

## 4. Human Resource Development

ADRC enhances the DRM capacities of member countries through the visiting researchers (VR) program, seminars, workshops, training events, and other DRR related human resource development activities.

### 4.1 Visiting Researchers Program

As of March 2023, an accumulated total number of 126 officials from 27 countries have participated in the VR program since it started in 1999. Under this program, VRs are invited to Japan to conduct their respective DRR researches with the opportunity to participate in relevant events as well as visit organizations. It enables VRs to compare and learn from different DRM systems.

#### 4.1.1 Activities During the Program

The VR program is aimed not only to strengthen the disaster response capabilities of member countries but also to further enhance cooperation between member countries and ADRC. In FY2022, seven visiting researchers (including those from the FY2021 who could not come to Japan due to COVID-19 pandemic) were invited to participate in the on-site training in Japan. During their stay, the VRs learn about innovative and practical DRR efforts and technologies and gain knowledge about cooperation and collaboration with national governments, international organizations, and DRR agencies.

#### 4.1.2 Research Topics

On 29 March 2023, all 7 VRs presented the outcomes of their research activities. Overall, the final reports reflected the accumulation of DRR knowledge, the characteristics of latest disasters and disaster management policies/laws/plans/budget, and the measures to strengthen resilience. The titles of their respective researches are as follow:

- Seismic monitoring, seismic hazard, risk assessment, and earthquake early warning system implementation as part of seismic risk reduction (Armenia)
- Preparedness for Disaster Response in Japan (India)
- A study on the issues to be considered in improving the requirements for evacuation shelter during disaster (Mongolia)
- Study on Community Based Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Activities in Japan (Myanmar)
- Tsunami response plan for the coastal areas of Pakistan and livelihood improvement along with other scalable DRR interventions for the coastal areas (Pakistan)
- Developing a National Disaster Risk Reduction Plan (Thailand)
- Community-based disaster risk management in Japan: A lesson learned (Vietnam)



Figure 4.1 Visiting Researchers during one of their site visits in Japan

In conducting their research activities, ADRC assigned a mentor to each VR to guide and assist in the entire process.

### 4.1.3 Networking of Visiting Researchers

ADRC taps the network of former VRs to cooperate in various ongoing projects, particularly for effective and efficient implementation. Additionally, VRs are tapped to design new projects that meet the local conditions. Furthermore, former VRs are contacted whenever ADRC intends to suggest policy updates or extends support to their respective home countries based on the request or information they provided. New VRs are encouraged to contact former VRs to establish communication, share experiences, and insights. Every year, some former VRs participate in the ACDR, where they make presentations.

During the ACDR2022, 10–12 March 2023, two former VRs participated: 1) Mr Baasansuren DEMBERELYNAM from Mongolia reported on the government’s recent efforts for strengthening the disaster statistics to hasten the implementation of the SFDRR in Mongolia; and 2) Ms Syuzanna Kakoyan from Armenia also actively participated in the conference.

Armenia	9
Azerbaijan	2
Bangladesh	6
Bhutan	4
Cambodia	4
China	3
India	8
Indonesia	3
Iran	1
Kyrgyz Republic	2
Lao PDR	2
Malaysia	4
Maldives	4
Mongolia	6
Myanmar	5
Nepal	9
Pakistan	6
Papua New Guinea	1
Philippines	9
Republic of Korea	3
Sri Lanka	11
Tajikistan	2
Thailand	11
Türkiye	1
Uzbekistan	2
Viet Nam	5
Yemen	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>

Figure 4.2 Accumulated total number of VRs as of March 2023



Figure 4.3 Former VR from Mongolia (left) and Armenia (right) during the ACDR2022

## 4.2 JICA Knowledge Co-creation Program

Under the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, JICA commissioned ADRC to conduct comprehensive training courses on DRR, which are designed based on themes of interests in each region/country. In FY2022, a total of six training courses were implemented: 1) Comprehensive DRR for Central and South America, 2) Comprehensive DRR for African Region, 3) Comprehensive DRR for Central Asia and Caucasus, 4) Promotion of Mainstreaming DRR, 5) Comprehensive DRR Course, and 6) Strengthening DRR Capacity for Malaysia.

