



# ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 203  
February  
2010

## TOPICS

### Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2010 Draws to Successful Conclusion

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### ● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

#### Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2010 Draws to Successful Conclusion

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2010 was held in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan from 17 to 19 January 2010. Organized jointly by the government of Japan, the United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), the conference was scheduled to coincide with the 15th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 17 January 1995.

As many as 238 participants, including high level government officials from 28 countries, as well as representatives of 53 international and regional organizations, the academic community, the private sector, and civil society organizations attended the conference.

The ACDR 2010 offered a valuable opportunity for policymakers and practitioners from ADRC-member countries and international/regional organizations to meet together and share their experiences and lessons gained during the process of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 –Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA). It therefore provided important insights for the Mid-Term Review of the HFA as well as for ongoing preparations for the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held this coming October.



The key topics addressed at ACDR 2010 were as follows:

1. Learning lessons from recent disasters in Asia
2. Progress and shortcomings in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015
3. Expanding applications for space technologies and other technological innovations in disaster risk reduction
4. Strengthened sub-regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction

#### [Points of Discussion]

At the opening ceremony on the first day of the conference, H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Nakai, Minister of State for Disaster Management, Government of Japan, and Conference Chair, delivered opening remarks. Remarks were also given by Mr. Kenzo Oshima, Senior Vice President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), who emphasized the necessity of further promoting international cooperation on disaster risk reduction given the potential impacts of global climate change. Prof. Shigeru Ito, ADRC Chairman, expressed his high expectations for ACDR 2010.



The keynote speech was given by Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, Assistant

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Secretary-General for Disaster Reduction and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Hyogo Framework for Action in the Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. In her presentation, entitled "Five Years of the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action: Mid-Term Review," Ms. Wahlstrom invited all of the participants to make further commitments toward achieving the goals of the HFA. She also stressed the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction considerations into economic and territorial development efforts.

During active discussions in the Public Forum and breakout sessions, participants noted that the following points should be further explored in a consistent manner in each country and organization.



- Addressing climate-related natural disaster risks
- Addressing disaster risks in cities
- Transferring experiences and lessons to the next generation so they will not be forgotten
- Boosting efforts to strengthen the capacity to respond to and to deal with natural disasters not only at national level, but more importantly, at local and community levels
- Facilitating better use of space technologies in achieving disaster risk reduction objectives by raising awareness of their effectiveness among relevant institutions, and enhancing capacity building and human resource development in this field
- Further promoting the institutionalization of disaster risk reduction activities in enabling cooperation at the regional or sub-regional levels.

## **[Major Outcomes]**

Several ACDR 2010 follow-up actions were proposed as a result of discussion, especially in relation to the Mid-Term Review of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (to be held 25-28 October 2010 in Incheon, Republic of Korea to discuss climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction). These include:

- Integrating or linking climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction at all levels.
- Promoting more active involvement in efforts to mitigate urban risks using such mitigation measures as land-use planning, the management of disaster-prone human settlements, and the development of knowledge and capacities for effective disaster management.
- Strengthening policy-making, and institutional capacities for the application of advanced technologies to achieve disaster risk reduction objectives at various levels, from regional and national, to local and community levels.
- Enhancing the capacity of people and communities through training, education, and the sharing of sound practices, new technologies, and ideas.
- Strengthening cooperative and supportive relationships among countries within and between sub-regions.

The substantial contributions of all the speakers and the active involvement of the participants was largely responsible for the success of the ACDR 2010. The ADRC will continue to discuss the issues raised at the conference, treating them as priorities to be addressed in Asia in cooperation with its partners.

For more information, please visit the ACDR 2010 website at [http://www.adrc.asia/acdr/2010\\_index.html](http://www.adrc.asia/acdr/2010_index.html).

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