



ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

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Can We Adapt to the New Normal? Approaches from Asia

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● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

VR Online-Program

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) has been conducting its Visiting Researcher (VR) program and inviting VRs from ADRC member countries to spend time in Japan since 1999. As of March 2021, 117 officials from 27 member countries have participated in the program, enabling ADRC to contribute to human resource development and disaster information sharing in those countries. During the program, VRs will study some of the most innovative and practical initiatives and technologies in the DRR field, and will learn about Japan's cooperation with and involvement in relevant international organizations. VRs are expected not only to help strengthen the DRR capacity of their own countries, but also to further promote cooperation between their countries and ADRC.

ADRC selected four VRs in FY2020, representing Myanmar, Thailand, India, and Bangladesh, but could not hold its regular on-site program in Japan due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ADRC therefore decided to hold courses on basic disaster prevention knowledge and to help the VRs decide on their research themes online. This "Online VR Program" was held from February to March in 2021 and consisted of several lectures on such topics as disaster management in Japan, the promotion of DRR education in schools, GLocal IDentifier numbers (GLIDE), raising disaster awareness for people, gender perspectives in disaster management, and integrating pre-disaster recovery planning in DRR plans. To publicize the VR program broadly, officials of ADRC member countries were invited to attend and listen to these online lectures.



ADRC Online-Program on DRR for Future Visiting Researcher

Disaster Management in Japan

Mr. NAKAGAWA Masaaki

4 March 2021

This year's VRs and Online VR Program

● Participation in International Conferences

2021 Trilateral Working-Level Consultation Meeting on Disaster Management between China, Japan and the Republic of Korea

ADRC participated in the 2021 Trilateral Working-Level Consultation Meeting on Disaster Management on 25 March 2021, which was held in an online format. Disaster management organizations, research institutes, and international organizations from Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea participated in this virtual meeting.

Mr. IKEDA Makoto, ADRC Senior Researcher, participated and gave a presentation on useful applications of DRR technology that can be transferred to Asian countries. For instance, ADRC introduced Red Relief Image Map (RRIM), which make it easier to visually understand what is happening in areas affected by a disaster. ADRC also talked about gabion walls, which can provide protection from landslides, and "Relay-by-Smartphone," which can be used to connect smartphones when communication networks are disrupted during a disaster. The case studies from Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea that were shared at this meeting will be published in a booklet later this year.

ADRC would like to be a strong bridge between these three neighboring countries and to find ways to share these important technologies across Asia.



ADRC Senior Researcher Mr. IKEDA Makoto at the meeting

● Announcement

ADRC Publication: *Can We Adapt to the New Normal? Approaches from Asia*

ADRC held its annual meeting, the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2020 (ACDR2020), online for the first time in 2020 due to the spread of COVID-19 worldwide. The entire conference was held online, and covered themes including "Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Measures and Challenges to Intensifying Disaster Risks" and "Disaster Preparedness and Response Measures Amidst COVID-19." Information and reports submitted by member countries and DRR experts were also posted on the conference website.

In early April 2021, ADRC published a booklet entitled *Can We Adapt to the New Normal? Approaches from Asia* based on the outcomes of ACDR2020. It is available for purchase on Amazon.com, in both paperback and Kindle formats.

Continued**Paperback version**

<https://www.amazon.co.jp/gp/product/4991200806> (Japan)

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/4991200806> (U.S.A.)

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/4991200806> (U.K.)

<https://www.amazon.fr/gp/product/4991200806> (France)

Kindle version

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<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B091D5JMQ7> (U.S.A.)

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B091D5JMQ7> (U.K.)

<https://www.amazon.fr/dp/B091D5JMQ7> (France)



Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2020
**Can We Adapt to the New Normal?
- Approaches from Asia -**
Disaster risk reduction measures and challenges to the intensifying disaster risks
Disaster preparations and response measures amidst COVID-19

*Can We Adapt to the New Normal?
Approaches from Asia*

Personnel Change

Ms. WATANABE Tae, Administrative Manager, retired and Mr. OTSUJI Seiji, Researcher, left his position at ADRC at the end of March 2021. All of us at ADRC offer our best wishes for their continued success.

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