



ADRC Highlights

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TOPICS

Participation in International Conferences

Participation in the APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group

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● Participation in International Conferences

Participation in the APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group

The first meeting of the APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) in 2017 was held on 18-19 February in Nha Trang, Vietnam. The meeting started with welcome remarks by Mr. Tran Quang Hoai, Vice Director, Directorate of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam, and Mr. Le Tan Ban, Director General of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, DARD of Khanh Hoa Province. The executive director of ADRC, serving as one of the co-chairs, gave remarks expressing thanks for the warm welcome, and her fellow co-chair, Dr. Le Quang Tuan, Vietnam, also gave brief remarks. The Honorable Mr. Alberto Manuel Lozada Frias, Head of the National Institute of Civil Defense (INDECI) of Peru, which hosted the EPWG meetings in 2016, sent a videotaped message due to a severe flood presently affecting his country.



This year, the host economy proposed the topic of "Advanced Science and Technology to live with a New Normal," to discuss the new realities brought about climate change. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Van Phu Chinh, Director General, Department of Natural Disaster Prevention and Control, Directorate of Water Resources, MARD, Vietnam. Dr. Le Quang Tuan first gave a brief introduction on the issue and also raised the challenges to enhance resilience to face 'New normal' of coastal deltas by fostering science and technology innovation. Many other ministries provided input, and then other economies including Singapore, Chinese Taipei, the Philippines, China, and Indonesia presented their diverse experiences of using high technology for DRR. These were followed by presentations by international organizations and the private sector including the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), World Food Programme (WFP), and the Rotary Club of Hong Kong Sunrise. EPWG then discussed its 2017 Work Plan and Strategic Plan 2017-2020, which had been intersessionally discussed. The two plans that guide the activities of the EPWG, were formally approved. The participating economies then gave updates on their recent natural disasters and major DRR policies. Mexico reported about the upcoming 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction scheduled in May in Cancun.

ADRC gave a final report on the two tsunami workshops organized last year, as well as updates on the Kumamoto earthquakes last year by highlighting the ADRC study visit to the affected area last December, which was attended by 23 ADRC member countries. ADRC also reported on the implementation of an APEC project, "Enhancing Rural Disaster Resilience through Effective Infrastructure Investment," and invited participants to discuss the concept of infrastructure Build Back Better.

Based on the discussion, ADRC together with Vietnam organized a kick-off meeting in Kobe, Japan on 13-14 March and explored the concept and cases of infrastructure BBB in APEC region. The participants visited the Rokko Sabo Office, MLIT, exchanged views with MLIT located in Tokyo by using the TV conference system of the Ministry. The team then visited the Yakigahara sediment control dam, one of the Sabo works. On the second day, the kick off team visited Hyogo Prefecture Disaster Management Center, and discussed BBB from the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, and so on.

The progress of this project will be reported to the EPWG meeting scheduled in August.

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