



ADRC Highlights

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● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Japan-Singapore Partnership Program for the 21st Century "Disaster Risk Reduction and Management"

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted the Japan-Singapore Partnership Program for the 21st Century "Disaster Risk Reduction and Management" for disaster management officials in ASEAN countries from 27 November to 9 December 2016. This event was conducted in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore.

The Japan-Singapore Partnership Programme for the 21st Century (JSPP21) was established in May 1997 to signify a widening of the scope of technical cooperation between Singapore and Japan with the intention of enhancing ASEAN integration and sharing the two countries' experience in their areas of expertise. Priority is placed on training and capacity building for officials who are in charge of disaster management. This year marked the first time for the training course to be held in Japan. The course was conducted for 16 central and local government officials representing seven countries: Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, and Vietnam.

Participants attended lectures and visited central and local government agencies, research institutes, and NGOs to comprehensively enhance their understanding of disaster management. For instance, staff members of the Singapore Civil Defence Force had a two-day lesson on disaster management in urban areas. This lesson focused on emergency response, firefighting activities, and training for capacity building. In addition, participants also visited Minami-Sankiru town, one of the areas devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake. There they learned about "Recovery in Industry" from the Tourist Agency of Minami-Sanriku Town.

It is hoped that the participants will make good use of the knowledge, tools, and methods they learned during this training course to implement various projects and help strengthen the disaster management systems in their home countries. ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all the organizations that contributed to the success of this course.



● Participation in International Conferences

23rd Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-23)

The 23rd Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) was held from 15 to 18 November in Manila, Philippines. It was co-organized by the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development - Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines (DOST-PCIEERD), Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture,

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Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). The APRSAF was established in 1993 to enhance space activities in the Asia-Pacific region. As the largest space-related conference in the Asia-Pacific region, it is attended by space agencies, governments, and international organizations such as the United Nations as well as by companies, universities, and research institutes. APRSAF currently has four working groups: the Space Applications Working Group (SAWG), Space Technology Working Group (STWG), Space Environment Utilization Working Group (SEUWG), and the Space Education Working Group (SEWG). The participants of APRSAF share information about their activities and future plans for their countries and regions in the working groups. APRSAF also supports international projects designed to find solutions to common issues such as disaster management and environmental protection.

ADRC has joined the Space Applications Working Group (SAWG), where it reports on the activities of Sentinel Asia. The Sentinel Asia initiative is an example of an activity that involves the use of space-based information in the form of satellite images for disaster management in the Asia-Pacific region. ADRC has been tasked with the responsibility for receiving emergency observation requests from ADRC member countries and Joint Project Team (JPT) members

Sentinel Asia marked its 10th anniversary in 2016. ADRC reported on the trends in emergency observation requests (EORs) over the past decade, noting that the number of EORs has been increasing in recent years. ADRC also highlighted two good practices in Vietnam and in Myanmar, two countries in which satellite images and products were effectively utilized for DRR activities. Some issues, such as data sharing among countries, still remain to be discussed.

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