

2. Highlights of 2017/2018

2-1. Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2017

Information sharing among DRR practitioners and organizations is indispensable for enhancing efforts for disaster risk reduction in disaster-prone Asia. ADRC convenes an annual conference attended by disaster risk management officials from member countries and experts from international organizations to promote sharing of good practices and information, and to enhance further networks in Asia. The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2017 was held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan during 2-3 October 2017. The conference was jointly hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan, the Government of Japan, and ADRC. The ACDR2017 was attended by 68 participants including high level government officials from 18 countries, as well as representatives of international and regional organizations, the academic community, and the private sector.



Fig.2-1-1. Participants of ACDR2017

This year's ACDR consisted of three sessions focusing on the following themes:

Session 1: Implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR --- Develop national and local DRR strategies

Session 2: Effective Emergency Response to Survive Mega Disasters

Session 3: Advanced Technologies Facilitating DRR and CCA

The conference began with opening remarks by Dr. Masanori Hamada, ADRC Chairman,

followed by remarks from H.E. Mr. Kamaladdin Heydarov, Minister of Emergency Situations, Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Mamoru Maekawa, Vice Minister, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, and Mr. Timothy Wilcox, Programme Management Officer, UNISDR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

The Session one examined the status of Sendai Framework implementation in Asia, particularly what priority activities were undertaken to enhance understanding of disaster risk, what policies and strategies were put in place to intensify DRR efforts, and how past lessons were integrated and mainstreamed in the government's DRR strategies, plans, and programs.

The session two dwelt on how to further promote effective emergency response, with emphasis on search and rescue, for extreme scenarios like mega-disasters or small-scale local rural disasters. It examined: what improvements in human resources development (HRD) programs are needed to make search and rescue effective in the face climate change, urbanization, and poverty; how to enhance search and rescue capacity beyond designated borders; and how to leverage support from the private sector in the area of search and rescue.

This session three further explored the application of advanced technologies to facilitate DRR and CCA. It looked into how the new innovative tools can be brought down to the community level, and to ensure that these are user-friendly and accessible.

Lastly, Mr. Badral Tuvshin, Chief/Major General, National Emergency Management Agency, Mongolia, introduced the preparatory process for the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), co-hosted by the Government of Mongolia and UNISDR in 2018. The member countries expressed support to the AMCDRR and to track progress of the actions recommended in this conference, and also confirmed that after the AMCDRR, the ACDR2018 will be held in Awaji, Hyogo prefecture, Japan for the year of the ADRC's 20th anniversary, and ADRC invited member countries to explore its future activities throughout the preparatory process.

The ACDR2017 was a great success thanks to the important contributions of all the speakers and the active involvement of all participants. The ACDR2017 documents and the final conference summary are available on the ADRC website at http://www.adrc.asia/acdr/2017_index.html.