

# Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2025

Forging Resilience Together: Toward a Sustainable Society  
Prepared for Mega-Disasters

17-19 December 2025  
Tokyo, Japan

## Introduction

1. ACDR2025 was held in Tokyo, Japan on 17-19 December 2025 with the theme: “Forging Resilience Together: Toward a Sustainable Society Prepared for Mega-Disasters”. The conference gathered 131 onsite attendees from 18 member countries as well as from many international organizations, research institutions, NGOs and private sectors. In addition, 82 participants attended the conference online.
2. ACDR2025 conducted four sessions to gain insights on how to forge resilience together, including: a panel discussion on building resilience to mega-disasters; a roundtable on national disaster risk reduction progress and challenges; a session on technological innovation; and a session on inclusive disaster risk reduction.

## Opening

3. H.E. AKAMA Jiro (Minister of State for Disaster Management of Japan) said that the recent earthquakes in Myanmar and the Philippines as well as the flooding in Indonesia and Sri Lanka explain why it is necessary to forge resilience. He emphasized two points in international cooperation from Japan. First, a new disaster management agency will be established in FY2026 for primarily strengthening domestic disaster preparedness, but it will also promote international disaster cooperation as well and continue to actively support the initiatives of Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). Second, Japan’s technology including disaster prevention infrastructure (e.g., seismic reinforcement of dams and buildings), earthquake early warning systems, and damage assessments using satellites and artificial intelligence (AI) can help enhance disaster resilience in Asia.
4. Prof. MIURA Fusanori (Chairman, ADRC) indicated that in the context of ADRC, forging resilience together means cooperation among its 33 member countries in promoting evidence-based policy, interoperable disaster data systems, and cross-border early warning collaboration. This includes further improving the “Sentinel Asia” for effective utilization of satellite imagery for rapid disaster assessment as well as continuous enhancing of “GLIDE (Global Disaster Identifier)” to standardize and link disaster information worldwide, and as mechanism for residents and local governments to share disaster information through smartphones and social media platforms.

## Panel Discussion

5. Five experts shared diverse experiences in the panel discussion on “Building Resilience to Mega-Disasters for Sustainable Growth” highlighting that such endeavour requires longer timeline and sustained commitment.
6. Dr ITO Shigeru (President of the ADRC, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo) shared the idea of urban resilience through collaborative regeneration. He mentioned that the Great Hanshin–Awaji Earthquake, which struck the global metropolis of Kobe, prompted a fundamental rethinking of disaster risk reduction moving beyond a narrow focus on fire prevention to a complex challenge of large-scale urban regeneration. This shift gave rise to a “new disaster management” concept that incorporates international perspectives. In particular, urban disaster resilience should be pursued not only by disaster management authorities or government alone, but through collaboration among the public

sector, private actors, and communities—integrating disaster risk reduction into broader urban development to create societies with new shared value.

7. Prof. MURATA Masahiko (Kansai University of International Studies, Japan) said that recovery phase provides an opportunity to build resilience. He cited the “creative reconstruction” of Hyogo prefecture following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, wherein lands are readjusted with open spaces to promote safety and resilience.
8. Dr Muzailin Affan (Associate Professor, Syiah Kuala University, Indonesia) shared the resilience of the people of Aceh following the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. He said that the Muslim faith played an important role for survival of victims and the Mosques were used as evacuation centers. He stressed that faith can be a leverage for building resilience.
9. Prof. Netra Prakash Bhandary (Ehime University, Japan) said that heritage and culture should also be considered in building resilience. In countries like Nepal, the key elements of cultural monuments and traditional houses were considered in “Build Back Better” following the 2015 Nepal Earthquake.
10. Ms ISHIGAKI Kazuko (Regional Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Human Settlements Programme) highlighted the importance of the “People’s Process” in building resilience, where people take center-stage in the recovery process – citing cases from the Philippines, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka.
11. Dr OGAWA Yujiro (Executive Secretary, Asian Disaster Reduction Center), who moderated the discussions, said that “There is no single approach to build resilience for all. Therefore, plans, programs, and policies to promote resilience building shall incorporate local factors and realities, such as culture, geography, and demography.

