

5-3. Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries, International Organizations and NGOs

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) places high priority on the development of institutional and personal network to share disaster information in the Asia region. Developing personal networks between professionals and their counterparts in member countries, adviser countries, and observer organizations is vital to promoting cooperation on disaster reduction efforts in Asia. Therefore, the ADRC invites management level officials, including deputy directors, directors, and managers, to its annual ADRC International Meeting to encourage interpersonal exchanges.

(1) 4th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The ADRC and International Recovery Platform (IRP) participated in the 4th Global Platform for Disaster Reduction (GP), hosted by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) from 21 to 23 May 2013 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland. The 4th GP brought together more than 3,500 participants from 171 countries, including representatives of national and local governments, inter-governmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, business, academia, and local communities.

The aim of the 4th GP was to continue the momentum on durable and sustained efforts by all actors to take shared responsibility in reducing risks and reinforcing resilience in our communities. The 4th GP provided an opportunity to review progress on the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) and to consult on the framework for the next term, the so-called “HFA2.”

Mr. Ueli Maurer, President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Jan Eliasson, UN Deputy Secretary-General, the Deputy Prime Minister of Namibia, and the Civil Defense Minister of New Zealand gave the welcome remarks at the opening ceremony. These were followed by about 170 official events, such as the official statements by participant countries and reports by participating organizations on their activities. That same afternoon, ADRC held a special meeting entitled “Regional Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia: Building Resilience through Innovation and Partnerships,” which it co-hosted with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and Asian Disaster Rescue and Response Network (ADRRN). These three organizations introduced the typical activities undertaken to promote their missions. And several participants stressed the importance of strong cooperation between Asian regional organizations such as ADRC, ADPC, and ADRRN.

There were also meetings held among participants during the conference period. On 22 May, the executive director of ADRC had an opportunity to meet with the delegate from Iran, Mr. Ghadami, Deputy Minister of the Interior and Head of the National Organization for Disaster Reduction (NDMO). As Iran became an ADRC-member country last December, Mr. Ghadami expressed high hopes of receiving support from ADRC to help it strengthen its DRR capacity. Both sides reaffirmed their mutual interests in developing cooperation

between ADRC and NDMO. Later that day, information about this meeting was posted on the NDMO web site.

On the third day of the session, the Cabinet Office of Japan and IRP organized a side event on “Lessons on Recovery from Mega-Disasters” which was attended by 124 people from ADRC, IRP partners, international and regional institutions, governments, and NGOs. It showcased effective recovery experiences from the governments of New Zealand, Japan, the US, and Pakistan. The event further explored measures for integrating recovery in development planning as well as efforts to achieve effective recovery strategy and frameworks. It also highlighted the key strategic recommendations on recovery for the Post-2015 DRR Framework (HFA2).

At the closing ceremony, the chairperson, Mr. Dahinden, Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, released the draft of the Chair’s Summary, and Ms. Wahlström extended her gratitude to the participants. The Japanese government’s delegate, Mr. Yoshitami Kameoka, Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Management, declared that the next UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction(WCDR) will be held in March 2015 in Sendai City, Japan.

(2) 1st Meeting of the Executive Committee and Development Support Group for the 6th Asia Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) has hosted AMCDRR every two years to discuss DRR topics in Asian countries. The 6th AMCDRR will be held in Thailand in June 2014. For the purpose of deciding the framework of the Conference, 1st Executive Committee (EC) of 6th AMCDRR was held on 5 to 6 August in Bangkok.

The EC was hosted by UNISDR and the Thai Government. The Indonesian Government which has hosted the 5th AMCDRR, the Government of Japan which will host the next United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 (WCDRR2015), the donor agencies such as USAID, AusAID and JICA, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Asian regional organizations such as ADPC, ADRRN and ADRC participated in this meeting.

In the EC, the framework of 6th AMCDRR was discussed. In order to consolidate the proposal for WCDRR2015 from the Asian region, EC participants determined “Promoting investments for resilient nations and communities” as the main theme of the Conference and selected three sub-themes; 1) Enhance resilience at local levels, 2) Increase public investments for disaster and climate risk management to protect development gains and 3) Private sector role – Public & private partnerships for disaster risk reduction.

