



ADRC Highlights

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● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Workshop at the BOSAI KOKUTAI 2022

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) organized a workshop on 22 October 2022 entitled, "Differences in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) between Japan and other countries as seen by foreign residents in Japan: cooperation starts from understanding the differences." The workshop, which was a side event at the BOSAI KOKUTAI 2022, covered a range of issues, including the engagement of foreign residents in disaster prevention activities, risk communication, and ways to bridge the differences in DRM practices among Asian countries.



Workshop organized by ADRC

In the first presentation, Dr Khaerunnisa (Head, Master of the Architecture Program, University of Atma Jaya Yogyakarta, Indonesia), a former foreign student in Osaka, pointed out that Indonesia and Japan have relatively different types of support networks for students in times of disaster. In Japan, foreign students can organize themselves to establish a network of supports. This network of students is often country-based and informal. Thus, students' access to disaster information and participation in drills conducted by Japanese local governments are limited. However, disaster information from mass media, TV, the internet, and radio are readily accessible to foreign students. By contrast, in Indonesia, it is government agencies that facilitate the organization of community networks (including student networks) to build a strong support systems in times of disaster.

Mr NAGANO Koichi (Director, Policy Planning and Coordination Department, Hyogo International Association) provided the second presentation highlighting HIA's efforts to support foreign residents during disasters. Among the efforts he mentioned were: (1) a multilingual bulletin board, aimed at providing information on disaster preparation and evacuation in times of disaster; (2) a Disaster Preparedness Guide for Children and Parents, which is to be disseminated to all residents; and (3) the My Evacuation Card, a card that provides simple instructions for evacuation in nine different languages. Mr Nagano acknowledged that HIA faces a number of challenges in implementing these activities, such as how to effectively communicate disaster forecasts and warnings to foreigners through social media and the internet with multilingual support.

Mr MAMIYA Keita (Risk Management Section Officer, Policy Department, Kusatsu City, Shiga Prefecture) shared Kusatsu City's pioneering program of organizing "Foreign Firefighters." Under this program, the city designates foreign residents who are fluent in both native and Japanese languages (as well as having a deep understanding of Japanese lifestyle and culture) to be firefighters. During normal times, foreign firefighters receive training and participate in disaster risk reduction activities, including seminars and lectures. During emergencies, foreign firefighters also help in disseminating information via social media, support safe

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evacuation, and assist in counselling using their respective native languages.

Dr Gerry Potutan (Senior Researcher, ADRC) presented the results of an online survey that looked into the differences in DRM practices between Japan and other countries as perceived by foreign residents. Results showed that foreign residents generally perceived Japan's DRM practices (e.g., hazard maps, disaster drills, evacuation guidance, and early warnings) to be "excellent" compared with their respective countries of origin. By rating these as "excellent," respondents showed that Japan can serve as a benchmark to other countries in terms of planning and designing effective DRM programs. When asked about the key challenge in risk communication, most respondents mentioned the "language barrier." To address this challenge, respondents suggested the following: use of visual tools (e.g., images, drawings, and signs); reaching out to foreign residents early (e.g., during arrival and registration) regarding disaster preparedness; and enhancing multilingual services (e.g., offering translations and subtitles in more languages).

