

4. Human Resource Development

ADRC enhances the DRM capacities of member countries through the visiting researchers (VR) program, seminars, workshops, training events, and other DRR related human resource development activities.

4.1 Visiting Researchers Program

As of March 2024, a cumulative total of 132 visiting researchers from 27 countries had participated in the program since it started in 1999 (Figure 4.1). This program aims at achieving the following objectives:

- To accumulate information on the latest disasters, disaster management policies, laws, plans, budget, and progress of the SFDRR of member countries to strengthen their disaster resilience;
- To compose an effective human resource development program in accordance with the needs and priorities of member countries and VRs, and seek improvement measures for specific issues through training with experts;
- To continue improving the VR program through their feedback and evaluation; and
- To maintain communication with alumni of the VRs and establish communication with newly joined researchers.

Each year, four to six practitioners in disaster risk reduction and management visit Japan to gain greater understanding of disaster management systems of Japan and other countries as well as contribute to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asian countries.

This program develops human resources, strengthens disaster response capabilities, and enhances the ties between member countries and ADRC.

Azerbaijan	3
Armenia	9
Yemen	3
Iran	1
India	9
Indonesia	3
Uzbekistan	2
Cambodia	4
Kyrgyz	2
Sri Lanka	11
ROK	3
Thailand	12
Tajikistan	2
China	3
Türkiye	1
Nepal	9
Bangladesh	6
Pakistan	6
PNG	1
Philippines	9
Bhutan	4
Viet Nam	6
Malaysia	4
Myanmar	5
Maldives	5
Mongolia	6
Lao PDR	3
Total	132

Figure 4.1 Cumulative total of VRs as of March 2024

4.1.1 Activities During the Program

In FY 2023, six visiting researchers came to Japan to participate in the program. During their stay, the VRs learned about innovative and practical DRR activities and technologies as well as established greater cooperation and collaboration with other national governments, international organizations, and DRR agencies.



Figure 4.2 VRs during one of the visits to DRR agencies in Japan

4.1.2 Research Topics

On 21 March 2024, all 6 VRs presented the outcomes of their research activities. Their final reports reflected the accumulation of DRR knowledge, the characteristics of latest disasters and disaster management policies/laws/plans/budget, and the measures to strengthen resilience in each of their countries. The titles of their respective researches were as follow:

- Azerbaijan: Flood Risk Management in Azerbaijan and Japan
- India: Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into Urban Planning and Infrastructure Development
- Lao PDR: Strengthening Community Based Disaster Risk Management in Lao PDR through the Development of District and Community Level Disaster Risk Reduction Plan - Lessons Learned from Japan -
- Maldives: Improvement Pathways for Coordination in Disaster Response and Emergencies in Maldives
- Thailand: Disability Inclusion in Shelter Management
- Vietnam: Development of Disaster Risk Reduction Plan in Vietnam, Lessons learn from Japan

In conducting their research activities, ADRC assigned a mentor to each VR to guide and assist in the entire process.

4.1.3 Networking of Visiting Researchers

After completing the program, the participant automatically becomes part of the network of former VRs. ADRC taps this network to cooperate in various ongoing projects for effective and efficient implementation. Additionally, VRs are tapped to design new projects that meet the local conditions. Furthermore, former VRs are contacted whenever ADRC intends to suggest policy updates or extends support to their respective home countries based on the request or information they provided. New VRs are encouraged to contact former VRs to establish communication, share experiences, and insights.

During the Online Tsunami Seminar 2023 held on 15 November 2023, two former VRs were invited as resource speakers: 1) Mr A.M.R.N.K. Alahakoon from Sri Lanka, VR in FY2019, and 2) Ms Thai Minh Huong from Vietnam, VR in FY2022. Both of these former VRs reported on their countries' tsunami disaster prevention efforts.



Figure 4.3 Ms Huong (up) and Mr Alahakoon (down) at the Tsunami DRR Seminar

Some of the former VRs also participate in the annual Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR), where they are given opportunity to make presentations.

