



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 197
August
2009

TOPICS

Announcements

¶ Greetings from new ADRC Executive Director, Mr. Atsushi Koresawa

Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

ADRC Welcomes a New Member: Azerbaijan

Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

2nd Joint Project Team Meeting for Sentinel Asia STEP2 (JPTM2009) Held in Indonesia

ADRC Staff Profile No. 38

Mr. Makoto Fujieda, Senior Researcher

Asian Disaster Reduction Center

Hitomiraikan 5F, 1-5-2
Wakinohamakaigan-dori,
Chuo-ku, Kobe
651-0073 Japan

Tel: 078-262-5540
Fax: 078-262-5546
editor@adrc.asia
http://www.adrc.asia

© ADRC 2009

● Announcements

Greetings from new ADRC Executive Director, Mr. Atsushi Koresawa

It is a great honor for me to assume the position of Executive Director of ADRC.

Asia is a region plagued by large-scale natural disasters, such as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, that destroy people's livelihoods and cause great despair. About 40% of all natural disasters occur in Asia, but these account for more than 80% of the number of casualties and fatalities attributed to



natural disasters. Rapid population increase, uncontrolled urbanization and development, and persistent poverty add to the disaster risks.

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), established in Kobe in 1998, promotes multilateral cooperation in the area of disaster risk reduction with partners that include the Japanese government, the governments of other member countries, advisor country governments, Hyogo prefectural government, and other relevant organizations. To achieve its goals, ADRC works to disseminate and share disaster information among member countries, including best practices and lessons learned. Recent efforts have included the use of state-of-the-art satellite data to monitor natural disasters. ADRC also engages in capacity-building efforts aimed at helping organizations at various levels cope with natural disasters. These include programs for visiting researchers from member countries, seminars, workshops, and training sessions designed to meet the specific needs of member countries, and community-level capacity-building efforts undertaken in cooperation with other international organizations and NGOs.

I am committed to the goal of delivering high-quality technical services to member countries, thereby contributing to our common objectives: disaster risk reduction and sustainable development in Asia. I look forward to your ongoing support for these efforts.

(Brief background)

Joined the National Land Agency of Japan (currently the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism) in 1988. Worked for the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) in Nairobi from 1991 to 1994 and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris from 1997 to 2000.

● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

ADRC Welcomes a New Member: Azerbaijan

In response to their application to join ADRC, and with the consent of the 27 current member countries, ADRC is pleased to welcome Azerbaijan as the

Continued

newest ADRC member country. ADRC is looking forward to further expanding its activities through the active participation of Azerbaijan.

●Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

2nd Joint Project Team Meeting for Sentinel Asia STEP2 (JPTM2009) Held in Indonesia

ADRC launched the Sentinel Asia Project in cooperation with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) to develop a disaster management system using satellite imagery in the Asian region (See Vol. 193 & 194). The second of the Joint Project Team Meetings (JPTM) for Sentinel Asia STEP2, which are to be held annually to share the latest progress being made on the project, was held this year in Bali, Indonesia on 15-17 July 2009. It was attended by 117 participants from 50 organizations including ADRC. At JPTM2009, participants introduced cases in which satellite imagery has been used and discussed new ways to effectively use satellite images.



ADRC gave a report on activities related to the Emergency Observation Requests received this year and on the establishment of the regional support office of the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER). ADRC also, together with Keio University and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), proposed the formation of a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Working Group. It was suggested that one of the activities of this working group would be to implement a project aimed at the creation of hazard maps for glacial lake outbursts in Bhutan, and at the promotion of information sharing at the government and community levels.

ADRC will provide additional progress reports on these projects in the ADRC Highlights.

●ADRC Staff Profile No. 38

Mr. Makoto Fujieda, Senior Researcher

I was transferred to ADRC from TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Services Co., Ltd.) in July 2009. As an engineering geologist, I was involved in research on electric power development and the construction of power supply facilities in Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam, and other countries. I also have been directly involved in community-driven rural development projects in Indonesia and the Philippines over the last decade.

Although disaster risk reduction is a new field for me, disaster hazards are closely linked to geological and geographical conditions, as well as social conditions. I hope that my experiences will prove useful to ADRC's disaster risk reduction efforts.

It is a great honor for me to join ADRC, and I look forward to tackling the challenges of my new position. I will do my best to promote disaster risk reduction in Asia and throughout the world, and I appreciate your continued support for my efforts.



For Inquiries & Subscription Information

For more information or details regarding email subscriptions to this newsletter, please email editor@adrc.asia.