



ADRC Highlights

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● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

APEC's Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)

Executive Director Nakagawa succeeded former Executive Director Suzuki as a co-chair of the APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG). APEC is a framework for economic cooperation among 21 economies in the Asia-Pacific region. At the Senior Officials Meeting held in February, each organization under the APEC umbrella outlined its activities for this year. The EPWG co-chairs outlined how the group conducts its EPWG meetings, promotes individual projects, and works with other organizations. Thailand, this year's host country, presented the following three priorities under the theme "OPEN, CONNECT, BALANCE."

- Openness in all opportunities for trade and investment
- Reinvigorating all aspects of collaboration
- Promoting balance, sustainability, and inclusiveness on all fronts

Each participating economy also affirmed its commitment to take action to realize the Putrajaya Vision 2040, APEC's long-term action guideline, and its corresponding Aotearoa Action Plan. The economies then commented on the work. Among them, the Japanese government specifically expressed support for the activities of EPWG, specifically in the context of intensifying disaster risks due to climate change and other factors.



EPWG Online Meeting

Research on Use Cases for QZSS-EWS

The Quasi-Zenith Satellite System Early Warning Service (QZSS-EWS) of Japan utilizes satellites to transmit disaster warning information (Figure 1). It augments ground-based telecommunication facilities (e.g., TV, radio, mobile phones, and other devices) - particularly in areas with limited network coverage (e.g., mountainous and island areas) - in disseminating the warning information. Since Japan will expand the QZSS-EWS in Asia and Pacific region in 2024, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) has been conducting feasibility studies for this purpose. In a recent study, ADRC investigated the use cases for QZSS-EWS in

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three different local environments with different types of disaster risk, namely: (1) communities in coastal areas of Bangladesh, who are prone to tropical cyclones; (2) communities of farmers in the downstream areas of Bhutan Himalayas, who are prone to glacial lake flood outbursts (GLOF); and (3) communities of herders in the steppe of Mongolia, who are prone to dzud.

Findings of the research indicate that:

- Due to limited network coverage, warning information either does not reach communities at risk or, when it does reach those communities, tends to be unclear, distorted, or delayed. Thus, there is real need to augment the early warning systems in these communities.
- In each of the target areas, there are entry points for the operationalization of QZSS-EWS, such as the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) in Bangladesh, the GLOF early warning system in Bhutan, and the Dzud Risk Map in Mongolia.
- Investing in efforts to build capacity and raise awareness among community members is needed, as this will provide greater benefits in the long-run.

In the three communities, QZSS-EWS has great potential to save lives and livelihoods through, for example, direct alerts to individuals who are within the "radius of the disaster event" and notifying them of the nearest evacuation area; automatic sounding of community sirens activated through the Low Power Wide Area Networks; and the direct display of warning messages on electronic community message boards.

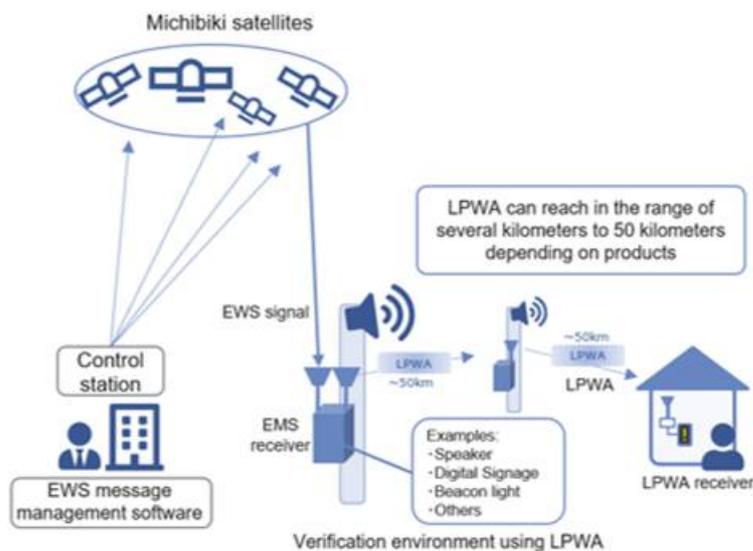


Figure 1. Operationalization of QZSS-EWS Overseas (Suzuki, 2021)

JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program: Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction

From 11 January to 15 February 2022, the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction was held online. The program was organized by ADRC and was attended by five national and local disaster management officials from five countries.

In alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), especially target (e) "Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020," the goal of this program was to enable the DRR systems of each country to be upgraded based on national and local DRR plans and thus to reduce the damage caused by disasters. Over the course of the program, each participant was expected to formulate a draft local DRR plan.

During the six-week program, the participants proactively joined lectures on disaster countermeasures and exercises around local DRR plans, and drafted plans for their target municipalities.

● Participation in International Conferences

Participation in the 54th Session of the Typhoon Committee

Lao PDR hosted the 54th Session of the Typhoon Committee which was held online on 23-25 February 2022. The event opened with the election of Madam Outhone Phetluangshy (Director General, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment) of Lao PDR and Mr Weng Kun Leong (Director, Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau) of Macao, China as chair and vice chair, respectively, of the 54th Session. One of the outcomes of the meeting was the presentation of the Committee's Strategic Framework 2022-2026, which is aimed at achieving two targets: (1) substantially reduce total mortality caused by tropical cyclone related disasters of the members for the decade 2021-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015; and (2) Reduce direct economic losses caused by tropical cyclone-related disasters in relation to the total gross domestic product (GDP) of the members for the decade 2021-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015. Committee members agreed on seven Key Result Areas (KRAs) in implementing the Strategic Framework:



Screenshot of the 54th Session of the Typhoon Committee

1. Enhance capacity to monitor the impacts of tropical cyclones
2. Enhance capacity in tropical cyclone forecasting and disaster risk prediction
3. Improve flood mitigation measures
4. Strengthen capacity development activities in meteorology, hydrology, DRR, and civil protection sectors
5. Promote visibility and enhance the Typhoon Committee's Regional and International collaboration mechanisms
6. Advance collaborative scientific research
7. Enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities

All working groups of the Typhoon Committee, namely, the Working Group on Meteorology (WGM); Working Group on Hydrology (WGH), the Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (WGDRR), and the Training and Research Coordination Group (TRCG), presented how each have integrated the seven KRAs in their respective Annual Operations Plans (AOPs) for 2022. By the end of the year, all the working groups, including WGDRR in which ADRC is a member, will report on their progress during 17th Integrated Workshop (IWS) which will be hosted by UN-ESCAP in Bangkok, Thailand. The modalities of the event will be decided later considering the COVID-19 situation. On the final day of the meeting, members decided that the 55th Session of the Typhoon Committee will be organized in Macao, China in February 2023.

● Announcement

Personnel Change

Mr KOBORI Kazuyuki, Senior Administrative Manager left his position at ADRC at the end of March 2022. All of us at ADRC offer our best wishes for his continued success.

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