



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 207
June
2010

TOPICS

Promotion Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

¶ Regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction

¶ 21st Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Space Technology and Applications (SCOSA)

ADRC Staff Profile No. 39

Mr. Yasuo Kawawaki,
Senior Recovery Expert

Announcements

Personnel Changes

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 2010

● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction

Regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction has been steadily growing in recent years, as evidenced by developments in the ASEAN region, the SAARC region, the Japan-China-Korea region, and Central Asia and the Caucasus. Building on this foundation, the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2010, held in Kobe last January, further enhanced the exchange of experiences and ideas between different regions. I would like to report on some recent development along this line.



[Central Asia and Caucasus Regional Cooperation Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction]

1. Third Consultative Meeting on the Establishment of a Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordination Centre in Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 27 April 2010)

Central Asia is a region vulnerable to a variety of natural disasters including devastating earthquakes, floods, landslides/mudslides, and avalanches that have caused widespread economic and human losses. The Central Asian nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan agreed on the need for stronger regional cooperation on issues of disaster risk management and also agreed to start a dialogue regarding a regional center for disaster preparedness and response.

The 3rd Consultative Meeting on the Establishment of a Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordination Center was organized jointly by the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) Sub-regional Office for Central Asia, and was held last April in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) has been supportive of this initiative since January 2005 when the establishment of the center was first proposed at the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Japan. ADRC attended the third meeting along with the governments of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan, relevant UN organizations (UNDP, UNISDR, UNHCR), the GTZ, and the IFRC.

Over the course of the discussion, the participants raised several specific issues that need to be addressed related to the draft agreement and regulations, but agreed that there is an urgent need to establish the center. Consequently, they have agreed to set up a working-level standing committee sometime this year to address particular problems.

Continued

2. ADDMER Partnership Conference (Makati City, Philippines, 20 May 2010)

ADRC attended the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Partnership Conference held on 20 May 2010 in Makati City, the Philippines. The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) adopted the AADMER Work Program at its 15th meeting in Singapore in March. The AADMER Work Program is expected to contribute to the resiliency of peoples belonging to the ASEAN community of ten nations.



At the Partnership Conference, the ACDM members explained the ADDMER Work Program in some detail with the intention of gathering support from partners for the implementation of the program, particularly the Phase 1 (2010-2012) flagship projects. Many donors and disaster-related organizations voiced their support for advancing these projects. ADRC was invited to participate as one of partners.

3. ADRC's Cooperation with New Regional Initiatives

Regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction is still a relatively new development, and many issues therefore still remain to be resolved, such as a lack of solid financial and institutional foundations for such efforts, and divergent national interests. Nonetheless, under these cooperative frameworks, countries are expected to share information and knowledge and to build the capacity of their personnel for future disasters. Since ADRC has accumulated extensive knowledge and expertise in this area, it will continue to actively provide support for these initiatives.

21st Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Space Technology and Applications (SCOSA) 17-18 May, Vientiane, Lao PDR

ADRC attended the 21st meeting of the Sub-Committee on Space Technology and Applications (SCOSA), which was held from 17 to 18 May 2010 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Various organizations involved in space technology in the ASEAN countries attended this meeting to discuss ongoing and future projects to be implemented by SCOSA, as well as other issues related to space technologies.

At the meeting, ADRC discussed a project it has been implementing with funding from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), entitled "Satellite Data Utilization for Disaster Risk Reduction and Response." The project involves eight target ASEAN countries: Indonesia, the Philippines, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Brunei Darussalam. ADRC plans to hold a workshop concerning the utilization of satellite images for these target countries with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) of Thailand. The initial coordination meetings have already been held in each country, and ADRC is currently producing materials to be used at the seminars and trainings that are to be held in each location starting this July.

For more details on this project, visit <http://www.geoinfo.ait.ac.th/adrc/index.htm>.

●ADRC Staff Profile No. 39**Mr. Yasuo Kawawaki, Senior Recovery Expert**

On 1 April 2010, I was transferred from the Hyogo prefectural government to ADRC to serve as a senior recovery expert for the International Recovery Platform (IRP). As an engineer for Hyogo Prefecture, I was involved in land use planning and building renovations. I also managed a university established by the prefectural government and supervised several think tanks.

Although I have worked in a variety of jobs and have a unique career, this is my first experience working for the secretariat of an international organization such as the IRP. The IRP Steering Committee is comprised of 13 governments and international organizations, and the IRP Secretariat plays an important role in coordinating these organizations and enabling the IRP to serve as an international platform for post-disaster recovery.

I hope my experiences will allow me to make a valuable contribution to this important field, and appreciate your continuous support for the activities of the IRP.

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

Senior Researcher Mr. Masato Ohori retired from the ADRC at the end of May. All of us at the ADRC offer our best wishes for his continued success.

For Inquiries & Subscription Information

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