

2. Information Collection and Offer

2-1. International Conferences

2-1-1. The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction(ACDR) 2007

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2007: Working Together for a Safer World(ACDR 2007) was held from 25 to 27 June 2007 in Astana in the Republic of Kazakhstan. It was organized by the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the government of Japan (Cabinet Office), the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Meteorological Organization(WMO),and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center(ADRC). ACDR 2007 aimed to further review the progress made in Asia toward the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005,as well as to present good practices and achievements,to identify the challenges that remain,and to propose ways to accelerate the implementation process in the future. Itaddressed such topics as governance, education, the application of scientific knowledge,public-private partnerships,and community-based disaster risk reduction.

2-1-2. Workshop with SAARC Member Countries

The “SAARC-Japan Workshop on Regional Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction”, held on 6 November 2007 in Delhi, was attended by high-level officials in charge of disaster management from member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation(SAARC). The importance of strengthening regional cooperation mechanisms for disaster risk reduction has been made increasingly apparent by recent earthquakes, floods, and cyclones in South Asia. Regional efforts have already begun, including the establishment of the Japan-SAARC Special Fund of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs(Japan), which supports the utilization of Japan’s disaster management know-how in South Asia. This workshop emphasized the disaster prevention activities that need to be taken in the future, such as the development of a vulnerability map using satellite technologies, and the formulation of a plan for collecting the indigenous disaster prevention knowledge of various countries.

2-1-3. Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Pacific Islands

The Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Pacific Islands,co-organized by the Ministry of foreign Affairs of Japan and the ADRC, in cooperation with JICA, was held on 18 March 2008 in Kobe. Pacific Island countries are threatened by a variety of the natural hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, floods, and cyclones, due to their geographical conditions. They are also vulnerable to future flood risks posed by sea level rise attributed to climate change.

The Workshop allowed participants to share information about the current DRR activities and good practices in each of their countries, and to discuss future cooperation in the DRR field.