



# ADRC ANNUAL REPORT 1999

## Foreword

This is the FY1999 annual report compiled by the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC).

The ADRC was established in July 1998 to promote multinational disaster reduction cooperation with the aim of reducing damage from natural disasters through the sharing of information in the Asian region. We are striving for the continued development and expansion of our organization, although we are aware that the process of fully equipping the ADRC with the functions it is expected to serve cannot be completed overnight, but will require steady and constant efforts.

It has been two years since the establishment of the ADRC. At this point of time we have built up a network reaching 22 member countries. We have also constructed a database of disaster reduction information that is accessible on the Internet. It ranges from latest disasters, disasters that occurred in the 20th Century, legal systems on disasters, organizations for disaster management, and specific disaster reduction measures, lists of disaster professionals, and disaster-related training courses. This fiscal year, we have started the admittance of researchers from member countries, and researchers from Korea, Nepal, and Viet Nam have participated. We are expecting researchers from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to follow.

Now that five years have passed since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, the memory of that tragic disaster is gradually beginning to fade from our minds. For this very reason, the ADRC has the critical task of conveying the experiences of and lessons learned from this disaster, which struck a densely populated urban city, to Asia as well as the rest of the world.

Although the information dissemination on disaster and disaster reduction is the center of ADRC activities, such service will be rendered useless unless the existence of ADRC and its WebSite are brought to the attention of more people. Next year, we are planning to launch an ADRC newsletter on a frequent basis to promote publicity campaigns using various media.

Although it is still a small organization, but the ADRC is beginning to take shape. We are determined to continue promoting international disaster reduction cooperation through the sharing of relevant information, with the intent of reducing damage from natural disasters in the Asian region.

Your generous encouragement and cooperation in this regard would be most appreciated.

March 2000

Shigeru Ito  
Chairman  
Asia Disaster Reduction Center

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