



ADRC Highlights

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Message for 2025

January 2025

Greetings!

I, MIURA Fusanori, Professor Emeritus of Yamaguchi University, was honoured to be appointed Chairman of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), at the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2024 held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in November, succeeding Dr HAMADA Masanori. My field of expertise lies in earthquake and disaster prevention engineering. I have had the privilege of working with Dr Hamada on various occasions. As we embark on a New Year, I extend my best wishes to you all!

In Japan, 2024 got off to a shocking start with the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake on 1 January and a runway collision at Haneda Airport on 2 January. Later, the 8 August Hyuga-nada earthquake left many people panicking when the Japan Meteorological Agency issued a warning for the first time of the potential of a Nankai Trough earthquake (“Nankai Trough Earthquake Extra Information”), which experts believe could cause devastation over a wide stretch of central and western Japan. Meanwhile, in August, Typhoon No. 10 (Asian name: Shanshan) strayed and brought heavy rain to many parts of Japan, and in September, torrential rains hit the Noto Peninsula, which was still in the midst of reconstruction, and there were many other storm disasters.

Already in 2025, a record-breaking cold wave brought heavy snowfall to areas along the Sea of Japan and northern Japan, posing significant challenges. At the same time, massive wildfires broke out in California, USA. This reminds us once again that we are living in an era of increasingly frequent disasters.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake (South Hyogo Prefecture Earthquake, 17 January 1995). Memorial ceremonies were held in Kobe and all over the country. By strange coincidence, the 1995 US-Japan Workshop on Urban Earthquake Hazard Reduction, of which I was one of the organisers, had been scheduled to begin on 17 January in Osaka. I was awakened in my Osaka hotel by a severe tremor at 5:46 am. The next day I entered the affected area, mainly Nishinomiya city, and the devastation was beyond belief. Collapsed houses, derailed trains, bullet train tracks dangling high in the air – it was like a scene from a disaster film. I still cannot forget that vivid image.

The ADRC was established in 1998 with the main mission of mitigating disasters in the Asian region. This involves providing information on both structural and non-structural disaster risk reduction (DRR) technologies developed by Japan through its experience in overcoming various disasters. The ADRC supports the transfer of such technologies, improving the disaster preparedness of local communities and fostering human resource development. In addition to earthquake disasters, weather-related disasters caused by climate change are also occurring in many parts of the world. Each time, many lives are lost, especially in Asia. In this context, the role and responsibility of the ADRC is becoming



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increasingly important.

Together with the ADRC's staff members, I would like to fulfil our mission with the cooperation of our many stakeholders. I look forward to working with you.

MIURA Fusanori
Chairman,
Asian Disaster Reduction Center

● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

Conducting the BMKG training program in Japan

Indonesia is prone to frequent earthquakes, similarly to Japan, where many lives and properties have been lost in past earthquakes. As a countermeasure, Japan has established an earthquake early warning system. But there are still challenges to developing such a system in Indonesia.

Against this background, the Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG), one of the main agencies handling disaster information in Indonesia, requested the ADRC to conduct a training program to improve the capabilities of BMKG officers. The training took place from 17 November to 14 December 2024, with 30 BMKG staff members attending. Participants visited DRR institutions involved in disaster management and undertook practical training. They attended lectures on seismology, Japan's early warning system, and recent research cases from the University of Tokyo, Tohoku University, and Kyoto University. Participants also learnt about the government's DRR efforts at the Cabinet Office of Japan, and in Fujisawa City.

They toured areas affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and visited earthquake ruins and museums related to the disaster. There were also lectures on the latest earthquake disaster prevention measures from private companies involved in railroads, disaster maps using satellite images, warning devices, and communications.

Participants were able to learn about disaster prevention in Japan and the latest efforts in the development of earthquake early warning systems, which was one of the main themes of the program. We hope that their experience and knowledge will contribute to the development of a system in Indonesia in the future.



(Left) Tour of TOA Knowledge Square, (right) Lecture from Dr KODERA Yuki, Meteorological Research Institute

● Announcement

Publication: 10th Anniversary of Sentinel Asia: Space-Based Disaster Management Support in the Asia-Pacific

Sentinel Asia (SA) is a framework for collaboration among the space community (space agencies), the disaster management community (ADRC and its member organisations, and disaster management organisations), the international community, and academia (university, research and technical institutes).

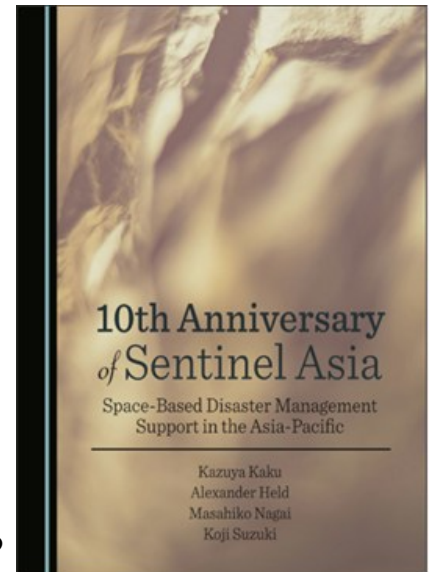
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Collaboration with the disaster management community, via the ADRC and its members, has been a part of the major vision of SA from the outset. SA was initially proposed in 2004 under the framework of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF). Its implementation was agreed to in 2005. Implementation and operation began in 2006, and it is still in operation today.

A book entitled “10th Anniversary of Sentinel Asia: Space-Based Disaster Management Support in the Asia-Pacific” was released by the Cambridge Scholars Publishing in November 2024. It was written by Dr KAKU Kazuya, Visiting Researcher of the ADRC, Mr SUZUKI Koji, Project Director of the ADRC, and others.

The book summarises the activities of SA over the first decade from its conceptual inception in 2004, commemorating its 10th anniversary. It describes its history, framework, implementation approaches, how it operates, and its achievements, providing a good case study on how local partners have constructively collaborated to apply satellite remote sensing to support disasters management in the region. It will contribute to the further development of SA, and be a useful example for similar international collaborations for disaster response elsewhere.

Royalties from the book will be donated to disaster management efforts. For more information, see the below links.



Publication: 10th Anniversary of Sentinel Asia: Space-Based Disaster Management Support in the Asia-Pacific

Hardback: <https://www.cambridgescholars.com/product/978-1-0364-1715-4>

E-book: https://play.google.com/store/books/details?id=W3QzEQAAQBAJ&rdid=book-W3QzEQAAQBAJ&rdot=1&source=gbs_vpt_read&pcampaignid=books_booksearch_viewport&pli=1

Thirty Years after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

Thirty years ago, on 17 January 1995, the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, with a magnitude of 7.3 on the Richter scale, devastated Kobe and the surrounding Hanshin area. The earthquake originated from a shallow hypocentre just 16 km below the surface of the earth, hitting the heart of this vibrant urban area with tremendous force. It tragically claimed 6,434 lives and left behind an indelible mark of immense economic loss.

Driven by the desire to harness the lessons learnt from this disaster, the ADRC was established in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, in 1998, just three years after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

Reflecting on three decades since the Earthquake, the ADRC released a message on 17 January 2025, which can be accessed via the link below.

https://www.adrc.asia/publications/Poster/GHAE1995_Message.pdf



(Source: Kobe city)

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