

Foreword

In FY2022, many countries in Asia gradually lifted the COVID-19 travel restrictions, providing an opportunity for ADRC to reinvigorate the implementation of our activities on the ground. With the borders opened, we invited seven visiting researchers to Japan, including those from FY2021, to participate in the on-site training. We dispatched experts to member countries to coordinate collaborative projects, such as the utilization of space satellites for early warning. We resumed the in-person training on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction. Most of all, after two years of conducting it online, we organized the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) in a hybrid format that gathered 84 in-person participants from 17 countries at Sendai International Center in Miyagi Prefecture, Japan on March 10–12, 2023.



As indicated in this Annual Report, ADRC contributed to the efforts of reducing disaster risks in the Asian region through our work in the following areas: 1) information-sharing, such as linking the GLIDE number system with other disaster information systems; 2) human resource development, such as implementing the knowledge co-creation training program with JICA; and 3) regional cooperation projects, such as engaging in the Advanced Climate Change Impact Projection Study to inform our policies and programs. Despite all of these, the increasingly complex disaster landscape in the Asian region reminded us to further sustain and scale up our activities. We witnessed the severe flooding in Pakistan that was caused by intense, frequent, and heavy rainfalls from June to September last year, revealing that many of our existing countermeasures are not enough to withstand the impacts of such persistent large-scale floods. We also saw the devastation brought about by the Türkiye-Syria Earthquakes in February this year. It disrupted the lives of millions of residents of Türkiye and Syria and even took thousands of them. It collapsed buildings and infrastructures to rubble, requiring hundreds of billions of dollars for reconstruction. These earthquakes reveal that there remains a huge number of vulnerable houses and buildings without any reinforcement all over the world. Ahead of us is a huge task to amplify preparedness and mitigation measures, including awareness and education for hazard-prone cities and communities. We will be facing more challenges. So, as we continue in this endeavor, I would like to extend my appreciation to all member countries for their continued support and engagement in our activities. I look forward to a better and stronger collaboration this year.

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HAMADA Masanori
Chairman
Asian Disaster Reduction Center