

# Foreword

Foremost, I am delighted to report the expansion of ADRC membership. In 2023, we welcomed the Republic of Fiji, and in 2024, we welcomed Brunei Darussalam. This brings ADRC a total of 33 member-countries cooperating to enhance disaster resilience, build safer communities, and create a society where sustainable development is attainable.

Our task of reducing disaster risk in the region is tough. On 1st January 2024, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 struck Noto Peninsula in Japan with about 330 people killed or missing. Less than a year prior to that event, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck the border of Türkiye and Syria, killing more than 50,000 people. To understand the impacts, ADRC organized two study visits to the earthquake affected areas of Japan and Türkiye. We were able to confirm that most of the deaths were caused by the collapsed buildings. To help address this issue, let



us continue to exchange knowledge and transfer technology in promoting earthquake-resistant residential houses at various forums, including the annual Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR).

Our region also experienced record-breaking storms and floods that accounted for the highest economic losses in 2023. To minimize future economic losses, ADRC has been supporting the implementation of projects related to multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS), such as the following: 1) Quasi-Zenith Satellite System Report for Disaster and Crisis Management (QZSS DC Report) that uses satellites to transmit warning message to the communities-at-risk; 2) Climate Change Impact Projection study that integrates the hazard models for storm-and-flood early warnings; and 3) Utilization of Information and Communications Technology for Community Based Disaster Risk Management (ICT for CBDRM) that promotes the use of practical mobile apps for community disaster prevention and response.

In FY 2023, ADRC served as intermediary in activating a total of 27 requests for satellite images of emergency observations from Sentinel Asia as well as issued GLIDE numbers on those disaster events. In terms of capacity building, six visiting researchers had successfully completed their programs in Japan and seven JICA-commissioned training were implemented.

Through your support, we were able to successfully implement our projects in FY 2023. I would like to extend my appreciation to all 33 member-countries for the unwavering commitment to our activities. I look forward to greater cooperation this year.

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HAMADA Masanori  
Chairman  
Asian Disaster Reduction Center