(3) 2nd Meeting of the UNISDR Asia Partnership for 2013

The 2nd UNISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) meeting for the year 2013 was held on 5 to 7 November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The main focus of this IAP was the substantive preparation of the 6th Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR); engagement processes for stakeholder groups and partners in the AMCDRR and World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR); and the HFA2 (future DRR framework) consultation and background preparation for the HFA2 input from the region.

At the meeting, ADRC expressed its contribution to the substantive in the “key area” such as “reducing exposure/underlying risk factors” and “incentive for private sector in DRR”, and to the consultation process through “the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR).”

(4) 3rd Session of UNESCAP's Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangkok

The 3rd session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand from 27 to 29 November 2013. The forum's many participants included officials from UNESCAP member countries as well as experts from intergovernmental organizations, and also ADRC.

During the session entitled “Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development,” we praised the ability of the governments and people of UNESCAP member countries to promote recovery and reconstruction following large-scale disasters. We also noted that ADRC and IRP have long been assisting ADRC member countries in their efforts to utilize Japanese technologies, experiences, and lessons related to disaster risk reduction. This assistance includes the Visiting Researcher (VR) Program, a capacity building program wherein ADRC offers three months of training to government officials. In fact, ADRC has been pleased to see many former VRs now playing a central role in the ministries in charge of disaster management in their home countries.

We also emphasized the importance of everyday preparedness by citizens, in addition to government efforts, when a massive disaster strikes. Two major events, ADRC’s “Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction,” to be held in Tokyo on 4 to 6 March 2014, and IRP’s “International Recovery Forum,” to be held in Kobe on 21 January 2014, will present evidence of the progress made in the areas of disaster reduction and preparedness in preparation for the next UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction scheduled for 2015.

ADRC/IRP, together with UNESCAP and its member countries, will continue to support efforts to strengthen the disaster reduction capabilities of affected communities.

(5) 6th Asia-Pacific Economy Cooperation (APEC) Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) Meeting

APEC is the premier Asia-Pacific economic forum whose primary goal is to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, championing free and open trade and investment, promoting and accelerating regional economic integration, encouraging economic and technical cooperation, enhancing human security, and facilitating a favorable and sustainable business environment.

The EPWG was first established as APEC's Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP) by APEC Senior Officials in 2005 and mandated to coordinate and facilitate emergency and disaster preparedness within APEC. In 2009 APEC Leaders reaffirmed the importance of enhancing human security and reducing the threat of disruptions to business and trade in the Asia-Pacific region. Recognizing the importance of its work, in 2010 the TFEP was upgraded in status to a working group. Now the EPWG continues to play a constructive role in enabling the region to better prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters by helping to reduce the risk of disasters and building business and community resilience. By sharing expertise and collaborating on emergency preparedness issues, APEC members strengthen their capacity to mitigate emergencies and disasters. In recent years, the global economic damage caused by the Great East-Japan Earthquake and Thai flood in 2011 urged APEC EPWG to disseminate the business continuity plan (BCP) especially among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The 6th EPWG was held on 17 to 18 Feb in Ningbo, China, and ADRC participated in the meeting.

Funded by APEC, ADRC has researched the BCPs among small and middle-sized enterprises and edited the guidebook on BCP considering the rapid economic growth in Asia region.

At the beginning of the meeting, Executive Director of ADRC was elected as co-chairman of EPWG. Then the co-chair and member economies reported the activities in 2013 and proposed the work plan of 2014, which encourages to continue the dissemination of BCM among SMEs and to enhance the resilience of supply-chain, and launches the new project titled "The Workshop of a Space-and-ICT based disaster management system to enhance supply-chain resilience and BCP."

(6) 8th Integrated Workshop of the Typhoon Committee

ADRC participated in the 8th Integrated Workshop of the Typhoon Committee held in conjunction with the 2nd Training and Research Coordination Group Forum jointly organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Typhoon Committee Secretariat, and the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau in Macao on 2-4 December 2013. The more than 100 participants who attended the meeting included representatives of Cambodia, China, D.P.R. Korea, Japan, Lao, Malaysia, the Philippines, the

Republic of Korea, Thailand, the US, and Vietnam, as well as representatives of the organizing institutions. The participants discussed “Forecasting, Warnings, and DRR Strategies in the Mitigation of Tropical Cyclone Impacts in a Multihazard Environment,” which was the main theme of the meeting.

