



# ADRC Highlights

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### Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Workshop on the Disaster Risk Reduction in the Pacific Islands

### ADRC Staff Profile No.29

Mr. Yoshihiro Imai,  
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## ● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries ADRC Announces Inauguration of 4 Capacity-Building Projects in ASEAN Countries: Kick-off Seminar Held at 11th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management

In March 2008, the ADRC inaugurated the following four projects for ASEAN countries funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Foundation (JAIF):

(1) Disaster Risk Education, (2) Training of Local Government Officers, (3) Establishing the GLIDE-Associated Disaster Database, and (4) Training of Satellite-Technology-Driven Disaster Risk Management.

These projects were originally proposed by the Japanese government at the Second East Asia Summit in January 2007 in Cebu, the Philippines as a means of strengthening disaster management systems in East Asia with the help of the ADRC. After the Summit, the ASEAN secretariat office, ASEAN countries and the ADRC worked together to develop the specific content of the projects. The announcement

regarding the launch of these projects was made by the Japanese government at the Second Meeting of Senior Disaster Management Officials for the ASEAN +3, which was held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia on 19 March 2008.

Prior to the announcement, ADRC Executive Director Mr. Koji Suzuki and Senior Researcher Mr. Hajime Nakano explained the details of the projects at the 11th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM). In addition, a GLIDE Seminar conducted by the ADRC as part of the ACDM program drew the active participation of many relevant officials from the ASEAN countries.

Over the next three years, the ADRC expects these projects to contribute significantly to capacity-building efforts in the ASEAN countries aimed at preventing, reducing, and mitigating natural disasters.



## ● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions 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

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future flood risks posed by sea level rise attributed to climate change. This workshop was attended by DRR experts from the Solomon Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of the Fiji Islands, Tuvalu, the Kingdom of Tonga, hazard assessment advisors from the Southern Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Japanese experts, JICA representatives, and others. During the workshop, experts from the Pacific Island countries gave presentations on their DRR activities in terms of the Hyogo Framework for Action. These were followed by presentations by Recovery Expert Mr.

Masahiko Murata of the International Recovery Platform (IRP) on “Community Participation in Better Recovery,” and by ADRC Senior Researcher Mr. Hiroyuki Watabe on the “Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction Activities of the ADRC.” Mr. Masanori Nakano, Senior Regional Coordinator of the MOFA Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, discussed the possibilities for future cooperation on DRR efforts with the Pacific Islands, with an eye toward the Fifth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM5) to be held in 2009. 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. For more information, please visit the ADRC website.

(<http://www.adrc.or.jp/events/Pacific/top.html>)



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### Mr. Yoshihiro Imai, Senior Expert

My name is Yoshihiro Imai, and I was recently seconded from the Hyogo prefectural government to serve as a senior expert for the International Recovery Platform (IRP). I have worked for Hyogo Prefecture as a planner involved in the formulation of comprehensive city plans and regional plans, and the promotion of sustainable development strategies. Through my work on urban development following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake at the Hyogo Earthquake Memorial 21st Century Research Institute, I came to fully understand the IRP's principle of being “A Global Catalyst for Better Recovery” and came to better appreciate its efforts in accumulating and disseminating information and knowledge. I look forward to utilizing my past experience to improve the IRP's collection and analysis of information on regional disaster risk management plans and recovery plans.

The IRP will continue striving to share the lessons of disaster recovery with the world, through such activities as the International Recovery Forum. We appreciate your continuous support and cooperation with our endeavors.



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