



# ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 331  
October  
2020

## TOPICS

### Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

¶ Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2020

¶ Report from Member Countries: Bangladesh and Singapore

### Announcement

The United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction: Lessons Learned During an Unprecedented Pandemic

### Asian Disaster Reduction Center

Higashikan 5F, 1-5-2  
Wakinohamakaigan-dori,  
Chuo-ku, Kobe  
651-0073 Japan

Tel: 078-262-5540  
Fax: 078-262-5546  
editor@adrc.asia  
https://www.adrc.asia

© ADRC 2020

## ● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

### Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2020

This year's Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2020 was held virtually due to the worldwide spread of COVID-19, and consisted of the following three components:

- (1) ACDR 2020 website launch, report collection and publication
- (2) Online conference
- (3) Final report

The online conference was conducted from 20-22 October 2020, and participants included representatives from member countries, international organizations, NGOs, academic/research institutes, and the private sector, among others. Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all the participants for taking the time to share their experiences.

You can view the three days of meetings using the links below by 31 December 2020. More information about the conference will be included in the next issue of ADRC Highlights.

(English)

Day 1: <https://youtu.be/oh1rd3MtPC0>

Day 2: <https://youtu.be/kjeUsB0SyLA>

Day 3: <https://youtu.be/hJbd9OLyWag>



Online Conference

### Report from Member Countries: Bangladesh and Singapore

This year's ACDR has included an online platform for collecting reports from member countries on the following two themes: (1) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Measures and Challenges to the Intensifying Disaster Risks and (2) Disaster Preparedness and Response Measures Amidst COVID-19. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight extracts from two of those reports, from Bangladesh (Theme 1) and Singapore (Theme 2).

## Continued

### Bangladesh: Issues and Challenges for Disaster Risk Reduction under Changing Disaster Conditions and Climate Change

Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to the long-term impacts of climate changes and multi-hazard risks associated with extreme events. There are several challenges including chronic salinity intrusion due to storm surge, sea level rise, flooding, riverbank erosion, agricultural drought, environmental degradation, etc.

In addition, Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned, 20 million people of Bangladesh may be internally displaced by 2050 due to climate change.

When it happens, living environment will be quite imbalanced and economically unstable both in the rural and urban areas.

To combat that situation and minimizing future risks, prudent and effective strategies for DRR are required. Therefore, we need more investment for robust infrastructures in a planned way through risk informed land use plan. For recognizing the hazard and risks correctly, it is necessary to accumulate more disaster related data and information so that proper action can be taken proactively.

Considering the impact of climate change for future risk, we will also have to seek innovative solutions and new sets of skills for reaching the last mile to the people, using latest technologies such as AI, drones, robots, remote sensing technologies.

Bangladesh is now examining what kind of balanced technologies can be applied for disaster risk reduction that can be acceptable for people considering the future risks and sustainable development of the country.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Singapore: Issues and Challenges for Disaster Risk Management in the “New Normal”

The pandemic could persist for many more months with foreseeable knock-on effects on how countries prioritise DRR efforts while grappling with the “here and now” and “bread and butter” issues given the impact on lives and livelihoods. The economic impact of the pandemic could see DRR activities held off for an even longer time.

Yet amidst the challenges, there are optimism and opportunities to be seized in the “New Normal”. The harsh reality and impact brought by the pandemic showed the importance of emergency preparedness and crisis response readiness. Countries which have managed the pandemic well generally have contingency plans to respond to the crisis readily and are flexible to adapt their strategies to address the evolving and dynamic situation. The pandemic also accelerated digital transformation and the use of information technology in how we live, work and play. Integrating technology in crisis management strategies has facilitated clear, timely and open public communications to instill greater public trust and confidence.

Closer collaboration and solidarity amongst nations is ever more critical for effective Disaster Risk Management. Holding a longer-term view while addressing the near-term issues and building on the lessons/opportunities drawn from the pandemic, the World can emerge from the pandemic stronger, more resilient and future-ready in disaster risk reduction and management.

\*\*\*\*\*

You can see the full report on the ACDR2020 website:  
<https://acdr.adrc.asia/>.



ACDR2020 website (<https://acdr.adrc.asia/>)

**● Announcement****The United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction: Lessons Learned During an Unprecedented Pandemic**

The United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction: Lessons Learned During an Unprecedented Pandemic will be held online on 24-25 November 2020. This conference is organized by the Beijing office of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), a UNOOSA program.

At this conference, Koji Suzuki, Project Director of ADRC, will give a presentation entitled “Sentinel Asia Activation for a Flood Disaster in Japan During the COVID-19 Outbreak” (tentative). This presentation will explain how space-based technologies were effectively employed to better mitigate this disaster under the challenging conditions posed by the pandemic.

ADRC has been the Regional Support Office (RSO) of UN-SPIDER since 2009 and is one of the core agencies of Sentinel Asia, the platform for facilitating the application of space-based technology and data to disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific.

Please see the link below for further information.

<https://un-spider.org/news-and-events/events/un-international-conference-beijing-2020>

**For Inquiries & Subscription Information**

For more information or details regarding email subscriptions to this newsletter, please email [editor@adrc.asia](mailto:editor@adrc.asia).