



ADRC Highlights

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Asian Disaster Reduction Center

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● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2019

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2019 was held at the Sheraton Ankara Hotel & Convention Center in Ankara, Turkey on 25-27 November 2019. The conference was organized jointly by the Government of Turkey, the Government of Japan, and ADRC. An annually organized event, ACDR aims to promote the sharing of information and practices for implementing SFDRR and the SDGs, and to further enhance partnerships among ADRC-member countries and international and regional DRR organizations. ACDR2019 was attended by 148 participants from 20 countries, as well as representatives of DRR organizations, the academic community, and the private sector. ACDR2019 constituted of an opening session, keynote speech, special presentation, and the five thematic sessions.



ACDR2019 began with opening remarks by H.E. Mr. Süleyman Soylu, Minister of Interior, Government of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Taira Masaaki, State Minister of the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, Prof. Hamada Masanori, Chairman of ADRC, H.E. Mr. Miyajima Akio, Ambassador of Japan to Turkey, and Dr. Mehmet Güllüoğlu, Head of the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD). The keynote speech was given by Prof. Dr. Zeki Hasgür, Altınbaş University, on experiences and lessons learned from the Izmit Earthquake that struck on 7 August 1999. In the special presentation that followed, Mr. Paul Elliott Rosenberg, Associate Programme Management Officer of UNDRR encouraged ADRC-member countries to monitor their efforts in implementing the priority for actions of SFDRR.

Session one, on “Recent Challenges and Innovative Approaches for Disaster Risk Reduction,” highlighted cases demonstrating the application of the latest technologies, such as the monitoring and collection of information using satellite observations and GIS data.

In session two, various reports were given on “Earthquake and Tsunami Risk Management Practices,” including building health monitoring, building codes, mitigation of GLOF impacts, and efforts to raise disaster awareness. After the sessions, participants attended a Public & Private Disaster Reduction Seminar,

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which was a side event organized by the Cabinet Office of Japan, and then visited the headquarters of AFAD to observe their operation room.

On 26 November, the third session on the theme of “School DRR Education for Enhancing Capabilities to Cope with Unexpected Situation in Disasters” highlighted reports on school DRR education practices by member countries, UN and donor agencies, and NGOs. Also, a senior high school student gave a presentation on his experiences and lessons learned at a World Tsunami Awareness Day 2019 event that was organized in Hokkaido, Japan in 2019.

During session four on the “Development of Strategy for Regional Sandstorm Disaster Risk Reduction,” presenters reported on the impacts of sand and dust storms (SDS), as well as practices for monitoring and measuring these storms, and highlighted the importance of promoting cooperation among member countries and at the regional level.

During session five, entitled “Recovery from Mega-Disasters,” member countries gave presentations on experiences and lessons learned in their recovery process, reaffirming the importance of preparedness and institutional arrangements for recovery.

To conclude the conference, ADRC Executive Director Mr. Suzuki Koji and the session chairs summarized the sessions.

On 27 November, participants went on a field trip to learn about Turkish history and culture by visiting various museums and old streets in Ankara city. Details of ACDR2019 are available on the ADRC website at https://www.adrc.asia/acdr/2019_index.php.

● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

JICA Training “Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction for the African Region”

From 24 September to 1 November 2019, ADRC, in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), conducted a course entitled “JICA Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction for the African Region.” The training was attended by 14 government officials in charge of disaster risk reduction for seven countries, namely Algeria, Cape Verde, Egypt, Eswatini, Ghana, Malawi.

During this training, participants attended a series of lectures on such topics as the Japanese disaster management system at the central and local levels, Japanese measures against flooding, sediment disasters, and earthquakes, school disaster education, community-based disaster risk management, and the role of meteorological observatories. In addition, they participated the ADRC’s town watching exercise, in addition to visiting the areas affected by a flooding disaster along the Kinugawa River. The trainees showed great interest in Japanese disaster management systems and efforts at disaster risk reduction and were keen to learn from every lecture and exercise offered during this training course. It is hoped that the participants will make good use of the knowledge and methods they learned during this course to help strengthen the disaster management systems in their home countries. ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all of the organizations that contributed to the success of this course.



Visiting the flood disaster area along the Kinugawa River

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