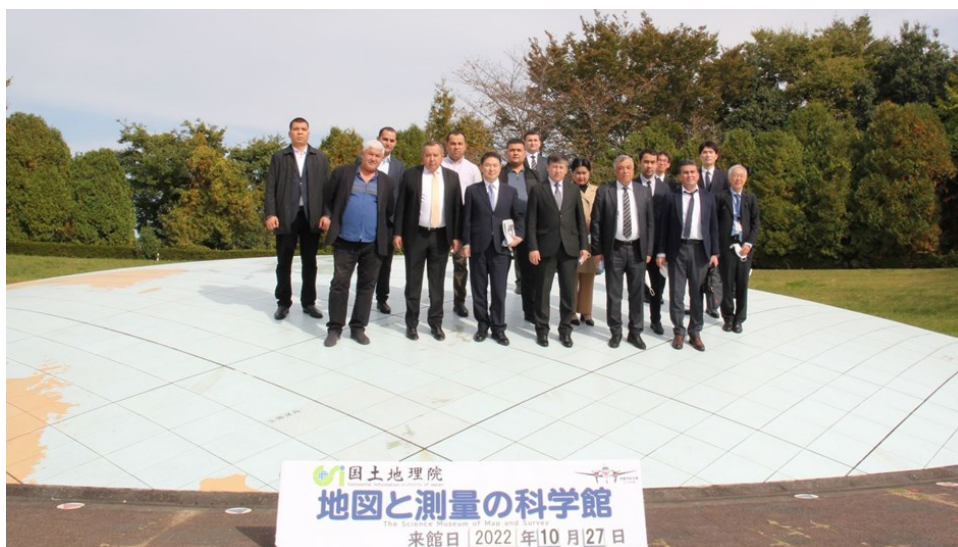
In closing, Mr ARAKIDA Masaru (Director, Researcher Department, ADRC), who moderated the workshop, acknowledged that since foreign residents in Japan come from diverse cultures and backgrounds, the DRM practices of their respective countries can be expected to be different from those in Japan. This can be challenging for many Japanese local governments when communicating disaster risk. The suggestions that came up during this workshop will offer insights on how to address this challenge. He also mentioned that all presentation materials can be accessed on the ADRC website at: <https://www.adrc.asia/workshop/2022bosaikokutai.php>

Visit of the Survey Team from Uzbekistan

A delegation from Uzbekistan, an ADRC member since the inception of the organization, visited Japan from 21-28 October 2022 to study Japanese earthquake preparedness. The delegation included Mirzaev Sirojiddin Zaynievich, Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, and 11 other government officials from the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, and other government agencies, and researchers from the Academy of Sciences and Universities.

They visited sites such as Nagoya University and the University of Tokyo, as well as government agencies such as the Disaster Management Bureau of the Cabinet Office, the Geographical Survey Institute (photo), the Building Research Institute, and the National Research Institute of Science and Technology for Disaster Prevention. They were briefed on Japan's legal system and disaster prevention technologies and had opportunities to see actual observation devices and to visit facilities conducting relevant experiments. They asked many questions during each site visit, and expressed keen interest in the work being done.

ADRC supported the delegation by offering advice on the development of their agenda and accompanying the delegation to various sites.



Members from the Survey Team from Uzbekistan

Visitors through the Try-Yaru Week Work Experience Program

ADRC hosted two seventh-grade students from 8 to 10 November 2022 as part of the Try-Yaru Week program (work experience for junior high school students in Hyogo Prefecture) organized by Kobe Municipal Harada Junior High School.

During this period, these students not only learned about earthquake resistance, and crafted a model of an earthquake-resistant building out of milk cartons, but also participated in online town watching in the Aotani area of Nada Ward, Kobe City. They also visited the Hyogo Prefectural Emergency Management and Training Center. Students indicated that they "learned a great deal about disasters as they experienced the various activities" and that "the shaking we experienced in the earthquake simulation vehicle was more than I had imagined." The students also commented that they had a fulfilling work experience.

ADRC will continue its efforts to develop human resources for disaster risk reduction in Japan and its member countries.



Experiment using a model of an earthquake-resistant building out of milk cartons



Online Town Watching

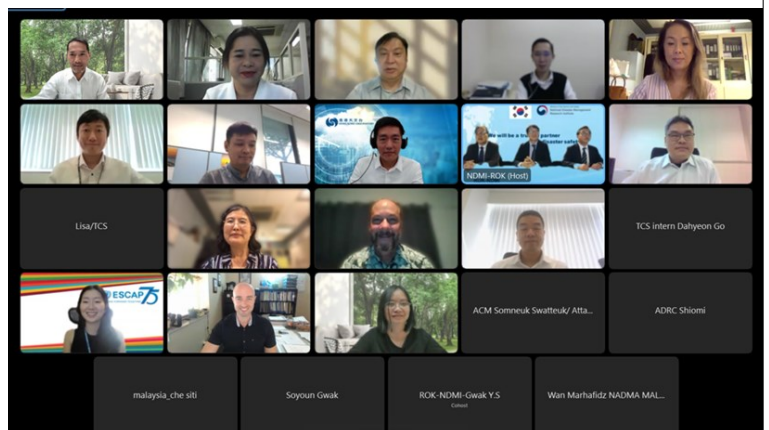
● Participation in International Conferences

