



ADRC Highlights

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● Announcement

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR2021)

Since its establishment in 1998, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) has endeavored to enhance the disaster risk reduction (DRR) capabilities of its member countries mainly through information sharing and human resource development activities conducted in cooperation with various partner organizations. Among these is the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR), which has been held 19 times since 2003. It aims to promote information sharing and to strengthen partnerships among member countries. The ACDR is an annual conference hosted each year by one of our member countries. In 2020 however, it was held virtually due to the worldwide spread of COVID-19. ACDR2021 will also be held virtually.

Despite continued efforts by member countries to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), the damage caused by disasters has increased in recent years due to the global climate crisis and the increasing vulnerability of cities, among others. To save human lives and ensure the sustainable development of all countries and regions, systems and technologies must be leveraged to build a disaster resilient society.

ACDR2021 will focus on three themes to facilitate the discussions of future actions among member countries:

- 1) Building a resilient society in the face of the intensifying climate crisis and increasing urban vulnerability
- 2) Strengthening disaster preparedness (disaster education, promotion of disaster volunteer activities, etc.)
- 3) Developing DRR technologies that meet local needs to create a safe, secure, and livable society.

1. ACDR2021 Structure

- (1) ACDR2021 website launch, report collection and publication (Jul.-Nov.)
- (2) Online conference (14-16 Dec.)
- (3) Final Report

2. ACDR2021 Website

Registration and conference information will be available on the ACDR2021 website in July.

Second ADRC Online DRR Seminar "DRR Education and Awareness Raising through Passing Down of Lessons from Past Disasters"

ADRC is pleased to present the second in our series of ADRC Online DRR Seminars (the first was held 15 June 2021) entitled "DRR Education and Awareness Raising through Passing Down of Lessons from Past Disasters" on 13 July 2021.

Continued

The second seminar has several goals:

- To share experiences around how Asian countries conduct DRR education and raise public awareness by passing down lessons from past disasters.
- To seek effective methodologies for DRR education and public outreach to promote and encourage proactive actions during disasters, including the transmission of lessons learned from past disasters.
- To enhance cooperation among Asian countries on promoting DRR education and raising public awareness to enable those countries to further develop their ability to proactively protect themselves.
- To produce results that can be shared at the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2021 to be held in December 2021.

The seminar will aim to answer the following questions:

- What kinds of methodologies are effective in promoting DRR education and public outreach for encouraging proactive actions in a disaster?
- Can we more clearly realize the importance of disaster preparedness by learning lessons from past disasters?
- Has passing down lessons from past disasters led to the promotion of DRR activities and the mitigation of disaster impacts?
- Can passing down lessons of past disasters help overcome the normality biases that cause the opportunistic interpretation of disasters?
- How can we further facilitate learning from past disaster experiences? What roles can disaster museums, monuments, etc. play in DRR?

For details on the second seminar, please visit: <https://acdr.adrc.asia/home/2021Seminar>

To participate, please register through the ZOOM (<http://bit.ly/adrcseminar2>) or watch the livestreamed event on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/4im3dDVOurw>).

We look forward to meeting you at the event!



13 July 2021(Tue.)
15:00 - 16:30
[Japan Time, GMT+9]

Second Seminar

DRR Education and Awareness Raising through Passing Down of Lessons from Past Disasters

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● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

First Seminar Showed Various Perspectives on Investing in DRR

ADRC has organized a series of five online DRR seminars leading up to the ACDR2021 in December 2021. The first seminar, held on 15 June 2021, adopted the theme of Investing in Disaster Risk for a Resilient Society. Three speakers shared various perspectives with more than 300 participants from 20 countries.

Dr. Jun Rentschler, Senior Economist at the World Bank, said that "investing in resilience is sound, profitable, and urgent." He supported this claim with evidence-based case studies and statistics showing that every \$1 invested in infrastructure resilience results in \$4 in net benefit. He also showed the challenges experienced by lifeline infrastructures, and pointed to the urgency of further investing in resilience. He argued that delaying such action is causing an estimated loss of \$100 billion in one year.

