



ADRC Highlights

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● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Second Seminar Highlights DRR Education Utilizing Lessons from Past Disasters

On 13 July 2021, Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) organized the second in its series of online DRR seminars entitled "DRR Education and Awareness Raising through the Passing Down of Lessons from Past Disasters" (the first seminar was held on 15 June 2021). The online seminar, attended by 281 people from all over the world, showcased current efforts and challenges in promoting DRR education and awareness raising by utilizing past disaster experiences effectively in order to pass them on to the next generation. We invited three speakers with various backgrounds in areas such as cognitive psychology, social anthropology, and experience with an international NGO.

The first speaker, Prof. MURAMOTO Toshiaki (IRIDeS, Tohoku University), stated that one challenge in handing down the memories and lessons of disasters is that "when people are unable to conceive the reality of a disaster, they tend to treat it as someone else's business." To address this, Prof. Muramoto introduced an innovative educational method that could provide an opportunity for students to perceive disasters as "their own business." This method involves: (1) interdisciplinary lectures at school; (2) visits to disaster-affected areas and opportunities to hear the stories from 'kataribe'/storytellers, visits to memorial monuments and museums, and interacting with victims; (3) group work to identify challenges for earthquake recovery and to explore ways to solve those challenges; and (4) planning and execution of lectures on DRR for other students based on their learning. By creating a protocol in which "learners become teachers," students might better be able to view disasters as "their own business;" that is, as having direct relevance to them.



Prof. Muramoto of Tohoku University (Top left), Ms. Vanda Lengkong of Plan International (Top right), and Dr. Sébastien Boret of Tohoku University (Bottom left)

Continued

Next, Ms. Vanda Lengkong (Plan International Asia Pacific Regional Office) reported that in Southeast Asia, DRR education is promoted through the ASEAN Safe School Initiative (ASSI). This government-led initiative is conducted in partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs). The initiative fosters cross-sectoral coordination between the disaster management sector and the education sector. It creates space to discuss and share school safety technical resources, approaches, and sound practices to minimize the impacts of disasters on children and the education sector. This initiative is unique in that the elements included in the formal educational system are supplemented with DRR educational activities for children and parents in the community. In Indonesia for instance, "wayang" (puppet shows) are used as educational tools for sharing DRR knowledge and lessons.

Finally, Dr. Sébastien Boret (IRIDeS, Tohoku University) pointed to the importance of museums and monuments as methods of DRR education, particularly in promoting "collective memory." He cited the example of Aceh Tsunami Museum in Indonesia, which functions not only as a center for education and learning but also as a memorial, an evacuation building, and an activity space where the community can gather and interact. Additionally, Dr. Boret showed examples of monuments to the Great East Japan Earthquake. He argued that these monuments create places where community members are able to express their grief collectively, and where they can also learn about the history of local disasters. Monuments also constitute a local heritage asset that promotes disaster tourism.

Mr. NAKAGAWA Masaaki, ADRC's Executive Director concluded the event by noting that the methodologies of DRR education are most effective at encouraging proactive learning and action when they are appropriate for a given context and aligned with a community's culture and practices.

For more information on this seminar series, please visit the following website:

<https://acdr.adrc.asia/home/2021Seminar>

**The GLIDE Steering Committee Meeting**

A meeting of the newly established GLIDE Steering Committee was held on 30 June 2021. The committee was established to strengthen the governance and to further develop and promote that project, which ADRC has been implementing together with partner organizations for over 20 years. The meeting was attended by 17 experts from 10 organizations including UN agencies, international organizations, and research institutes.

Prof. ONO Yuichi of Tohoku University was elected to serve as the chair of the Steering Committee for this year. Going forward, committee meetings will take place regularly to address various issues.

● Participation in International Conferences

International Workshop on the Accessibility of Emergency and Evacuation Plans and Systems

On 15 June 2021, ADRC participated in an "International Workshop on the Accessibility of Emergency and Evacuation Plans and Systems," which was organized by the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services in Turkey. This workshop was held in an online format, and DRR institutions and organizations from around the world gave updates on the latest DRR activities related to the accessibility of emergency and evacuation plans and systems.

ADRC participated in Session 3, "Examples of Good Practices for the Accessibility of Emergency and Evacuation Plans and Systems" and gave a presentation on people requiring assistance during a disaster, as mentioned in the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act of Japan, and challenges in promoting DRR activity in aging societies.

The banner features the logo of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services of Turkey on the left. The text on the left side reads: "Uluslararası Katılımlı ACIL DURUM VE TAHLİYE PLANLARI İLE SİSTEMLERİNİN ERİŞİLEBİLİRLİĞİ Çevrimiçi Çalıştayı" and "“Acil Durum ve Tahliye Plan ile Sistemlerinin Erişilebilirliği Hakkında İyi Uygulama Örnekleri (2)”". Below this, it says "3. PANEL OTURUMU 15 HAZİRAN 2021". On the right, there are four circular portraits of speakers: Tayyar KUZ (Moderatör), Pavel DOBES (Akademik Çalışmacı ve AR-GE Personeli, VSB-Ostrava Teknik Üniversitesi), Makoto IKEDA (Kıdemli Araştırmacı, ADRC-Asya Afet Azaltma Merkezi), and Marcie Roth (Dünya Engellilik Enstitüsü, İcra Direktörü ve İcra Kurulu Başkanı). The banner also includes the website "aile.gov.tr/eyhgm", a YouTube icon, and the date "15 HAZİRAN 2021".

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