



# ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 257  
August  
2014

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## ● Announcement

### New ADRC Chairman, Dr. Masanori Hamada

Recent years have seen an increase in natural disasters around the globe, including earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, storms, landslides, and volcanic eruptions. Statistics from the last quarter century (1986-2011) show that natural disasters resulting in more than 1,000 deaths and missing persons have occurred 60 times worldwide. Significantly, 40 of these have occurred in the Asian region. This means that as many as 3/4 of the more than 1,020,000 world citizens who have lost their lives as a result of these events have come from Asia.



The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), founded in response to the tragic earthquake that struck Kobe and many of its neighboring communities in 1995, was established to promote international cooperation and collaboration for the reduction of natural disasters in the Asian region. ADRC has 30 member countries and works toward the pursuit of three main goals: (1) building a common database of natural disasters worldwide, (2) fostering professionals in the disaster management field, and (3) strengthening local capacity for disaster risk reduction and swift recovery.

The ultimate goal of ADRC is to create safer, more secure, peaceful, and healthy communities throughout the Asian region. To achieve this goal, we must strengthen our partnerships with our Asian neighbors. ADRC also cooperates with the UN and other international organizations, such as the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), on natural disaster risk reduction from a global perspective.

We hope you will support ADRC in the pursuit of these goals and that you will join us in promoting disaster reduction efforts in communities around the world.

Masanori Hamada, Ph.D.  
Chairman, Asian Disaster Reduction Center

## ● Participation in International Conferences

### IRP/ADRC Attends ASEM Manila Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management "Post-Haiyan – A Way Forward" in the Philippines

The ASEM Manila Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management "Post-Haiyan/Yolanda - A Way Forward" was hosted by the Philippines and co-hosted by Japan, the European Union (EU), and Switzerland in Manila on 4-6 June 2014. In support of the conference, ADRC sent one representative from the IRP secretariat to attend. The seminar attracted more than 280 participants including government officials from ADRC member countries, experts from across the

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Philippines, and delegates from EU countries.

Mr. Shingo Kouchi, ADRC Senior Expert and IRP Senior Recovery Expert gave a presentation for the Working Group entitled “Role of Stakeholders –National and Local Governments, NGOs, the Local Community, Media, and the Private Sector (Strengthening the Role of the State and other DRRM Stakeholders in Disaster Response and Coordination).”

In it, he applauded the government of the Philippines as well as the citizenry on their ability to promote multi-stakeholder approaches to effective disaster mitigation and prevention, as well as reconstruction and recovery. Mr. Kouchi also noted that ADRC and IRP have long been working closely with many stakeholders in the Philippines. When promoting reconstruction and recovery countermeasures after large-scale disasters like the 2014 super typhoon “Yolanda” and 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, ADRC/IRP has put particular emphasis on the concept of “building back better than before.”

The ADRC, together with the IRP, will continue striving toward the realization of disaster-resilient societies and communities across Asia by sharing Japanese technologies, experiences, and lessons learned from the past. For more information, please contact Mr. Kouchi ([kouchi@recoveryplatform.org](mailto:kouchi@recoveryplatform.org)).

**● ADRC Staff Profile No. 43 & 44****Mr. Yuji SASAKI, Senior Administrative Manager**

My name is Yuji Sasaki, and I transferred to ADRC from the Hyogo prefectural government in April 2014. I had been working primarily on the creation and promotion of such plans as the comprehensive prefectural plan and the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake disaster recovery plan. Recently, I have been involved in personnel affairs, labor management, and financial management in connection with the University of Hyogo and prefectural research institutions.

I have held a variety of jobs during my tenure with the prefectural government, but those that have left the greatest impression on me were the work I did in creating the concepts underlying the recovery plan immediately after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the development of the second five-year recovery program in 2000, five years after the earthquake.

It is my pleasure to have a chance to work in the “HAT Kobe” area, which is a symbol project of the recovery plan. Although ADRC is a small organization with only about 20 staff members, it has been making significant contributions toward strengthening disaster prevention capabilities in Asia through cooperation with international organizations such as the United Nations and APEC, and through the powerful human networks of the ADRC membership. I have only been in this role for a few months, but I believe that ADRC is an organization that can play an even more significant role.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to work as a staff member of ADRC, and I will use the full breadth of my experience to ensure that ADRC will continue be managed effectively. I look forward to your warm support and guidance during my time working at ADRC.

**Mr. Takeshi NAKAO, Senior Researcher**

Having previously worked for Asia Air Survey Co., Ltd, I joined the ADRC as a Senior Researcher in July 2014. Having spent 30 years as an engineer at a construction consultancy, my work has primarily involved slope disaster prevention surveys, groundwater investigations, and geological surveys, including the following:

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- Slope disaster prevention surveys on roads, railroads, and dam reservoirs
- Groundwater investigations and geological surveys associated with dam and highway construction
- Geological and topographical surveys associated with power transmission line construction
- Wide-area groundwater investigations across plains and basins
- Surveys of large scale landslide disasters caused by earthquakes and heavy rain



From the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake in May 2012 until June 2014, I measured air radiation doses in tens of thousands of locations mainly in Fukushima Prefecture. Even more than a year after the disaster, I found that there were still many remnants of the tsunami and earthquake within a 20 km radius of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. I would like to develop the work that I am taking over from my predecessor. In the future, the scope of this work is sure to expand overseas, particularly to Asia, and I hope that I will be able to take advantage of my knowledge of the ground-related disasters that Japan has experienced to help contribute to disaster management and reduction efforts throughout the Asian region.

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