4.2 JICA Knowledge Co-creation Program

Under the Knowledge Co-creation Program, JICA commissioned ADRC to conduct comprehensive training courses on DRR, which are designed based on themes of interests in each region/country. In FY 2023, ADRC implemented seven training courses: 1) Comprehensive DRR for Central and South America, 2) Enhancement of Disaster Risk Management Capacity of the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA) of Malaysia; 3) Comprehensive DRR for Central Asia and Caucasus; 4) Promotion of Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction; 5) Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction for the African Region; 6) Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction for six countries; and 7) Enhancement of DRM Capacity of NADMA Malaysia Part 2.

4.2.1 Comprehensive DRR for Central and South American Countries

Duration: 9 May – 30 June 2023

Number of Participants: 10 (from 10 countries)

Contents: DRR in Japan, 8 Steps in Formulating DRR Strategy, Site visits

In cooperation with JICA Kansai, ADRC conducted this training from 9 May to 30 June 2023. It was attended by 10 participants from 10 Central and South American countries: Colombia, Nicaragua, Peru, Argentina, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Chile, El Salvador, Ecuador, and Panama. The program consisted of 4 weeks of online and 3 weeks of face-to-face lectures and exercises to learn about Japanese experiences and technologies in disaster risk reduction. It also included site visits to Hyogo and Kumamoto prefectures to observe various countermeasures including experiences in Hyogo Prefectural Emergency Management and

Training Center, comprehensive flood control measures in Kako River and sediment disaster control in the Aso region. At the end of the course, the participants developed a draft local plan for DRR in their own countries through the 8-step workshop. After each going back to their own country, they are expected to actively engage in DRR measures to reduce humanitarian and economic losses due to disasters. ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all the organizations and universities that contributed to the success of this course.



Figure 4.4 Trainees experienced an earthquake simulation in the vehicle

4.2.2 Malaysia “LEP2.0 Enhancement of the Disaster Risk Management Capacity of the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA)” Countermeasures against Sediment related Disaster

Duration: 10 – 21 July 2023

Number of Participants: 12 (from Malaysia)

Contents: Sediment disaster policies, DRR in Japan, Site visits

A total of twelve officials from disaster risk management and relevant organizations in Malaysia participated in this intensive two-week program, 10-21 July 2023, to learn about the sediment disaster policies and practices of Japan. Participants attended lectures by experts in the field, including from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, local government and research institutes, and visited sites in Hiroshima, Nara and Osaka where sediment disaster countermeasures have been installed. At the end of the program, the participants presented their action plan based on their findings over the two weeks. With the support from JICA, ADRC collaborated with organizations and universities in Japan in carrying out this program.



Figure 4.5 Site visit to Sabo facilities in Nara Prefecture

4.2.3 Comprehensive DRR for Central Asia and Caucasus

Duration: 16 June – 8 August 2023

Number of Participants: 8 (from 5 countries)

Contents: DRR in Japan, 8 Steps in Formulating DRR Strategy, Site visits

This training on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction for Central Asia and Caucasus was conducted from 16 June to 8 August 2023 in collaboration with JICA Kansai. Eight government officials from five countries: Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, participated in this course. Participants learned how to formulate and implement local DRR plans to promote DRR measures in their respective home countries.

The first four weeks of the course consisted of online lectures and exercises. In the latter three weeks, face-to-face programs were conducted in Japan, including site observations and lectures in Hyogo, Niigata, Gunma, and Ibaraki prefectures to learn about Japanese experiences and countermeasures of DRR. At the end of the course, the participants presented a draft of a local DRR plan, which they formulated through the programs and adapted to challenges present in their own home countries. Moreover, through active discussions and sparring on their respective DRR plans, the participants shared knowledge and addressed challenges they had in disaster reduction measures in their home regions.