### **Roundtable**

12. A total of 19 statements/presentations were delivered at the Roundtable on “National DRR Progress and Challenges”. Of these, 16 were from member countries (Armenia, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Fiji, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Türkiye, and Viet Nam) and 3 from partner organizations (ASEAN Secretariat, ADPC, and UNESCAP).
13. Activity areas that showed concrete progress include the following: development and enforcement of National DRR Strategies and Plans; implementation of Disaster Risk Governance initiatives; community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM), and pre-disaster response planning and positioning.
14. Among the challenges that members and partners commonly face include the following: many communities and infrastructure remain vulnerable; most of the Multi-Hazards Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) are not yet fully in place; and DRM agencies still need further strengthening of technical capacity for disaster risk reduction planning and operations.
15. Programmatic actions that were recommended are directed towards: strengthening knowledge exchange and information sharing; embracing technological innovations; and enhancing partnerships with the private sector.
16. Mr KITA Katsuhiko (Director, International Cooperation Division, Disaster Management Bureau, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan), who moderated the roundtable session, suggested taking the following actions to address the common challenges: adopt new ideas and assumptions to tackle changing nature of risks; stronger international cooperation; continued capacity improvement; wider application of effective mechanisms

and technologies; adopt a long-term perspective of DRR; and accelerate the implementation of the measures aligning Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

### **Session 1**

17. Dr Mandira Singh Shrestha (Director, Water Center 21 Pahal, Nepal), moderated the session on “Technological Innovations for Disaster Resilience”. She mentioned that technological innovation plays a critical role in building resilient societies. Innovations, such as AI-based forecasting, smart sensors, geospatial risk platforms, space-based applications, and multi-hazard early warning systems, can advance disaster resilience in complex and high-risk environments. In this session, seven speakers shared cutting-edge approaches in disaster-resilient infrastructure, urban planning, and ICT advancement and integration.
18. Mr NEGORO Satoshi (COO, Head of Global Business Group, Spectee Inc.) introduced a technology for visualizing crises in real-time with the use of AI in social media. This technology facilitates early warning and timely response efforts.
19. Mr NAGAISHI Takaki (Senior Solution Sales, Public & Enterprise Unit, Synsperspective Inc.) shared how SAR Satellites are utilized for monitoring and assessing disaster damage with examples from Japan.
20. Mr OKAMOTO Atsushi (General Chief Engineer, National Land Conservation Consulting Division, Asia Air Survey Co., Ltd.) reported the use of Aerial Survey, which is photogrammetry for creating maps, in disaster response and recovery efforts with examples from Japan.
21. Dr Nuraini Rahma Hanifa (Project Collaborator, National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia) reported the efforts to develop a new technology on Earthquake Early Warning Systems (EEWS) for Indonesia, where the prototype is already completed.
22. Dr KAWAKITA Shiro (Senior Researcher, Research Unit I, Research and Development Directorate, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) reported how the disaster assessment maps that overlay satellite images on Web GIS are produced and analyzed under “Sentinel Asia” – a voluntary partnership of space agencies and related organizations. He showed use cases from the Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia.
23. Ms So Byung Im (Assistant Director in Disaster Management Policy Division, Ministry of the Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea) reported an innovative technology regarding “ICT-based real-time disaster situation monitoring”. This technology also allows public participation in reporting public safety-related information.
24. Ms Jennyline Fan (Senior Assistant Director, International Affairs Branch, Singapore Civil Defence Force, Singapore) reported the Government’s use of technology for smarter disaster management and response, including space-based monitoring and risk sensing. She also introduced SIDEX, as an avenue for regional and global technological collaboration in building resilience.
25. Dr Shrestha concluded that it is important for member countries to learn about new technological innovations through their networks and apply those suited in their respective local situations. She also encouraged members to embrace Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and strengthen collaboration with science and technology communities.

