



# ADRC Highlights

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## TOPICS

### Participation in International Conferences

The 7th Annual UN-SPIDER Conference

## ● Participation in International Conferences The 7th Annual UN-SPIDER Conference

The 7th Annual UN-SPIDER Conference, jointly organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China, was held in Beijing on 23-25 October 2017. The three-day program included site visits to various organizations



by the approximately 100 participants, including representatives of Space Agencies and Disaster Management Organizations from 34 countries and eight regions. The ADRC representative joined the conference in the afternoon of 24 October due to flight and weather challenges.

### 24 October (Afternoon)

The theme of session 3, which started on the afternoon of the second day, was “Technology integrated for disaster risk assessment and emergency response.” Presenters included representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Beijing Normal University, Continuum Planning and Development Trust, India (a non-profit organization), and the Ministry of Home Affairs of India. The FAO report in particular highlighted the indicators affecting food aid decision-making within seventy-two (72) hours after a disaster by focusing on the examples of Cyclone Pam (Vanuatu, 6 March 2015) and the Great Southern Asia Floods (Bangladesh, August-September / Sri-Lanka May / Nepal, August 2017).

The ADRC representative participated in a session on “Integrated emergency response tools/systems” held after the break. Reports were given by World Vision International, the Department of Civil Protection of Zimbabwe, and Indonesia’s National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (Lembaga Penerbangan dan Antariksa Nasional - LAPAN). LAPAN reported on the landslides that occur every year in Banjarnegara, Central Java and expressed appreciation for the contributions of Sentinel Asia.

### 25 October

On the final day of the conference, sessions were held in the morning while site visits were conducted in the afternoon. Session 4 focused on “Integrated applications of Earth observation, global navigation satellite system and telecommunication constellations for disaster risk reduction and climate change related extreme hazards” and presentations were given by Newcastle University (England), Beijing University (China), and Delta University (USA). Newcastle University reported on landslide analysis using Interferometric SAR in Xinmo village, Mao County in the Ngawa Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, China. Beijing University’s report focused on the analysis of the effects of the Kumamoto Earthquake using the Polarimetric SAR (ALOS PALSAR PolSAR, 21 April 2016). Both reports emphasized that Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellites are expected to become even easier to use in emergency response and situation assessments efforts.

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Session 5 focused on the theme of “Networking and engagement with the UN-SPIDER network.” At the end of the session, the ADRC representative reported that ADRC has been playing the role of a Regional Support Office (RSO) for UN-SPIDER through the Sentinel Asia initiative and its escalation to an international charter. ADRC noted that it would be continuing to promote further voluntary involvement in disaster risk reduction activities by highlighting, for example, the participation of Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) in Sentinel Asia and the provision of images from the August Jiuzhaigou Earthquake by Sentinel Asia.

In the afternoon, participants were divided into two groups that visited either the National Disaster Reduction Center of China or the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST) Exhibition Center. The ADRC representative participated in the former.

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