



ADRC Highlights

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New Year's Greetings from ADRC

We hope the year 2023 will be a year of hope, peace, and tranquility for all governments and relevant organizations in the member countries of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). We thank you for your support and cooperation in promoting the activities of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center.

Since the world's first confirmed case of COVID-19 infection in December 2019, new waves of this infectious disease have hit the world one after another, resulting in a catastrophe unprecedented in human history. By early January 2023, approximately 660 million people had been infected and 6.7 million had died as a result of this disease.

Vaccination has helped to control the disease to some extent, but there is still no end in sight. In some areas, measures are inadequate and many people continue to die as a result of the spread of COVID-19.

In addition to the disasters caused by COVID-19, the year 2022 also saw serious disasters in the Asia-Pacific region, including volcanic eruptions in the Kingdom of Tonga, earthquakes in Afghanistan, the Philippines, and Papua New Guinea, and flooding in Pakistan. Climate hazards such as severe storms, heavy rainfall, floods, and droughts are on the rise, and these are believed to be caused by global warming. This trend is more pronounced in the Asian region. These natural disasters, compounded by the pandemic, have caused difficulties the world has never experienced before.

It is against the backdrop of this challenging global situation that the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2022 (ACDR2022) will be held in Sendai, Japan in March 2023. The main themes of the conference will be countermeasures for large-scale disasters, the sharing and utilization of disaster data, and crisis management using satellite data.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Great Kanto Earthquake which occurred in 1923. The Kanto Earthquake is the largest and worst disaster in modern Japanese history, impacting more than 100,000 victims and resulting in 700,000 collapsed buildings and houses. A special session to be held during ACDR2022 will review the lessons that the Great Kanto Earthquake taught Japan and the entire world, and will review the history of the development of knowledge and technology for earthquake disaster risk reduction. The outcomes of the conference are expected to provide useful insights and information to member countries for future disaster risk management planning.

ADRC, in cooperation and collaboration with its 31 member countries, will continue to make every effort to reduce the risks of disasters, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, and floods, and to protect the peaceful and tranquil lives of people around the world in 2023. Your support for our endeavors is greatly appreciated.



HAMADA Masanori
Chairman
Asian Disaster Reduction Center

● Announcement

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2022

As announced previously, ADRC will hold the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2022 (ACDR2022) in a hybrid format (in-person and online) this year, after having conducted it in an online format only for the past two years. The ACDR is held annually in Japan or another ADRC member country and aims to provide a forum for discussing challenges in promoting DRR in Asian countries among stakeholders from member countries and DRR-related organizations. ACDR2022 is scheduled to be held in Sendai, Japan with a focus on the theme: "WHAT IS NEXT? - Learning from the Past, Preparing for the Future."

An outline of the conference is as follows.

Date and time

10-12 March 2023

The meeting on 10 March is for member countries only. The event will be open to public starting on 11 March.

Venue

Sendai International Centre

<http://www.aobayama.jp/>

<https://goo.gl/maps/wLDr6wLoKBHFN18u5>

Draft Programme

11 March (Saturday)

Opening

Special Session on the Centennial Commemoration of the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923

Session 1: Large-Scale Disasters and Countermeasures

12 March (Sunday)

Session 2: Broaden Our Horizons for Disaster Data Linkage in SFDRR Implementation: Application of GLIDE (GLocal IDentifier Number)

Session 3: The Provision of Information via Satellite for Disaster and Crisis Management

Those wishing to participate in this conference in person and online can register on the ACDR2022 website: <https://acdr.adrc.asia/meeting/home/acdr2022>.

Any conference updates will be provided on that website and in the next issue of this newsletter. We look forward to your participation.

Background

The year 2022 marks the centennial of the Great Kanto Earthquake that struck Tokyo region in Japan on 1 September 1923. An estimate of 105,000 people was killed or missing and the economy suffered tremendous damages. The loss of people, both in Japan and around the world, have changed people's lives in a momentous way. Collaboration from professional bodies and our allies have become other. However, damages caused by disasters continue to arise, and we are also faced with new major challenges.

ACDR2022 Website

World BOSAI Forum 2023 (WBF2023)

WBF2023 will be held at the Sendai International Center in Sendai, Japan from 10-12 March 2023. The World BOSAI Forum is Japan's first international civic forum to bring together representatives of international organizations, governments, academia, and the private sector from Japan and abroad in conjunction with the International Disaster Risk Conference in Davos, Switzerland (IDRC Davos).

WBF2023 will focus on (1) encouraging more active participation by the private sector and younger people, and (2) increasing participation and interaction by holding highly planned sessions on several themes, especially those related to integrated and interdisciplinary approaches.

We hope to see you there!

Date: 10-12 March 2023

Venue: Sendai International Center

WBF2023 Website: <https://worldbosaiforum.com/2023/en/>



● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program: Promotion of Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction

ADRC conducted the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program entitled "Promotion of Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction" from 12-24 December 2022, in cooperation with JICA Kansai. It was attended by five management-level DRR agency officials from 3 countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Mexico.

This program aims to share the concept of mainstreaming DRR, that is, incorporating DRR in development policies, and the methods of promoting the mainstreaming of DRR at the policy level. It also aims to share the various experiences of Japan and to examine the strategies and approaches for promoting the mainstreaming of DRR in participants' countries. During the two-week program, participants attend lectures, site visits, and discussions on disaster countermeasures in Japan. They are expected to actively engage in DRR measures to reduce humanitarian and economic losses due to disasters.

ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all the organizations and universities that contributed to the success of this program.

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