey on 25-27 November 2019. The conference was organized jointly by the Government of Turkey, the Government of Japan, and ADRC. An annually organized event, ACDR aims to promote the sharing of information and practices for implementing Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to further enhance partnerships among ADRC member countries and international and regional DRR organizations. ACDR2019 was attended by 148 participants from 20 countries, as well as representatives of DRR organizations, the academic community, and the private sector. ACDR2019 constituted of an opening session, keynote speech, special presentation, and the five thematic sessions.



Fig. 2-1-1 Participants of ACDR2019

ACDR2019 began with opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Süleyman Soylu, Minister of Interior, Government of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr. TAIRA Masaaki, State Minister of the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, Prof. HAMADA Masanori, Chairman of ADRC, H.E. Mr. MIYAJIMA Akio, Ambassador of Japan to Turkey, and Dr. Mehmet Güllüoğlu, Head of the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD). The keynote speech was given by Prof. Dr. Zeki Hasgür, Altınbaş University, on experiences and lessons learned from the Izmit Earthquake that struck on 7 August 1999. In the special presentation that followed, Mr. Paul Elliott Rosenberg, Associate Programme Management Officer of UNDRR encouraged ADRC-member countries to monitor their efforts in implementing the priority for actions of SFDRR.

Session one, on “Recent Challenges and Innovative Approaches for Disaster Risk Reduction,” highlighted cases demonstrating the application of the latest technologies, such as the monitoring and collection of information using satellite observations and GIS data.

In session two, various reports were given on “Earthquake and Tsunami Risk Management

Practices,” including building health monitoring, building codes, mitigation of GLOF impacts, and efforts to raise disaster awareness. After the sessions, participants attended a Public & Private Disaster Reduction Seminar, which was a side event organized by the Cabinet Office of Japan, and then visited the headquarters of AFAD to observe their operation room.

On 26 November, the third session on the theme of “School DRR Education for Enhancing Capabilities to Cope with Unexpected Situation in Disasters” highlighted reports on school DRR education practices by member countries, UN and donor agencies, and NGOs. Also, a senior high school student gave a presentation on his experiences and lessons learned at a World Tsunami Awareness Day 2019 event that was organized in Hokkaido, Japan in 2019.

During session four on the “Development of Strategy for Regional Sandstorm Disaster Risk Reduction,” presenters reported on the impacts of Sand and Dust Storms (SDS), as well as practices for monitoring and measuring these storms, and highlighted the importance of promoting cooperation among member countries and at the regional level.

During session five, entitled “Recovery from Mega-Disasters,” member countries gave presentations on experiences and lessons learned in their recovery process, reaffirming the importance of preparedness and institutional arrangements for recovery.



Fig. 2-1-2 Session 5

To conclude the conference, ADRC Executive Director Mr. SUZUKI Koji and the session chairs summarized the sessions.

On 27 November, participants went on a field trip to learn about Turkish history and culture by visiting various museums and old streets in Ankara city. Details of ACDR2019 are available on the ADRC website at https://www.adrc.asia/acdr/2019_index.php.



Fig. 2-1-3 Visit to AFAD headquarters
