

Foreword

Disasters that occurred in Asia in 2021 reminded us that improving our understanding about the impacts of transboundary risks is as important as it is to reduce those risks. Our hearts go out to all those affected by the disasters. As shown in this Annual Report, the impacts of floods, droughts, tropical cyclones, and other hazards are not only cascading, but sometimes crossing geographical boundaries. The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai eruption and tsunami in Tonga on 15 January 2022 is an example of a transboundary disaster. The substantial losses caused by the damage of undersea communication cables and by plume that rose 58 kilometers into the atmosphere affected multiple countries.



While COVID-19 vaccine has made it possible to control the spread of the virus and reduce the risk of serious illness to some degree, there is still no end in sight to the pandemic. In spite of this situation, as we became aware of the intensifying and cascading nature of the disaster risks, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) aimed many of its activities during the Fiscal Year 2021 towards contributing to the augmentation of the disaster risk management (DRM) systems of ADRC member countries, such as introducing tools that help manage transboundary risks. ADRC has enhanced the GLoBal IDentifier (GLIDE) number system, which gives common but unique numbers to disasters all over the world. We have established a Steering Committee as well subcommittees on Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), Application Programming Interface (API) and Product Development. ADRC has also strengthened the utilization of earth observation satellites through the Sentinel Asia and the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS) to enhance disaster risk assessment and risk communication. Furthermore, ADRC has scaled-up its human resource development (HRD) activities through the visiting researcher (VR) programme and the training programme on comprehensive disaster risk reduction.

During the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR), which was held online on 14-16 December 2021, we identified significant milestones in our shared efforts to further reduce the disaster risks in Asian region. It is due to your continued support to ADRC activities that we can continue in this endeavor, and I would like to extend my appreciation to all member countries for your contribution. It is my wish to keep on expanding our collaboration in the coming years.

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HAMADA Masanori
Chairman
Asian Disaster Reduction Center