

# 1. Asian Disaster Reduction Center

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) was established in 1998 as a regional initiative aimed at enhancing disaster resilience, building safer communities, and creating a society where sustainable development is attainable among its 33-member countries (Annex 1: History of Establishment of ADRC).

## 1.1 Key Activities

At the end of every fiscal year, ADRC prepares an Annual Report highlighting its achievements along the three pillars of activities:

- **Information sharing.** This pillar includes the ADRC website, GLocal disaster IDentifier (GLIDE) number system, Sentinel Asia, and Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR).
- **Human resource development.** This pillar includes the Visiting Researcher (VR) program, seminars, workshops, and training activities on disaster risk reduction (DRR).
- **Cooperation among member countries and partner organizations.** This pillar includes development and promotion of innovative tools as well as forging partnerships and networks to advance resilience to disasters (e.g., research and international engagements).

After 21 years of functioning as part of the Urban Disaster Research Institute (URDI), ADRC became independent and obtained a corporate status in April 2020 following the launch of the ADRC Foundation. Under this newly reconfigured status, ADRC gained greater flexibility in performing its international operations as well as bolstering its domestic activities.

## 1.2 Composition

ADRC is composed of member and advisor countries (Figure 1.1. Map of member and advisor countries) as well as partner organizations. Member countries share information, experiences, and expertise on DRR and ADRC disseminates them regionally by means of dispatching of experts and other methods. Advisor countries support the activities of ADRC by sharing their expertise and experiences through the dispatch of experts to member countries and to the ADRC Secretariat as well as offer financial contributions.



Figure 1.1 The 33-member countries of ADRC as shown on the map

### 1.2.1 Member and Advisor Countries

During its establishment in 1998, ADRC comprised 22-member countries, 4-advisor countries, and 1-observer organization. Its membership continues to expand with Armenia joining in August 2000, the Kyrgyz Republic in July 2002, Pakistan in July 2005, Yemen and Bhutan in December 2007, Azerbaijan in 2009, the Maldives in 2010, the Republic of Iran in 2012, Republic of Türkiye in 2018, Fiji in 2023, and Brunei Darussalam in 2024 bringing the number of member countries to 33. The number of advisor countries also expanded to 5 with USA joining in March 2004 (Table 1.1. Member and Advisor Countries).

Table 1.1. Timeline of the Expansion of Member and Advisor Countries

1998 (At the time of foundation)	India, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Cambodia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, China, Japan, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Lao PDR and Russia (Member countries: 22)  Australia, Switzerland, New Zealand and France (Advisor countries: 4) Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (Observer)
2000	Armenia
2002	Kyrgyz Republic
2004	USA (Advisor country)
2005	Pakistan
2007	Bhutan, Yemen
2009	Azerbaijan
2010	Maldives
2012	Islamic Republic of Iran
2018	Republic of Türkiye
2023	Fiji
2024	Brunei Darussalam

ADRC's counterparts are the disaster risk management (DRM) agencies (Table 1.2).

Table 1.2 Counterpart Agencies

Country	Counterpart
Armenia	Regional Survey for Seismic Protection (RSSP), Ministry of Internal Affairs
Azerbaijan	Ministry of Emergency Situations
Bangladesh	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
Bhutan	Ministry of Home Affairs
Brunei Darussalam	National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC), Ministry of Home Affairs
Cambodia	The National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)
China	National Disaster Reduction Center of China
Fiji	National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)
India	Ministry of Home Affairs
Indonesia	National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB)

Country	Counterpart
Iran	National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO)
Japan	Cabinet Office
Kazakhstan	Ministry of Emergency Situations
Republic of Korea	Ministry of the Interior and Safety
Kyrgyz Republic	Ministry of Emergency Situations
Lao PDR	National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
Malaysia	National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA)
Maldives	National Disaster Management Authority
Mongolia	National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
Myanmar	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
Nepal	Ministry of Home Affairs
Pakistan	National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
Papua New Guinea	Department of Provincial & Local Government Affairs
Philippines	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC)
Russia	Ministry of the Russian Federation for Affairs for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural (EMERCOM)
Singapore	Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)
Sri Lanka	Disaster Management Centre, Ministry of Defence
Tajikistan	Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES)
Thailand	Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), Ministry of Interior
Türkiye	Ministry of Interior - Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD)
Uzbekistan	Ministry of Emergency Situations
Vietnam	Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority (VDDMA), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)
Yemen	Ministry of Water and Environment

As for the advisor countries, ADRC's counterparts are the following: National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in Australia, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Switzerland, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des territoires in France, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in New Zealand, and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the USA.

### 1.2.2 Partner Organizations

In promoting disaster risk reduction in Asia, ADRC cooperates with UN agencies and international organizations/initiatives, such as the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). ADRC also cooperates with regional bodies and organizations in Asia.