Figure 4.6 Site visit to Sabo facilities along the Karasu River Basin in Gunma Prefecture

4.2.4 Promotion of Mainstreaming DRR (Group and Region focused)

Duration: 20 November – 13 December 2023

Number of Participants: 10 (from 10 countries)

Contents: DRR in Japan, 8 Steps in Formulating DRR Strategy, Site visits

ADRC conducted this training on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction from 20 November to 13 December 2023. A total of ten officials from disaster risk management organizations in the Pacific island and Asian countries participated in this program to learn about disaster management policies and measures based on the approach of the Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction.

Participants attended lectures by experts from organizations in the field, including the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, local government and research institutes. They also visited sites in Tokyo, Gifu and Hyogo prefectures. During the program period, a total of four discussion sessions were held to exchange opinions between participants and experts. At the end of the program, the participants presented their action plan based on their findings. ADRC collaborated with JICA and other institutions in Japan in carrying out this program.



Figure 4.7 Part of the activities during the site visit to Tajimi Sabo National Highway Office

4.2.5 Comprehensive DRR for the African Region

Duration: 5 December 2023 – 29 March 2024

Number of Participants: 13 (from 12 countries)

Contents: DRR in Japan, 8 Steps in Formulating DRR Strategy, Site visits

On 5 December 2023 to 29 March 2023, ADRC conducted in hybrid format (online and in-person) the training on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction for the African Region. Thirteen government officials from 12 countries: Algeria, Cote d' Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, and Cape Verde participated in the training. The course was aimed at assisting the participants to formulate and implement local DRR plans and to promote disaster risk reduction measures in their respective countries. The participants attended lectures, joined site visits and Town Watching activity. They also participated in exercises to formulate a draft local DRR plan. ADRC collaborated with JICA and other institutions in Japan in carrying out this program.



Figure 4.8 Town watching exercise facilitated by Dr Ogawa, Executive Secretary of ADRC

4.2.6 Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction

Duration: 19 December 2023 – 21 February 2024

Number of Participants: 6 (from 6 countries)

Contents: DRR in Japan, 8 Steps in Formulating DRR Strategy, Site visits

ADRC conducted this training on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction from 19 December 2023 to 21 February 2024 in cooperation with JICA Kansai. Six government officials from six countries: Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, participated in this course. Participants learned how to formulate and implement local disaster risk reduction (DRR) plans to promote DRR measures in each country. It was conducted in a hybrid format, where participants attended online programs before coming to Japan for the in-person program. In the six-week program in Japan, the participants attended site visits and lectures in disaster-related organizations/facilities in Hyogo, Osaka, Kyoto, Kumamoto, and Hiroshima prefectures to learn about Japanese experiences and countermeasures of DRR. Furthermore, they exchanged information and opinions on each country's budget situation and inter-organizational cooperation to promote DRR. At the end of the course, they presented a draft local DRR plan, which they formulated through the programs.



Figure 4.9 Site visit to Kizugawa Floodgate, Osaka Prefecture

4.2.7 Malaysia "LEP2.0 Enhancement of the Disaster Risk Management Capacity of the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA): Countermeasures against Flood Control"

Duration: 26 February – 8 March 6 2024

Number of Participants: 15 (from Malaysia)

Contents: Flood control policies, Site visits

A total of 15 officials from disaster risk management and relevant organizations in Malaysia participated in this intensive two-week program, 26 February – 8 March 2024, to learn about the flood control policies and practices of Japan.



Figure 4.10 Site visit to flood countermeasure infrastructure

Participants attended lectures by experts in the field, including from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, local government and research institutes, and visited sites in Hiroshima, Tokyo, and Kanagawa where countermeasures have been installed. At the end of the program, the participants presented their action plan based on their findings over the two weeks. With the support from JICA, ADRC collaborated with organizations and universities in Japan in carrying out this program.