For the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, Japan's Cabinet Office gave a presentation on the damage caused by typhoons in 2013 and on ADRC activities such as the Visiting Researcher Program. Delegates from the Philippines and Vietnam gave a presentation on the damage caused by Typhoon Haiyan and the current status of response efforts, and the WMO and Japan Meteorological Agency reported on the assistance they offered, such as the provision of typhoon information. As a result, there were fruitful discussions on such topics as the enhancement of cooperation among member countries. During this session, the WMO suggested that a manual be developed for processing emergency requests from member countries, as similar requests are likely to be made in the future, and that an emergency network be constructed among the Typhoon Committee Secretariat and member countries. A decision was made to investigate this issue further.

The Typhoon Committee has two other working groups covering meteorology and hydrology, in addition to the working group on disaster risk reduction. This time, the three working group meetings and the Training and Research Coordination Group Forum were held together as an integrated event. For more information, visit the typhoon committee website:

http://www.typhooncommittee.org/8IWS_2TRCG/8IWS_2TRCG.html

(7) International Forum on Recovery and Reconstruction Following China's Sichuan Earthquake

The Forum on Post-Disaster Revival and International Disaster Reduction: Experience and Lessons from 5-Year Wenchuan Post-Disaster Reconstruction and Lushan Earthquake Relief, organized by Sichuan University and Hong Kong Polytechnic University, was held in Chengdu, China from 8 to 9 May 2013. The forum's more than 300 participants included experts ranging from government officials to academic experts across China as well as ADRC and International Recovery Platform (IRP).

During the keynote speech, ADRC and IRP praised the ability of the Chinese government and people to promote recovery and reconstruction efforts following the Wenchuan Earthquake that struck Sichuan Province in May 2008, and we have long been involved in facilitating China's efforts to utilize Japanese technologies, experiences, and lessons related to earthquake disaster risk reduction.

We also emphasized the importance of everyday preparedness by citizens, in addition to government efforts, when a massive disaster strikes. In this regard, the Lushan Earthquake that occurred in late April showed evidence of the progress that has been made in disaster reduction and preparedness over the past five years.

In commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the Wenchuan Earthquake, the HK PolyU Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction (IDMR) has been established at Sichuan University. After the opening ceremony, a signing ceremony of the MoU between ADRC, IRP and IDMR was held. Both organizations are committed to promoting the effective disclosure and sharing of information related to disaster prevention and post-disaster reconstruction, developing disaster prevention and post-disaster reconstruction programs, and educating people in the field of disaster prevention and post-disaster reconstruction. They are dedicated to cooperation and mutual participation in the following areas:



Fig. 5-3-1 Signing Ceremony of the MoU between ADRC and IDMR

- 1) Promoting personnel exchanges among research staff, faculty, and students
- 2) Giving priority to joint research projects to promote collaborative research
- 3) Promoting the sharing of research findings and professional knowledge

ADRC, together with the IDMR, will continue to support efforts to strengthen the disaster reduction capabilities of the affected communities.

(8) Consultation Workshop on Developing a Capacity-Building Strategy through the Establishment of a Disaster Management Training Center in Myanmar

Myanmar is a disaster prone country. In May 2008, Cyclone Nargis left 130,000 people either dead or missing. Subsequently, Myanmar was affected by natural disasters including floods and landslides in 2010 and a heavy earthquake in 2011.

After those natural disasters, the government of Myanmar prepared the "Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction" in 2012, and has been promoting various DRR projects based on that plan. The government of Myanmar decided to establish a "Disaster Management Training Center" in order to enhance disaster prevention awareness and to train personnel involved in disaster management, and planned to build the facility for the Center over three years starting in 2013.

From 2 to 4 July, with the aim of offering proposals and advice to the government of Myanmar regarding the training and educational content to be offered through the center, a workshop was held in Nay Pyi Daw, the new capital city of Myanmar. It was sponsored by the International Cooperation Agency of Japan (JICA) and the United Nations Development Program. The workshop was attended by about 80 people representing Asian governments (including Myanmar), international organizations, and NPOs. ADRC staff member was also invited to attend.

The workshop included introducing the education and training centers in Thailand and Singapore, as well as presentations by JICA and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center on their international capacity-building businesses. ADRC also presented information on its capacity-building activities for Myanmar, including the Visiting Researcher program. Under this program, young officials in member countries are invited to Japan to participate in a DRR training program for local government officials sponsored by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund.



Fig. 5-3-2 Opening Speech by the Union Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement



Fig. 5-3-3 Presentation by Executive Director of ADRC