## Session 2

26. Prof. Bambang Rudyanto (Wako University, Japan), who moderated this session on “Societal Foundations for Inclusive DRR”, stated that vulnerable groups (e.g., pregnant women, elderly, and persons with disabilities) face disproportionately higher risks and impacts during disasters. To achieve resilience for all, engagement of vulnerable groups in DRR efforts must be encouraged by promoting fairness in educational systems, equitable policies, and participation in community activities—as these constitute the societal foundations for inclusive DRR. In this session, five speakers highlighted experiences and initiatives across Asia that empower women, youth, and marginalized groups, with particular attention to the societal foundations that make such initiatives possible and sustainable.
27. Ms Dam Thi Hoa (Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation Viet Nam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority, Viet Nam) reported on Viet Nam’s initiative for “Coordination of DRR Partnerships” that facilitated timely decision without overlapping of roles. This initiative enabled rapid coordination among government agencies, international organisations, and NGOs during Typhoon Yagi in 2024, allowing assistance to be mobilised efficiently. A key lesson from this experience is that effective disaster response cannot depend on one institution alone, but through partnerships that require long-term relationships, trust, and coordination.
28. Mr Hisan Hassan (Chief Executive, National Disaster Management Authority, Maldives) reported the “Community-Based Disaster Risk Management in the Maldives to Enhance Resilience”. He stressed that communities are not passive recipients of aid, but the first responders in the ground in the event of a disaster. While infrastructures are rebuilt stronger, these alone are not enough without community ownership and capacity. A key message from this experience is that community-based and culturally sensitive approaches are essential for disaster risk management, especially in diverse societies.
29. Mr Lawrence Anthony Dimailig (Assistant Director, Disaster Monitoring & Analysis, AHA Centre) highlighted the “Inclusive Practices in the ASEAN” by integrating protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) in disaster governance. Inclusive DRR practices in the region are guided by the following actions: developing regional guidelines for disaggregated disaster data; cross-learning among member states on adopting the “Whole of Society” approach in DRR; and putting inclusiveness into the societal systems, moving from policy commitments to operational practice.
30. Ms Setsuko SAYA (Deputy Director, OECD Development Centre) shared insights on “How to design an inclusive Early Warning Systems”. The main idea is to address structural inequalities – such as informality, gender gaps, and digital divide – to make EWS inclusive. A key message is that EWS are only effective when they are accessible and actionable, reaching those most-at-risk and enabling them to take timely action.
31. Prof. Orhan Tatar (Director-General, Earthquake Risk Reduction, Disaster and Emergency Management Authority, Türkiye) showed specific efforts to include women, children, and PWDs in the temporary shelters following 6 February 2023 earthquakes. Accessibility programs for pregnant women, remote/online education module for children, and evacuation methods for people with disabilities were developed to promote inclusiveness. This experience is a reminder that inclusiveness contributes to building resilience for all.
32. Prof. Bambang concluded that inclusive disaster risk reduction requires coordinating before disasters, empowering communities, translating policy into action, and leaving no one behind.

### **Wrap-up**

33. Mr SASAHARA Akio (Executive Director, Asian Disaster Reduction Center) wrapped up the two-day sessions with the question: What can we do together to forge resilience? He emphasized the following actions for moving forward: i) speed up the national implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; ii) apply technological innovations that suit to respective local situations; and iii) ensure that national and local disaster risk reduction plans/programs are inclusive, such as by having disaggregated data as basis.

### **Closing**

34. In closing, Prof. MIURA Fusanori highlighted the contributions of ACDR2025. First, it provided useful information for planning the future activities of ADRC and member countries. Second, it provided an avenue to strengthen emergency preparedness and response measures through science, technology, and communications. Third, it served as a platform for sharing knowledge, building trust, and strengthening collaboration to inspire collaborative action towards safer and more resilient Asia.

35. The next ACDR will be organized at some point in October 2026.

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