4.3 Online Tsunami Seminar Series

ADRC organized the Online Tsunami Seminar in FY 2023 to share the latest research findings and practices on tsunami disaster risk reduction to member countries, stakeholders, and the general public. Specific objectives were to: 1) share community-based tsunami preparedness programmes and activities (e.g., initiatives related to awareness-raising, evacuation drill, and early warning systems); and 2) discuss challenges in implementing community-based tsunami preparedness activities. The discussions provided insights to strengthen community-based tsunami preparedness activities. It also highlighted new approaches of addressing the common challenges in community-based tsunami preparedness programs.



Figure 4.11 Resource speakers of the Online Tsunami Seminar 2023

Each speaker highlighted the practices and experiences of their respective countries. Ms Thai Minh Huong noted that tsunami disaster-preparedness in Vietnam is a proactive approach, stressing that “although there was no prior tsunami experience in Vietnam, it does not mean it will not occur.” In the same light, the government is facing a challenge to convince communities in areas where tsunami may occur to actively participate in the preparedness programs. Mr A.M.R.N.K. Alahakoon said that some coastal communities in Sri Lanka were impacted by the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004. With that experience, the government has been implementing a tsunami preparedness program, including the establishment of the community organizations (VDMC). However, VDMCs do not have any “legal status”, therefore the government could not provide them financial support. One lesson from this experience is that “top-down” approach with no legal fund transfer could be challenging. Dr NAKANO Genta reported that the through past tsunami experiences, the community-based preparedness efforts in Japan have evolved to a more “collaborative model”. He showcased the experience of Okitsu community in Shimanto Town of Kochi Prefecture with the following collaborators tasks: 1) volunteer organization to facilitate linkage among the school, municipality, and experts; 2) elementary school to educate the children to protect themselves from tsunamis; 3) town government to implement infrastructure improvements; and 4) university to provide specialized information on earthquake and tsunami disaster.

4.4 Short-Term Programmes

ADRC has been conducting short-term trainings for promoting DRR. In FY2023, ADRC organized several short-term programs targeted at government officials, academics, and students from overseas and Japan.

4.4.1 DDPM Visit

On 17-21 May 2023, ADRC welcomed the delegation from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), Thailand visited Japan to conduct the “Study Visit Program for Enhancing the Capacity of a National Early Warning System and Establishing Cell Broadcast System in Thailand.” The delegation included Mr Boontham Lertsukekasem, Director General of DDPM, and 11 other senior officials who are in charge of early warning system and dissemination in the department. The group visited some organizations involved in the river early warning and information dissemination system including: the Kanto Regional

Development Bureau's Kofu Work Office under the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT); the Fire and Disaster Management Agency (FDMA) under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC); the Sumida City Office; the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK); NTT Docomo; the Japan Telecommunications Engineering and Consulting Service (JTEC); and the Honjo Life Safety Learning Center. The visits gave the group an opportunity to obtain directly from the respective organizations a wide perspective of the latest initiatives taken in Japan concerning the river early warning system ranging from the acquisition of river observation data to information dissemination to the public through the dissemination system utilized by the emergency response agencies such as FDMA and local governments, and by the media and mobile phone companies.



Figure 4.12 Visits to Kofu Office, Kanto RBD, MLIT (left) and Sumida Office (right)

ADRC supported the delegation by advising on the development of its agenda and by accompanying the delegation to the study visits.

4.4.2 NIT Wakayama College

On 16 August, ADRC received a student and a teacher from the National Institute of Technology, Wakayama College. The student wished to study in the Philippines, and ADRC provided a briefing on the country's risk profile, past disasters, and disaster risk management systems. The briefing included discussions on the characteristics of damage, administrative systems, NGO activities, disaster information dissemination such as SNS, disaster awareness of local residents and points of reference for disaster management in Japan. The student raised questions about the educational environment in the Philippines and the mutual understanding of communities. The visitors were particularly interested to know more information about local disaster management systems as well as the activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

4.4.3 Atma Jaya Yogyakarta University

On 14 November, ADRC hosted the visit of Atma Jaya Yogyakarta University in Indonesia and gave a lecture on ADRC's contribution in building resilience in Asian countries. The lecture introduced examples of ADRC activities including information sharing, technology transfer and the latest early warning technologies useful at the community level.



