



# ADRC Highlights

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## ● Participation in International Conferences

### Sixth Joint Project Team Meeting for Sentinel Asia STEP3 (JPTM2018) Held in Awaji, Japan

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) participated in the Sixth Joint Project Team Meeting for Sentinel Asia, which was organized by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and ADRC from 1 to 2 November 2018 in Awaji, Japan. The meeting was attended by about 40 participants including representatives of satellite agencies, disaster management organizations, and academic institutions in Japan. The meeting primarily covered the following topics:

Session 1: Overview

Session 2: New Membership and Working Group Activities

Session 3: Users' Session

Session 4: Local Host's Session

Session 5: Project Management

Session 6: Sentinel Asia System

Session 7: Strategic Plan for Sentinel Asia (under the leadership of the Steering Committee)

Session 8: Special Session - Contributions of Sentinel Asia to Achieving the Global Agenda

Session 9: Closing session

The ADRC member countries of Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Malaysia also joined this meeting and gave presentations on disaster management in their respective countries. ADRC presented information on the activation of emergency observations in 2017 and activities related to the Sentinel Asia Strategic Plan. Mr. Suzuki, ADRC Executive Director and co-chair of the event, gave closing



## **The 25th Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF)**

ADRC participated in the 25th Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) co-organized by the Singapore Space Technology Association (SSTA), Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). It was held in Singapore from 6 to 9 November 2018, and was attended by many stakeholders from Asia-Pacific space agencies, governmental bodies, international organizations, development aid agencies, private companies, universities, and research institutions from more than 40 countries and regions. APRSAF consisted of four working groups (WG), addressing space applications, space technology, space environment utilization, and space education), a small satellite development workshop, a workshop promoting the use of the Japanese experiment module "Kibo" on the International Space Station (ISS), and a plenary session.

ADRC participated in the space application WG and reported on the operational status of Sentinel Asia. ADRC also gave a report at the plenary session on Sentinel Asia's past development, the strategic plan formulated by the Steering Committee of Sentinel Asia, and its endorsement at the JPTM held on Awaji Island in Hyogo, Japan last week. On the final day, the Chairman made recommended implementing the Sentinel-Asia Strategic Plan. ADRC continues to work on the promotion of Sentinel Asia while strengthening cooperation with related organizations.

### **● Short-term Visiting Researcher Report**

#### **Ms. Anastasia Kvasha**

I'm Anastasia, a PhD candidate at the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary, originally coming from Russia. My doctoral research is focusing on the exploration of existing challenges in the application of space-based information and geospatial technologies in Disaster Risk Reduction, particularly in relation to community flood resilience. As a teaching and research assistant at CEU, I support projects and trainings organized by the Environmental Systems Laboratory.



Through the hospitality of ADRC and with the support from my home university, I was able to spend almost 3 months in Japan (from August 27 to November 10, 2018), studying local disaster management system and various projects and activities conducted by ADRC. Because of my research topic, I was especially interested to explore Center's involvement in Sentinel Asia initiative and International Charter "Space and Major Disasters". Besides that, ADRC organized for me a research visit to the Center for Research and Application of Satellite Remote Sensing (YUCARS) at the Yamaguchi University (in Ube-city), where I was able to learn about university's work as Sentinel Asia's Data Analysis Node and its cooperation activities with JAXA and Yamaguchi Prefecture.

Asia-Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world and some of the most vulnerable to floods countries are situated here – Bangladesh, China, India, Pakistan, Myanmar, and others. My research visit to ADRC helped me explore regional risk perceptions and challenges faced by communities in Japan and Asia, and get a broader understanding of the cooperation mechanisms between ADRC, international and regional initiatives, and Center's 31 member countries. It was a particularly valuable experience for me since I was also able to work closely with intern from Germany and Visiting Researchers coming from the Maldives, India, and Malaysia.

I am most grateful for this amazing experience and exceptional learning opportunity and for the endless support and encouragement I received from ADRC staff members, Visiting Researchers, YUCARS students and researchers, and everyone I happen to meet during my stay in Japan.

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