## 2-2. Promoting Widespread Use of GLIDE

2-2-1. Objectives

The concept of GLIDE, GLobal unique disaster IDEntifier, which gives common but unique numbers to disasters all over the world was first proposed by ADRC. GLIDE aims to promote sharing disaster information among databases developed by many different DRR organizations, research institutions, and governments, contributing to improving global disaster resilience.
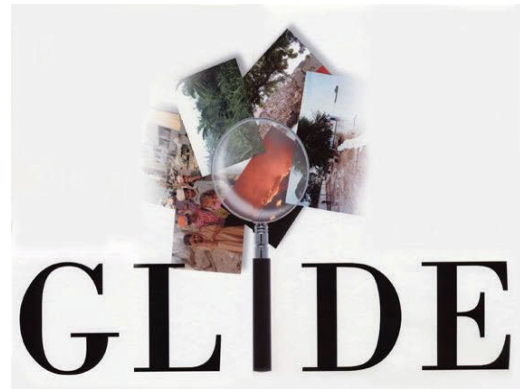
2-2-2. Overview

There are many organizations around the world that design and develop their own disaster databases for free access over the Internet. When a disaster occurs, information is distributed over the Internet not only by organizations in the affected countries but also by organizations and the mass media in other countries. ADRC, whenever a disaster occurs in any part of the world, collects information from websites of relevant organizations and news agencies all over the world, or by sending e-mails to contact persons in the affected area. The "ADRC Latest Disaster Information" on its website is the result of the ADRC's efforts in collecting information on disasters.

Based on the experiences, ADRC found some issues in collecting disaster information with abovementioned conventional methods. For example, the need to search many websites of relevant individual organizations every time a disaster occurs; no standardized naming protocol for disasters. Different names are given to a certain single disaster by various organizations; and the website links may be lost when an organization modifies the structure of its database or website.

GLIDE is a solution to these issues. It significantly improves the efficiency of retrieval of information on historical and on-going disasters from databases and websites.

At the Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN) Conference held in Canberra, Australia in March 2001, ADRC proposed to develop a standardized code system for managing information on disasters around the world. This proposal, then, was accepted as a pilot project of GDIN.

In 2004, glidenumber.net was jointly developed by ADRC and UNOCHA ReliefWeb with technical assistance from LaRED in order to issue new GLIDE numbers to disasters immediately after their occurrence. Moreover, ADRC, CRED, IRI/Columbia University, the USAID/OFDA, the WMO, IFRC, UNDP, and UNISDR Secretariat (current UNDRR) agreed to

use the GLIDE number format as the standard format for disaster identification numbers. At present, JAXA, Joint Research Centre (JRC/EC), etc. are utilized to descriptor disasters.

Once a disaster occurs, an operator of a GLIDE member organization issues a GLIDE number by inputting disaster information such as location, time, disaster type, initial damage. The issued GLIDE number appears on GLIDE website as well as is automatically emailed to some 2,000 subscribers.