Figure 4.13 ED Sasahara delivered a lecture (left) and group photo of participants (right)

Participants asked many questions such as: "Why was the Kanto Earthquake in 1923 dominated by huge fire?" "How does ADRC promote sustainability of projects in the community?" "Does ADRC have projects related to Climate Change?" Staffers from ADRC answered the questions, and lively discussions followed.

4.4.4 Internships at ADRC

ADRC accepted a total of three interns in FY 2023. This is part of ADRC's continuing program of supporting students who are interested in learning more about disaster risk reduction, particularly in the Asian context. During the period of internship, students are given opportunity to support the implementation of projects undertaken by researchers (e.g., Annual Report, Natural Disaster Databook, Country Risk Profiles, GLIDE, Disaster Information Management, and latest disaster information). Interns also participate in ADRC activities, e.g., the Asian Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (ACDR), Town-watching exercises, Tsunami DRR seminars, DRR workshops, and field visits. Interns in 2023 were from the Philippines and Denmark (Figure 4.14).

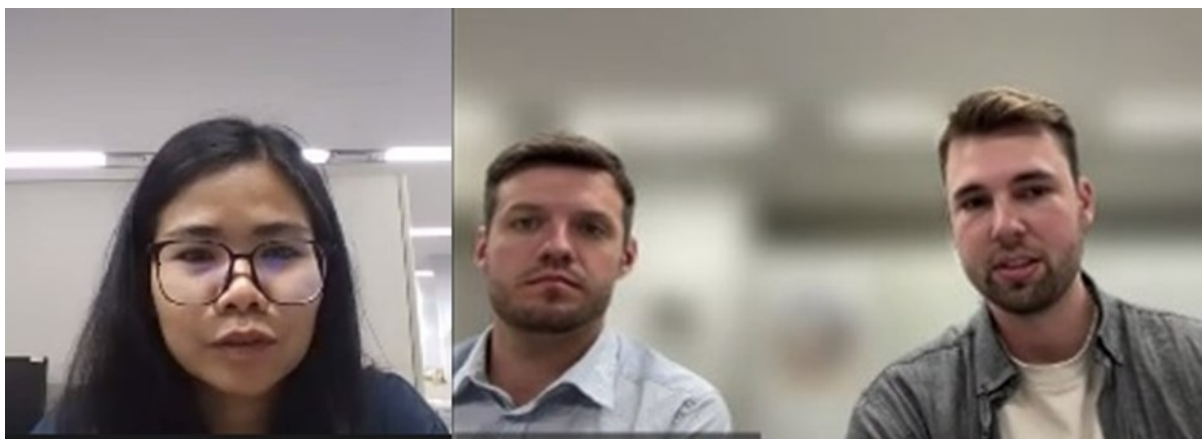


Figure 4.14 Interns of 2023: Ms De Chavez, Mr Creton, and Mr Svensson

(1) Ms Hazel De Chavez (Philippines)

Affiliation: International University of Japan (Masters in Public Management)

Period of internship: 2 – 28 July 2023

Tasks: Write-up for Natural Disaster Databook 2022, editing of the ADRC Annual Report 2022, Write-up on good practices about flood and typhoon countermeasures in the Philippines

(2) Mr Oliver Creton (Denmark)

Affiliation: Roskilde University, Denmark (Masters in Global Studies)

Period of internship: 4 September – 27 October 2023

Tasks: Updating of profiles of ADRC member countries, updating of the report on Türkiye-Syria Earthquakes, GLIDE utilization analysis, documentation of the ACDR2023

(3) Mr Rasmus Svensson (Denmark)

Affiliation: Roskilde University, Denmark (Masters in Global Studies)

Period of internship: 4 September – 27 October 2023

Tasks: Updating of profiles of ADRC member countries, updating of the report on Türkiye-Syria Earthquakes, GLIDE utilization analysis, documentation of the ACDR2023