Mr. Ronald Jackson, Head of DRR and Recovery for Building Resilience Team at UNDP-Geneva, presented UNDP's holistic perspective on building resilience known as "Signature Solutions." This implements six cross-cutting approaches to development: poverty, governance, resilience, environment, energy, and gender. Mr. Jackson cited examples of UNDP's disaster risk mitigation programs in Pakistan (water conservation), Belize (gender and livelihoods), Ukraine (community-based disaster risk mitigation), Iran (climate change adaptation planning), and Rwanda (awareness raising) where Signature Solutions have been implemented.

Prof. NISHIKAWA Satoru at the Disaster Mitigation Research Center of Nagoya University stressed the importance of "pre-disaster" actions or investments in DRR based on the outcomes of empirical studies and lessons from past disasters in Japan. He said that after World War 2, Japan was in ashes and infrastructure recovery was impeded and even further damaged by the impacts of typhoons. In order to prevent future typhoon damage, Japan invested in flood control using funds borrowed from the World Bank. Since then, Japan has strengthened investments in DRR by regularly evaluating what went wrong and went right with pre-disaster countermeasures.

Mr. NAKAGAWA Masaaki, Executive Director of ADRC, moderated the discussions and offered two key takeaways at the closing. First, funds for DRR should not be seen as an expense but as an investment. It was clear from the presentations, and affirmed during the discussions, that \$1 in DRR investment would render \$4 in benefits. Moreover, DRR investments are not always infrastructure investments. Stakeholders can also invest in planning, policies, regulations, databases, and nature-based solutions. Second, DRR investments must be people-centered. As observed in the past, investments focused on economic growth could expand income inequality, such that poor people remain disproportionately affected by disasters or global pandemics.

For copies of the presentations and other details, please visit the ADRC website:
<https://acdr.adrc.asia/home/2021Seminar>



Clockwise from top left: Dr. Rentschler (WB), Mr. Jackson (UNDP), Mr. Nakagawa (ADRC), and Prof. Nishikawa (Nagoya University)

● Participation in International Conferences

ASEAN related Conference

The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) presents mechanisms for effective disaster risk reduction that call for strengthening regional and international cooperation on disaster risk reduction efforts in order to mitigate the damage caused by natural hazards in the 10 ASEAN countries. In this virtual conference, the ASEAN secretariat outlined the AADMER Work Program 2021-2025 which highlights five priority activities. Statements were issued by disaster management organizations, international organizations, and other related institutions in the ASEAN countries outlining their contributions to the AADMER Work Program 2021-2025.



Mr. NAKAGAWA Masaaki, ADRC Executive Director, presenting a statement

ADRC Executive Director Mr. Nakagawa gave a statement highlighting the contributions of ADRC's DRR projects, such as the GLIDE system for sharing disaster information, ADRC efforts to strengthen networks among ASEAN countries, and the ERIA (Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia) research project.

APEC Workshop on Enhancing Participation in Flood Disaster Preparedness Through Community-based Hazard Mapping

On 15-24 June 2021, the Workshop on Enhancing Participation in Flood Disaster Preparedness Through Community-based Hazard Mapping was organized by University Putra Malaysia, Global Environment Centre and the Malaysian Water Partnership. The workshop, funded by APEC, aims to increase the capacity of community trainers to enhance community resilience against flood disasters, and to address the issue of increasing flood risk as a result of climate change and growing human settlements in flood-prone areas.

On 17 June, ADRC presented the method developed by the first ADRC Executive Director and present Executive Secretary Prof. OGAWA Yujiro, and explained its applications to some 50 participants from APEC economies. After learning about the community-based hazard mapping method, they are expected to learn to incorporate this approach into local disaster management plans and training modules.

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