GLIDE member organizations have different specialties and activity fields. Thus in GLIDE system, each organization issues GLIDE numbers based on its own criteria. For example, ADRC has its own criteria for issuing new GLIDE numbers. In case of Japan, a new GLIDE number will be generated for a disaster in which either 5 or more people are killed or 100 or more people are injured. In case of a disaster occurred in the Asian countries except Japan, a new GLIDE number will be generated for a disaster in which either 10 or more people are killed or 100 or more people are injured. At present, ADRC, UNOCHA ReliefWeb, IFRC, and JRC/EC are mainly issuing GLIDE numbers. So far, as many as 6,900 GLIDE numbers have been issued.
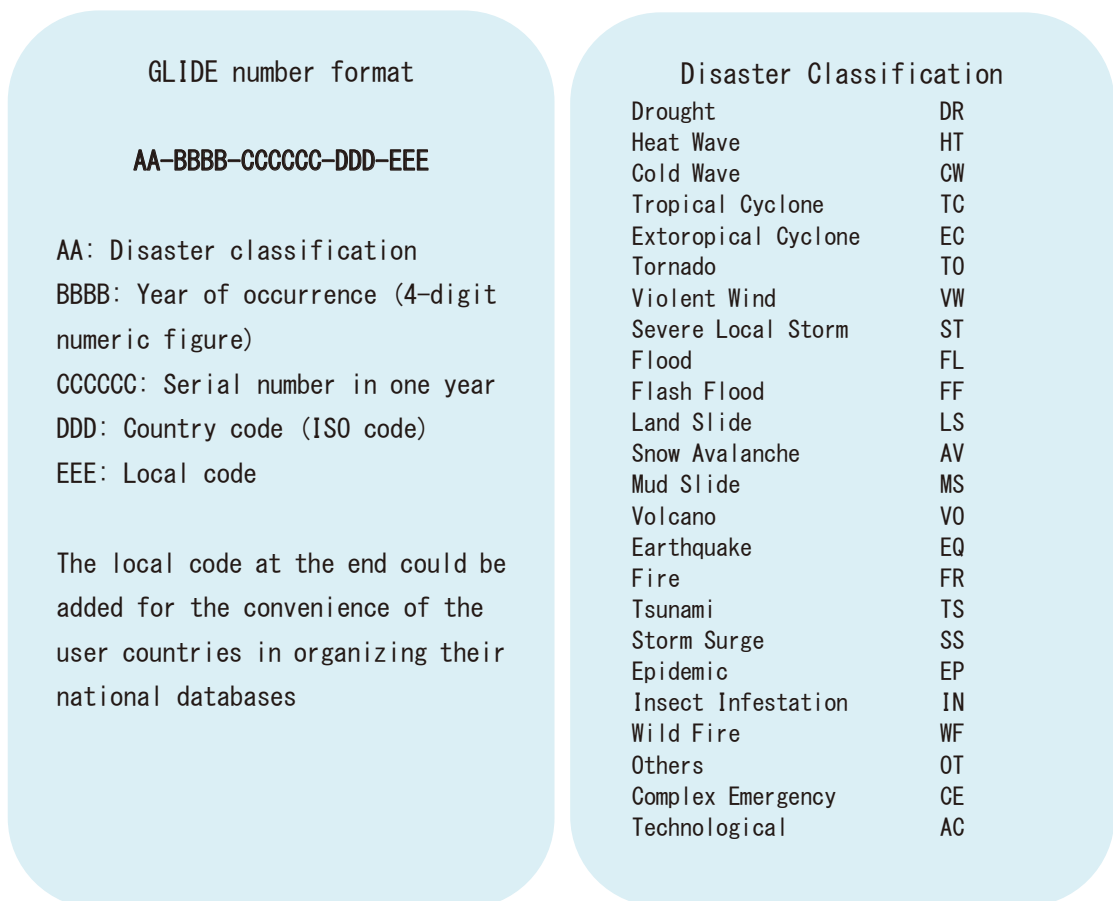
GLIDE number format	Disaster Classification	
	Drought	DR
AA-BBBB-CCCCCC-DDD-EEE	Heat Wave	HT
	Cold Wave	CW
	Tropical Cyclone	TC
AA: Disaster classification	Extoropical Cyclone	EC
BBBB: Year of occurrence (4-digit	Tornado	TO
numeric figure)	Violent Wind	VW
CCCCCC: Serial number in one year	Severe Local Storm	ST
DDD: Country code (ISO code)	Flood	FL
EEE: Local code	Flash Flood	FF
	Land Slide	LS
	Snow Avalanche	AV
The local code at the end could be	Mud Slide	MS
added for the convenience of the	Volcano	VO
user countries in organizing their	Earthquake	EQ
national databases	Fire	FR
	Tsunami	TS
	Storm Surge	SS
	Epidemic	EP
	Insect Infestation	IN
	Wild Fire	WF
	Others	OT
	Complex Emergency	CE
	Technological	AC

Fig 2-2-2-1 GLIDE number format and Disaster Classification

Fig 2-2-2-2 GLIDE website

(https://glidenumber.net/glide/public/search/search.jsp)

2-2-3. Status

In 2019, GLIDE marked its 15th year of the start of operation. The following activities were made to further promote GLIDE.

(1) Strengthening GLIDE System

Strengthening GLIDE system, especially its security was among its top priorities. For this purpose, the server of GLIDE was renewed with a new security measure, which will protect the server from the attacks and realize more stable service provision. Regular maintenance and timely review and strengthening of GLIDE system should be considered continuously.

(2) Stakeholders Meeting

When GLIDE system started, stakeholders meetings were organized, usually at the sideline of international conferences. However, with the lapse of time, persons in charge of GLIDE changed at several organizations, which made it hard to make coordination among GLIDE members. Due to changes in the situation about disaster data, ageing of GLIDE system,

revaluation of GLIDE system, there was increasing need for organizing stakeholders meeting in recent years. After coordination, GLIDE stakeholders meeting was finally realized.

In order to discuss the current situation and future of GLIDE, ADRC organized a GLIDE stakeholders meeting on 14 May 2019 at Internal Displacement Management Centre in Geneva, Switzerland using the opportunities of the sixth session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The meeting was attended by 15 persons from 6 organizations which play leading roles in GLIDE operation and have interests in collaboration with GLIDE.

At the opening of the meeting, ADRC Executive Director, Mr. SUZUKI Koji informed of the objectives of the meeting and expressed appreciation to participants for their cooperation with the GLIDE operation and attendance at this meeting.

Then, Prof. Ono, International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University, outlined its Global Centre for Disaster Statistics which was under construction, referring to the importance of accurate disaster data and possible collaboration with GLIDE.

Following the speeches, participants exchanged their opinions on a wide range of GLIDE issues such as the recent situation about disaster database, review of GLIDE management and operation system, review of disaster classification, setup steering committee, further collaboration with other organizations and so on.

It was the first time in more than 10 years since GLIDE stakeholders meeting was organized last time. Although some leading organizations were not able to attend this time, it was reconfirmed the importance of organizing stakeholder meeting regularly for continuing GLIDE progress.

Fig. 2-2-3-1 GLIDE Stakeholders Meeting

(3) The Way Forward

In order to further promote GLIDE and realize sustainable management, the following three issues are considered as challenges.

- Operation

The steering committee and thematic working groups should be established with GLIDE member organizations for more smooth system management and operation.

- GLIDE Website

Glidenumber.net, the website managing GLIDE numbers has several challenges. It should be updated to allow smartphone and tablet access for increasing GLIDE application, to improve functions, to strengthen security measures. For this, organizational efforts are required.

- Updates of comprehensive service functions

GLIDE has gained increasing expectations such as strengthened network with other organizations, and update of registered disaster data. It is required to consult and draw up a road map among the above-mentioned steering committee members.