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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020

I would like to wish you all a very healthy and prosperous New Year! We are deeply grateful to you for your steadfast support for our efforts and for your engagement in the work we do here at the Asian Disaster Reduction Center.

Last year was another year of notable natural disasters around the globe. These ranged from windstorms and floods often attributed to global climate change, to forest fires caused by extreme dry weather, to drought and massive dust storms. Many of these were concentrated in Asia. Japan was no exception, as Typhoons 15 and 19 caused river flooding, urban flooding, and landslides, with as many as 100 people having perished as a result. We are keenly aware of the increasing importance of role that is being played by ADRC.

Given this, we have decided to reconfigure the domestic organizational structure of ADRC. For the 21 years since it was established, ADRC has functioned as part of the Urban Disaster Research Institute. In April of this year, however, we will launch the Asian Disaster Reduction Center Foundation which will support the operations of the ADRC as an international organization and will further bolster ADRC activities domestically.

Last year's Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) was held in the Turkish capital of Ankara, which at that time had just become a member of ADRC. Turkey has experienced many of tragic natural disasters, like many countries in Asia, but is working to use the lessons of those disaster experiences to build a country and society that are more resistant to natural disasters. Turkey's experiences with disaster response and recovery are expected to prove useful in helping reduce the impact of disasters in other Asian countries.

This year, all of us at ADRC are fully committed to continuing to provide excellent support to our member countries. We will help develop cooperative networks among member countries, and provide capacity development opportunities, by holding international events including the ACDR. We will develop and disseminate disaster management information by increasing the capacity of Sentinel Asia, and also will strive to support the development of the disaster management organizational structures and systems of our members. We look forward to your ongoing support and cooperation as we pursue all of these crucially important activities.



● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

JICA Training Course: Promotion of Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction

As the course leader for several training courses, ADRC is responsible for developing the course design, conducting follow-up on the lectures/visits, and facilitating workshops on the development of local DRR plans.

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The “Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction” course is a high quality and innovative course conducted by JICA. It was implemented for two weeks on 1-14 December 2019 and was attended by 22 officials from 11 countries including nine ADRC member countries, namely, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam. In this course, we aimed to raise the satisfaction of trainees by combining lectures, inspections, and pragmatic exercises. These include an exercise that teaches 8 steps for developing a local DRR plan, and a series of lectures and site visits to explore such topics as the Japanese disaster management system at the national level, the reconstruction plans adopted by the City of Kobe after the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake, and water management measures to prevent flooding in Tokyo. It is hoped that 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.



The underground tunnel of the Kanda River/
Loop No 7 Underground Regulating Reservoir

ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all the organizations that contributed to the success of this course.

● Participation in International Conferences

26th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-26)

The 26th Session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) was held from 26 to 29 November 2019 in Nagoya, Japan. It was co-organized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

APRSAF was established in 1993 to enhance space activities in the Asia-Pacific region. Attended by space agencies, governments, and international organizations such as the United Nations as well as companies, universities and research institutes, this forum is the largest space-related conference in the Asia-Pacific region. APRSAF has four Working Groups: the (1) Space Applications Working Group (SAWG), (2) Space Technology Working Group (STWG), (3) Space Environment Utilization Working Group (SEUWG), and (4) Space Education Working Group (SEWG). APRSAF participants share information about their activities and future plans for their countries and regions in each working group. APRSAF also supports international projects designed to find solutions to common issues such as disaster management and environmental protection.

The Sentinel Asia initiative is one such activity and involves the use of space-based information in the form of satellite images for disaster management. ADRC has been tasked with the responsibility of receiving emergency observation requests from ADRC member countries and Joint Project Team (JPT) members. ADRC joined the Space Applications Working Group (SAWG) and reported on trends in Sentinel Asia emergency observation requests and its future action plans.



Presentation by ADRC

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