### 4.2.1 Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction for Central and South America

**Duration:** 24 May – 8 Jul 2022 (online)

**Number of Participants:** 18 (from 10 countries)

**Contents:** DRR in Japan, 8 Steps in formulating local DRR strategy

This course was attended by 18 participants from 10 countries: Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru. During the seven-week program, the participants attended lectures on disaster countermeasures and exercises around local DRR plans, and drafted plans for their target municipalities. They actively engaged in developing DRR measures to reduce humanitarian and economic losses from disasters.



Figure 4.4 Mr ARAKIDA Masaru of ADRC giving lecture on the 8 Steps in Formulating Local DRR Strategy

### 4.2.2 Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction for African Region

**Duration:** 22 Aug – 29 Sep 2022 (online)

**Number of Participants:** 7 (from four countries)

**Contents:** DRR in Japan, 8 Steps in formulating local DRR plan

The JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program entitled, "Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction for the African Region" was conducted online from 22 August to 29 September 2022, with the cooperation of JICA Kansai. It was attended by seven government officials from four countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Senegal, and Cabo Verde. This course focused on flood and sediment disasters. Participants studied disaster countermeasures for their target cities by attending lectures on each disaster and participating in exercises to formulate a draft local DRR plan. They all worked so hard during this course, not only acquiring knowledge and skills but also developing their relationships with one another. Some organizations and universities in Japan contributed to the success of this course.



Figure 4.5 Screenshot of Online Training for the African Region

### 4.2.3 Comprehensive DRR for Central Asia and the Caucasus

**Duration:** 10 Nov – 9 Dec 2022 (in-person)

**Number of Participants:** 7 (from four countries)

**Contents:** DRR in Japan, 8 Steps in formulating local DRR plan

The training course, "Comprehensive Disaster Management for Central Asia and Caucasus" was conducted from 10 November to 9 December 2022. This program was designed for disaster management administrators in the Central Asia and Caucasus region with the aim of strengthening the capacity of government agencies primarily responsible for disaster management so as to mitigate human impacts and economic damages caused by natural disasters. With a particular focus on the formulation of priority DRR measures, the program aimed to deepen understanding of the importance of such measures, to promote strategic DRR investments in each country, and to promote the implementation of DRR measures that reduce residual risks. The

program also aimed to help participants learn how to draft and implement local DRR plans. Due to the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, the training program was temporarily suspended and subsequently conducted online, but in-person training resumed in 2022 for the first time in three years. A total of seven participants from Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan took part in the five-week program. The training consisted of in-person and online lectures, visits to DRR facilities, mainly in Hyogo Prefecture but also in the Tokyo area, and a workshop on designing local DRR plans. Each participant enthusiastically participated in the lectures and exercises, and presented a draft local DRR plan on the final day to successfully complete the course. The knowledge, skills, and methodologies acquired through this training will be applied to disaster risk management in the participants' home countries.



Figure 4.6 Trainees from Central Asia and Caucasus visited DRR facilities

#### 4.2.4 Promotion of Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction

<b><u>Duration:</u></b>	12 – 24 Dec 2022 (in-person)
<b><u>Number of Participants:</u></b>	5 (from three countries)
<b><u>Contents:</u></b>	DRR in Japan, 8 Steps in formulating local DRR plan



Figure 4.7 Participants from Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Mexico during the training in Japan

ADRC conducted the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program entitled, "Promotion of Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction" from 12–24 December 2022 in cooperation with JICA Kansai. It was attended by five management-level DRR agency officials from three countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Mexico. This program was aimed at achieving the following: sharing the concept of mainstreaming DRR, incorporating DRR in development policies, and promoting the methods of mainstreaming DRR at the policy level. It was also aimed at sharing various experiences from Japan and examine the strategies and approaches for

promoting the mainstreaming of DRR in participants' home countries. During the two-week program, participants attended lectures, site visits, and discussions on disaster countermeasures. Participants actively engaged in DRR measures to reduce humanitarian and economic losses due to disasters.

#### 4.2.5 Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction Course

**Duration:** 28 Dec 2022 – 22 Feb 2023 (in-person)

**Number of Participants:** 8 (from six countries)

**Contents:** DRR in Japan, 8 Steps in formulating local DRR plan

The training entitled, "Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction" was conducted from 28 December 2022 to 22 February 2023 in cooperation with JICA Kansai. It was conducted in a hybrid format, with both online and in-person programs in Japan. It was attended by eight government officials from six countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. This course was aimed at helping participants learn how to formulate and implement local DRR plans to promote disaster reduction measures in each country. Participants studied disaster countermeasures for their target cities by attending lectures, site visits, and participating in exercises on formulating a draft local DRR plan. They all participated enthusiastically in the programs, engaging in discussions with other participants and deepening their understanding of the subject matter.



