

At closing session, H.E. Mr. AKAZAWA Ryosei (Government of Japan) thanked the over 240 participants from 22 countries, partner organizations, and general public who actively joined the virtual conference. Dr. OGAWA Yujiro (ADRC) also expressed gratitude to member countries and partner organizations for sharing reports and case studies. Outcomes of ACDR2020 showed that in Asia, most governments have introduced adaptation measures to reduce the impact of intensifying disaster risks as well as address the concurrent crises experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Figure 2.4. Closing Session Speakers

## 2.2. DRR Measures During COVID-19 Pandemic

On top of COVID-19, Asian countries continue to experience disasters from natural hazards. Considering this, ADRC initiated to collect disaster risk Reduction (DRR) measures during COVID-19 pandemic from ADRC member countries, which are available on the ADRC website.

### 2.2.1. Reports on Challenges in Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 Infection

In May 2020, some ADRC member countries (e.g., Republic of Korea, China, Japan, and Singapore) had already documented their respective practices in responding to COVID-19. China, Singapore, Japan, and Republic of Korea highlighted the importance of learning from past experiences in managing SARS and bird flu by building on those measures and

procedures that were already in place. To enrich and share information about the experiences of other countries, ADRC staffers and former visiting researchers developed case studies on the challenges in preventing the spread of COVID-19 infection.

Detailed case studies of the Philippines, Japan, Sri Lanka, Armenia, and France are among those uploaded on the ADRC website.

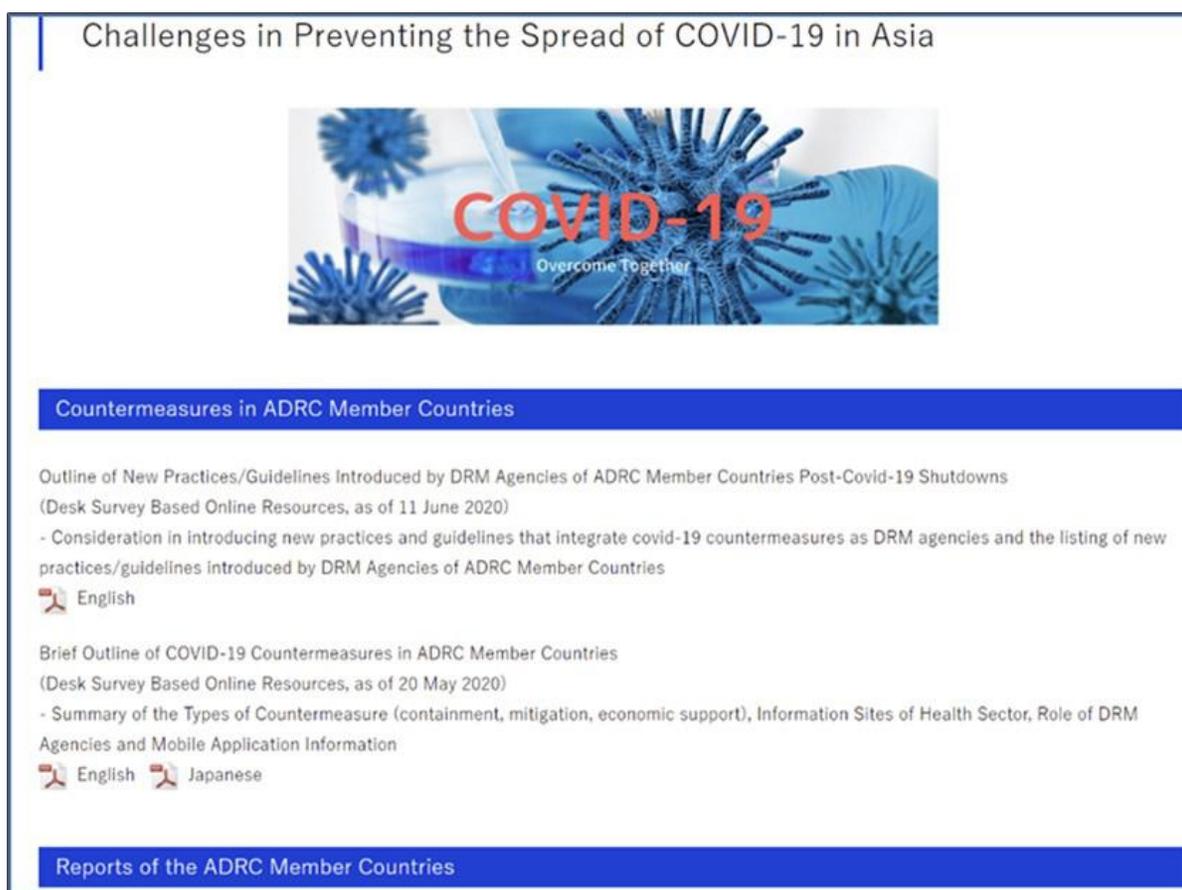


Figure 2.5. Screenshot of COVID-19 Information

### 2.2.2. Countermeasures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 Infection

Disasters incidents during COVID-19 pandemic, in May 2020 alone, included Typhoon *Vongfong* (Philippines) and Cyclone *Amphan* (India and Bangladesh). Cyclone Amphan also impacted other countries, including Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Myanmar that were likewise in lockdown situations due to the pandemic. Responding to these disasters required additional measures, such as social distancing, hand-washing, and face covering.

In ADRC member countries, countermeasures to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus have been introduced at varying degree in terms of containing, mitigating, and

managing the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. Example of indicative variations of these measures are shown in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1. Variation of Countermeasures Japan & Philippines

Preventive Action	The Philippines	Japan
<i>Staying Home</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory</li> <li>• Imposition of lockdowns (<i>military, police, and related enforcement agencies are engaged</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Mandatory</li> <li>• No imposition of lockdowns (<i>drawing on individual responsibility and cooperation</i>)</li> </ul>
<i>Social/Physical Distancing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cancellation of group events (e.g., church worship, beach parties, and cockfights)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoidance of 3Cs: crowds, closed spaces, closed contacts;</li> <li>• Also, cancellation of group events (e.g., marathons)</li> </ul>
<i>Wearing Mask</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislated at local governments (penalty for violation of ordinance)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraged but not legislated</li> <li>• National Government announced giving out masks</li> </ul>
<i>Washing Hands</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraged (on your own)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraged (with wide establishments' support)</li> </ul>

ADRC member countries vary in the degree of implementing the common countermeasures for COVID-19 due to differences of local situations, including socio-political contexts. For instance, Japan and the Republic of Korea did not implement a nationwide lockdowns or total travel restrictions while countries like India and the Philippines imposed strictest lockdowns, even commanding the military to enforce those restrictions.

### 2.3. Tsunami DRR Seminar Series

ADRC organized a series of online Tsunami DRR Seminars, during FY 2020, to share the latest research findings and experiences on the topic. The seminars also provided the opportunity to promote the World Tsunami Awareness Day to ADRC member countries, DRR stakeholders, and the general public.