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## Foreword

We have just closed out another fiscal year in which natural disasters impacted many communities around the globe. These ranged from windstorms and floods, often attributed to global climate change, to forest fires caused by extreme dry weather, to droughts and massive dust storms. Many of these were concentrated in Asia. Japan was not immune, as Typhoons 15 and 19 caused river flooding, urban flooding, and landslides, and resulted in the deaths of as many as 100 people. We are therefore keenly aware of the increasing importance of the role played by the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) in helping communities prepare for and mitigate the effects of these disasters.



Given this, we have decided to reconfigure the organizational structure of ADRC. For the 21 years since its founding, ADRC has functioned as part of the Urban Disaster Research Institute. In April 2020, however, we launched the new, independent Asian Disaster Reduction Center Foundation to support the operations of the ADRC internationally and to further bolster ADRC activities domestically. This restructuring is expected to provide us greater flexibility in the way we approach our work.

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2019 was held in the Turkish capital of Ankara, which at the time had just become a member of ADRC. Turkey's experiences with disaster response and recovery will surely prove useful in helping reduce the impact of disasters in other Asian countries.

At the end of FY 2019, we were faced with an unprecedented global health crisis: the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. This has had tremendous impacts on the health, livelihoods, economies, and cultures of every single country in the world. At ADRC, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to our member countries for the support that they extended to us in FY 2019. At the same time, we look forward to their ongoing cooperation and engagement as we continue to work together to confront complex emergencies in the years to come.

March 2020

HAMADA Masanori, Chairman  
Asian Disaster Reduction Center

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