Figure 4.8 Trainees visited flood control facilities along Shirakawa River, Kumamoto

#### 4.2.6 Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity for Malaysia

**Duration:** 6 – 10 Mar 2023 (in-person)

**Number of Participants:** 15 (from Malaysia)

**Contents:** DRR in Japan, 8 Steps in formulating local DRR plan

ADRC conducted the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program, "LEP2.0 Enhancement of the Disaster Risk Management Capacity of the National Disaster Management Agency", on 6–10 March 2023. The course was aimed at improving the technology and coordination capacity of the Malaysian National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) to realize a disaster-resilient society in the country. A total of 15 officials from related organizations, mainly from NADMA, participated in this first training. After the orientation on the first day of the training, participants made presentations for their



Figure 4.9 Participants from Malaysia during lectures at JICA Kansai

organization, and it was followed by discussions to confirm the training objectives and points at each site. From the second day onwards, the participants visited several sites that showcase flood and sediment disaster countermeasures. On the final day of the training, synthesis of lessons learned were presented, as well as the next steps.

### 4.3 Short-Term Programs

Short-term programs in FY2022 included internship, KOBE Global Challenge with Kobe University, and Try-Yaru.

#### 4.3.1 Internship at ADRC

- Mr Kier Hamilton, 1 July – 31 Aug 2022

ADRC accepted Mr Kier Hamilton for online internship at the Research Department from 1st July to 31st August 2022. He spent 100 hours performing substantive analysis of disaster data from EM-DAT and other related sources for the Natural Disaster Databook, an annual publication of ADRC. Mr Hamilton is a Masters student in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation at Lund University, Sweden. His analysis of the natural disaster data showed that hazards have increased in frequency and severity, and Asia is the worst affected continent. The most common disaster events were floods and storms, with both becoming more common as climatic changes take place. He said that working with the ADRC team is a memorable experience that allowed him to expand his knowledge and improve his understanding of the disaster landscape.



Figure 4.10 Mr Keir Hamilton  
(Intern)

- Mr Jhumar Sioson, 21 October – 2 November 2022

Mr Jhumar Sioson, a master's degree student in the field of Environmental Studies at Nagoya University, served as an intern at ADRC as part of the Global Research Internship (GRI) of Nagoya University. GRI provides research-based internship opportunities to students to help them acquire practical research know-how through on-site research training. During his in-person internship, Mr Sioson assisted in organizing the workshop, 7th BOSAI KOKUTAI, engaged in DRR Town-Watching in Nada, Kobe, and visited the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Disaster monuments in Hyogo Prefecture. He said that his time as an ADRC intern gave him an opportunity to increase his knowledge about disaster risk reduction, and when returning to the Philippines, he will strive to professionally contribute to disaster resiliency.



Figure 4.11 Mr Jhumar Sioson  
(Intern)

#### 4.3.2 KOBE Global Challenge

In partnership with Kobe University's KOBE Global Challenge Program (KGCP), ADRC conducted a training program for 13 KGCP students on Tuesday, 26 July 2022. The KGCP is a program that aims to motivate participating students to learn and recognize the necessity of issue-identification and problem-solving skills, which are essential for people working in global arenas, by building on their own experiences in multicultural environments. By attending lectures and participating in practical exercises on disaster management in Asia,

the students and ADRC researchers had many opportunities to actively exchange ideas and opinions. Mr SASAHARA Akio, Executive Director of ADRC encouraged them to take advantage of this program to become global leaders in their fields.



Figure 4.12 Kobe University students at ADRC during the KOBE Global Challenge Program

### 4.3.3 Try-Yaru

ADRC accepted two seventh-grade students from Kobe Municipal Harada Junior High School as a part of the "Try-Yaru Week" in November 2022, which is a work experience program for junior high school students. During this period, the students learned about the concept of disaster risk reduction through simple activities (e.g., constructing model of earthquake-resistant building out of milk cartons). The students also took part in an online "Town Watching" of the Aotani district of Nada Ward, Kobe City. "Town-Watching" is a planning approach, where community members and stakeholder look around their local areas to observe and gather information to address disaster risks. They also visited the Hyogo Prefectural Wide-Area Disaster Prevention Center.



Figure 4.13 Seventh-grade students at their Try-Yaru program at ADRC