



ADRC Highlights

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Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Asian Disaster Reduction Center

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Happy New Year 2009



In 2008, the Asian region was seriously affected by several major disasters, including the cyclone in Myanmar and the Sichuan earthquake in China. These tragedies pose yet another painful reminder of the importance of disaster preparedness and international cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction.

In Asia, many different organizations are working toward the goal of international cooperation on disaster risk reduction. The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) is committed to working with these organizations and fostering the development of cooperative ties. At the same time, the entire ADRC staff stands united in its commitment to promote international cooperation on disaster risk reduction so that Asia can develop as a prosperous region where citizens can go about their lives with a sense of safety and security. We remain dedicated to working toward this very important goal in the new year.

Koji Suzuki, Executive Director of ADRC

● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

The Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held on 2-4 December in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Organized by the Government of Malaysia and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the conference aimed to reaffirm the commitment to implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and to promote the exchange of information on related activities. The



[Plenary Session]

Continued

conference was attended by more than 600 people including ministers and high ranking officials from Asia Pacific region, delegates from the UN and other international and regional organizations, the business sector, NGOs, academic institutions, and the media.

The conference was entitled “Multi-stakeholder Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction from National to Local” and was mainly comprised of technical sessions and high level round table meetings on six topics: public-private partnerships (PPP), applications for advanced technology, resource mobilization, disaster education, community-based disaster risk reduction, and media involvement in disaster risk reduction.

Throughout the conference including pre-conference events, special sessions and side events, ministers and experts reported on their experiences and expertise and actively engaged in the discussions from various viewpoints.

The ADRC organized a pre-conference event entitled “Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Preparedness Capacities of Central Asian Countries” with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and ISDR. This event attracted about 25 participants including ministers and high ranking officials from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as delegates from the OCHA, ISDR and ADRC. After presentations from each country and organization on its disaster risk reduction efforts, the participants vigorously discussed the possibility and need for regional cooperation in Central Asia and made assurances regarding their continued cooperation on capacity-building efforts in the region.



[Central Asia Session]

In the technical sessions, Mr. Ishida of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) outlined the Sentinel Asia project regarding advanced technology applications and Mr. Watabe of Tokio Marine & Nichido Risk Consulting Co., Ltd. gave a presentation on the perspective from insurer/modeler on PPP in disaster risk financing. In the pre-event on PPP, Mr. Takeda of Asahi Glass Co., Ltd. gave a presentation on his company's disaster-resistant glass campaign.

On the final day of the conference, delegates adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, which includes a further commitment to promoting efforts to achieve the HFA goals. The Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference will be held in the city of Incheon, Republic of Korea in the mid-term year of the HFA plan, 2010.

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