



# ADRC Highlights

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## ● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

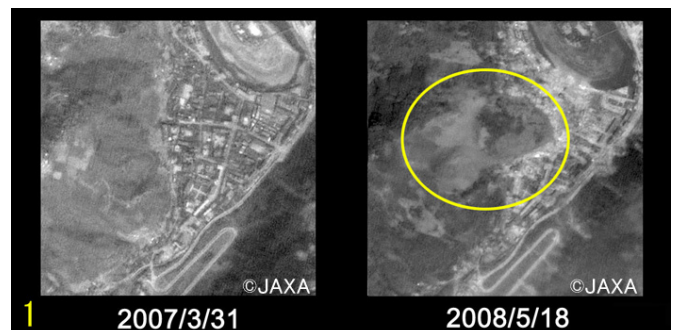
### First Joint Project Team Meeting for Sentinel Asia STEP-2 Held in Kobe

“The First Joint Project Team Meeting (JPTM) for Sentinel Asia STEP-2 (SA2)”, co-organized by the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), was held in Kobe, Japan. A total of 63 people from 18 countries and seven international organizations including the JAXA, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI), Thailand’s Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GSITADA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) attended the plenary meeting and subsequent sessions on floods and wildfires on 5 and 6 June 2008.



[Plenary Meeting]

Sentinel Asia is an Internet-based project led by the Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSF) to share disaster information, such as data from earth observation satellites, to facilitate disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region. The project is promoted by the Joint Project Team (JPT), which is comprised of APRSAF-member space agencies, disaster management organizations like the ADRC, and academic institutions like Keio University, which operates a Web-GIS system. Sentinel Asia is primarily engaged in acquiring and disseminating satellite data and images during major disasters, monitoring forest fires and floods, and capacity-building efforts. Since launching operations online in October 2006 (<http://dmss.tksc.jaxa.jp/sentinel/>), Sentinel Asia has conducted emergency observations for 22 major disasters including earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, and landslides. The ADRC serves as a gateway for emergency observation requests.



[Reading of Landslide Images before and after Sichuan Earthquake in China]

In November 2007, the APRSAF in Bangalore, India reported the success of its pilot project, STEP1 and decided to establish an enhanced

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version in STEP2. At this meeting, participants discussed the planning and implementation of STEP2 and then launched the system. STEP2 aims to further expand services by increasing the number of satellites that provide data to Sentinel Asia, distributing disaster information in consideration of the level of Internet penetration in Asia, utilizing JAXA's "Kizuna" high-speed Internet satellite, and providing value-added disaster information.

As part of the meeting, participants visited the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI) in Kobe, where they learned about the lessons and experiences gained from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.



[Visit to DRI]

**● ADRC Staff Profile No.31 & No.32****Mr. Masataka Onishi, Senior Administrative Manager**

Three months have passed since I was transferred to the ADRC. For the previous four years, I had been stationed in the Singapore Office of the Japan Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), a network of Japanese local authorities, where I served as a liaison between Japanese municipalities and their counterparts in 11 Asian countries (ASEAN member countries and India). These 11 countries were very diverse in terms of their ethnic composition, languages, historical backgrounds, degrees of economic development, and expectations regarding Japan's cooperation. As I gained an increased understanding of their circumstances, I came to appreciate the ways that Japan's knowledge could be used to contribute to their development. Thus, I must admit that it was hard for me to pull away from the work I had been doing.



This is my first time working in the field of disaster management, and I was still trying to get my bearings in these unfamiliar surroundings when the devastating Myanmar cyclone and Sichuan Earthquake occurred. In spite of efforts made to obtain information immediately after the disasters, conflicting reports made it hard to fully grasp the situation. Thus the ADRC decided to dispatch a survey team to Sichuan Province. As a result of my experiences as an official in the Hyogo prefectural government during the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, I know how difficult it is to disseminate information from a disaster-stricken area and also know that in such a crisis, local governments are buried under the immediate work at hand. During the ADRC survey, information from the affected areas was limited and support from the local governments could not be expected. However, thanks to the survey team's painstaking efforts, we were able to obtain some information from the affected areas and to exchange information with the Chinese authorities. I hope this will lead to subsequent support for recovery.

About 40% of the world's natural disasters occur in Asia while Asians comprise about 90% of the

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people affected by disasters. This may be due to several factors, including environmental and social conditions, but many lives might be saved by well-managed disaster preparedness activities. Herein lies the significance of the work of the ADRC, and I am pleased to have a chance to work in this important field.

**Mr. Naoki Yamaguchi, Senior Researcher**

My name is Naoki Yamaguchi, and I was transferred to the ADRC from the Asia Air Survey Co., Ltd. where I was involved in erosion control engineering and the Sabo landslide prevention technology. I have held posts at the Sabo Technical Center and the Rokko Sabo Office of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, did work involving sediment-related disaster prevention measures in the Rokko mountain range after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995.

Some years ago, in my role as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), I was also dispatched to serve as a forest engineer at the national forest school (La Escuela Nacional Forestal) in the Dominican Republic.

When Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans and many other cities in 2005, it passed near the Dominican Republic. I remember waiting through heavy rains for the massive hurricane to pass. We had no choice but to wait it out, since the town I was in was experiencing a blackout, as usual. We could not obtain information about the hurricane by either television or radio. This experience really reconfirmed for me the importance of disaster information communication. I look forward to utilizing the lessons of my experiences in my work with the ADRC.

**● Announcements**  
**Personnel Change**

Senior Researchers Mr. Hajime Nakano and Mr. Hiroyuki Watabe returned back to their original posts at the end of June. On 1 July, Mr. Noburu Uchiyama and Mr. Yoshiaki Ogane were assigned to the positions of Senior Researchers.

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