



# ADRC Highlights

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## ● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

### JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program: Second Edition "School-based Disaster Education in Turkey"

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted the second edition of the "School-based Disaster Education in Turkey" course from 20 to 31 January 2020 with the cooperation of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kansai International Center. The first edition of the course was conducted in September 2019. The course was designed to share Japanese knowledge and experiences and to help further enhance the holistic Teacher Training System for School-based Disaster Education in Turkey. It was attended by 20 people, including officials from the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and schoolteachers from Turkey.

The training focused on practical approaches to teaching students about disasters and DRR in schools. Participants visited various schools, observed DRR lessons and drills, and talked with teachers at schools including Kobe Kindergarten in Kobe, Takasago Elementary School in Sendai, Yuriage Compulsory Education in Natori, and Nakadai Junior High School in Tokyo. Further, they observed and attended the Miyagi Junior Leader Training Program which was organized and designed by Tagajo High School in Takajo for high school students from throughout Japan to jointly learn disaster risk reduction through group work, a poster session, and a seminar. Participants learned how educational tools and materials, such as card games, practical exercises, and picture stories, can be used in school DRR education. The participants recognized the effectiveness of active and practical learning for DRR.

The participants, who were selected based on the results of an online training test conducted by MoNE before the JICA course, as well as on their passion for promoting DRR education, were very actively engaged in the training course. The Deputy Minister of MoNE just happened to be visiting Japan for another purpose at the same time, and joined portions of the training program, including the final presentation of action plans proposed by the participants. The Deputy Minister was deeply impressed by the participants' eager engagement, and gained many ideas for expanding and further strengthening school DRR education in Turkey. It is hoped that all 34 participants, including those that attended the September 2019 course, will become leaders for promoting school DRR education in Turkey. It is hoped that they will make good use of the knowledge, technologies, and methods they learned from these training courses, and will be able to take advantage of the network of personal contacts they established by participating in the courses.



Poster session during the Miyagi Junior Leader Training Program



Workshop used educational tools for DRR studies



Observing lessons at Takasago elementary school

## ● Participation in International Conferences

### APEC-related Meeting (Malaysia)

Mr. Koji Suzuki, ADRC Executive Director was appointed to serve as co-chair of Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG)/APEC in January 2020. He participated in the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH)-Committee of the Whole Meeting (SCE-COW), the informal meeting of SCE-COW and Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Post 2020 Vision from 17 to 19 February 2020 in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

At the SCE-COW, the APEC economies were briefed by chairs and co-chairs of the working groups of the ECOTECH Committee on their 2020 work plans, and submitted their comments and questions.

At the informal meeting of the SCE-COW held on the 17 February, the chairs, co-chairs, and APEC Secretariat shared their 2020 work plans, so as to facilitate potential collaborations.

During the formal SCE-COW meeting on 18 February, the APEC economies expressed their suggestions and raised questions regarding each of the 2020 work plans. The Thai delegation expressed its expectations regarding a collaboration with the EPWG and Health Working Group for managing the coronavirus incident.



## ● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

### Mr. Ranjith ALAHAKOON (Sri Lanka)

I am Ranjith Alahakoon, and I work as an Assistant Director of the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) in the Puttalam District of Sri Lanka. The DMC is the agency responsible for disaster management in Sri Lanka, and it currently operates under the Ministry of Defense. I joined the DMC in 2018 after five years of serving as a Disaster Relief Services Officer in the National Disaster Relief Services Center of the Ministry of Disaster Management. I earned a bachelor's degree in Geography (Special) in 2009 from the University of Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka, and earned a master's degree in Geography Information Systems & Remote Sensing in 2018 from the Post Graduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka. I trained as a JICA young leader in disaster management.

In my current role, I am responsible for ensuring the full range of Disaster Preparedness, Response, Mitigation, and Training & Awareness Activities across the entire district to achieve the Sendai Targets.

The Visiting Researcher Program at ADRC has afforded me the opportunity to learn about disaster countermeasures and to learn about disaster management perspectives and activities. Japan's role in the field of disaster management is particularly remarkable as a result of its vast experience in facing serious disasters. During my time here, I would like to learn about the preparation of emergency response and recovery plans for flood hazards, so that I can use this knowledge to improve disaster emergency response and recovery planning capabilities at the national and subnational levels in Sri Lanka. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan, ADRC, the government of Sri Lanka, and the DMC, Sri Lanka for their support for this work.



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