Participation in the Typhoon Committee's Working Group on Disaster Reduction (WGDRR) Annual Meeting 2022

On 21 October 2022, ADRC participated in the annual meeting of the Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (WGDRR) of the Typhoon Committee. This event, which was held online, enabled discussion of three key items: (1) progress on the implementation of projects for 2022, (2) proposed projects for 2023, and (3) participation in the Integrated Workshops (IWS).

It was reported that all seven projects for 2022 were implemented, including the "Knowledge Sharing in DRR" event that was held in Guam over the summer. For 2023, WGDRR proposed seven projects:

- (1) Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing in DRR,
- (2) Setting-up Early Warning and Alert Systems,
- (3) the WGDRR Annual Meeting,
- (4) Benefit Evaluation of Typhoon DRR,
- (5) DRR Information Sharing,
- (6) a DRR Education Video, and



WGDRR

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(7) a Seminar on Crowd-Sourcing.

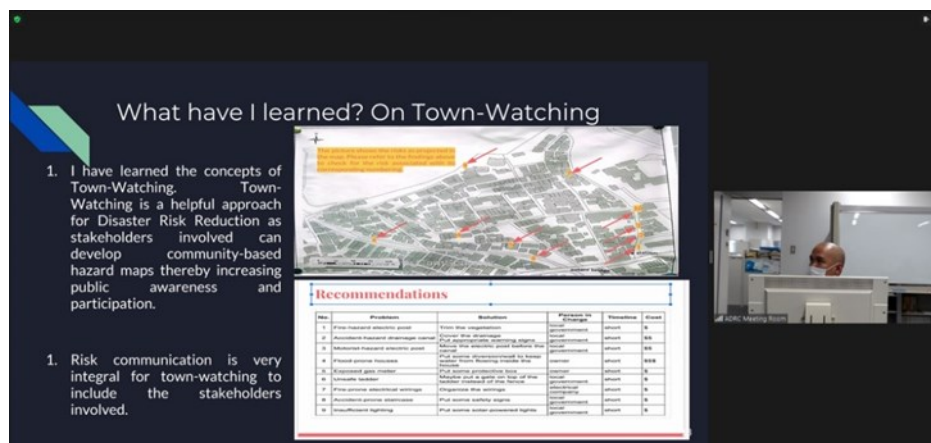
The WGDRR will report on the progress made on the 2022 projects as well as the proposed projects for 2023 at the forthcoming 17th Integrated Workshop of the Typhoon Committee, to be held 29-30 November 2023 via video conference. At the closing, the chair of the WGDRR highlighted that the first project to be implemented in 2023 is the “Knowledge Sharing in DRR Events,” which will be held back-to-back in Manila, Philippines and Vientiane, Lao PDR during the first quarter.

● Report from ADRC Intern

Mr Jhumar Sioson (Nagoya University)

I am Jhumar Sioson, a master's degree student in the field of Environmental Studies at Nagoya University. I served as an intern at ADRC from 21 October to 2 November 2022 as part of the Global Research Internship (GRI) of my university. The objective of the GRI is to provide research-based internship opportunities to students to help them acquire practical research know-how through on-site research training.

As an intern, I was able to attend daily meetings, participate in the ADRC workshop during the 7th BOSAI KOKUTAI, engage in DRR Town-Watching in Nada, Kobe, visit some Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Disaster monuments within Hyogo Prefecture, and provide my personal feedback on ADRC documents. My time as an ADRC intern is sure to be one of the highlights of what will be my two-year stay in Japan and it gave me an opportunity to increase my knowledge about disaster risk reduction. I know that there is still much for me to learn as I strive to professionally contribute to the disaster resiliency of the Philippines when I return home.



Presentation by Mr Sioson

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