
June 1997 to discuss activities to be undertaken by the proposed center for disaster reduction system. Once again, key personnel from the disaster reduction bureaus of 23 countries attended the meeting, whose overall goal was to promote cooperation in disaster reduction efforts through specific actions. A proposal was made at the meeting to establish an center in Japan to serve as the secretariat for the proposed system.

(6) Establishment of ADRC

With momentum gathering from this series of meetings, the government of Japan discussed the organization, budget, and other aspects of the proposed office with the other countries involved. With the cooperation of Hyogo Prefecture, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center was officially established in Kobe on July 30, 1998.

1-2. Composition

ADRC was established in Kobe, Hyogo prefecture, in 1998, with mission to enhance disaster resilience of the member countries, to build safe communities, and to create a society where sustainable development is possible. ADRC works to build disaster resilient communities and to establish networks among countries through many programs including personnel exchanges in this field.

The Center addresses this issue from a global perspective in cooperation with a variety of UN agencies and international organizations/initiatives, such as the United Nations Secretariat for International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

At the outset, ADRC was comprised of 22 member countries, four advisor countries, and an observer organization. Armenia joined later, in August 2000, followed by the Kyrgyz Republic in July 2002, Pakistan in July 2005, and Yemen and Bhutan in December 2007, Azerbaijan in 2009, Maldives in 2010, and the Republic of Iran in 2012 bringing the number of member countries to 30. In March 2004, the US joined as the fifth advisor country to ADRC.

<p>30 Member Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyz, Lao PDR, Malaysia Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen</p> <p>5 Advisor Countries: Australia, France, New Zealand, Switzerland, United States of America</p> <p>Observer: Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)</p>
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Table.1-2-1. Counterpart List of member countries

country	organization
Armenia	National Survey for Seismic Protection Agency (NSSP)
Azerbaijan	Ministry of Emergency Situations
Bangladesh	Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief
Bhutan	Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs
Cambodia	The National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)
China	National Disaster Reduction Center of China
India	Ministry of Home Affairs
Indonesia	National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB)
Iran	National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO)
Japan	Cabinet Office
Kazakhstan	Ministry of Internal Affairs
Rep. of Korea	Ministry of Public Safety and Security
Kyrgyz	Ministry of Emergency Situations
Laos	National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)
Malaysia	National Security Council, Prime Minister's Department
Maldives	National Disaster Management Center
Mongolia	National Emergency Management Agency
Myanmar	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
Nepal	Ministry of Home Affairs
Pakistan	National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
Papua New Guinea	Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs
Philippines	Department of National Defense
Russia	Ministry of Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters
Singapore	Singapore Civil Defence Force
Sri Lanka	Ministry of Disaster Management
Tajikistan	Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense
Thailand	Ministry of Interior
Uzbekistan	Ministry of Emergency Situations
Viet Nam	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Yemen	Ministry of Water & Environment



Fig.1-2-1. Member Countries

1-3. Main Activities

ADRC engages in the following basic activities:

(1) Information Sharing

- Provision of disaster information
- Sentinel Asia – A space-based disaster management support system in the Asia-Pacific region
- Promotion of the GLObal unique disaster IDentifier (GLIDE) system
- Organization of international meetings

(2) Human Resource Development

- Organizing conference, workshops, and trainings on disaster risk reduction
- Program for inviting visiting researchers from member countries

(3) Building Community Capabilities

- Development and dissemination of tools for encouraging community involvement
- Development of Public and Private Partnership and Business Continuity Plan (BCP) for small and medium-sized enterprises
- Assistance with the activities to further strengthen all stakeholder coordination mechanisms