# History of Establishment of ADRC

## 1990s: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR)

At its 42nd General Assembly in December 1987, the United Nations (UN) designated the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). It adopted a resolution aiming to sharply reduce the damage caused by natural disasters around the world, particularly in developing countries, through joint international action.

## 1994: World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction

In May 1994, the UN held the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama, Japan, to conduct an interim review of the decade-long IDNDR initiative and to propose an action plan for the future. At the meeting, the "Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World" was adopted, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in regions that share common types of disasters and disaster reduction measures. Since then, disaster reduction activities have been promoted throughout the world based on this strategy.

## 1995: Ministerial-level Asian Natural Disaster Reduction Conference

As the first step toward regional cooperation under the Yokohama Strategy, the IDNDR Secretariat organized a meeting in Kobe in December 1995 to formulate a policy on disaster reduction cooperation in Asia. Cabinet members in charge of disaster reduction from 28 countries attended the meeting, which concluded with the adoption of the Kobe Disaster Reduction Declaration. This declaration consists of ideas for promoting international cooperation in disaster reduction, including a Japanese proposal to launch a feasibility study on a system for coordinating disaster reduction efforts in the Asian region.

## 1996: Asian Natural Disaster Reduction Experts Meeting

The Government of Japan and the IDNDR Secretariat jointly organized an expert meeting in October 1996 to thresh out how a central disaster reduction system, as stated in the Kobe Disaster Reduction Declaration, might be created for the Asian region. The meeting was attended by key personnel in the disaster reduction bureaus of 30 countries, and they agreed to study the creation of the tentatively named "Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)" to serve as a secretariat for promoting activities under the proposed system.

## 1997: Asian Disaster Reduction Cooperation Promotion Meeting

Again, the Government of Japan and the IDNDR Secretariat jointly organized a meeting in Tokyo in June 1997 to discuss activities to be undertaken by the proposed center for disaster reduction system. Likewise,

the key personnel from the disaster reduction bureaus of 23 countries attended the meeting with an overall goal of promoting cooperation in disaster reduction efforts through specific actions. A proposal was made at the meeting to establish a center in Japan to serve as the secretariat for the proposed system.

## 1998: Establishment of ADRC

Gaining momentum from these 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, ADRC was officially established in Kobe on 30 July 1998. Its status was part of the Urban Disaster Research Institute (URDI).

## 2020: Launch of ADRC Foundation

In April 2020, the ADRC Foundation was launched. This made ADRC independent from URDI after 21 years and obtained a corporate status. Under this newly reconfigured status, ADRC gained greater flexibility in performing its international operations as well as bolstering its domestic activities.

# Overview of the International Recovery Platform

IRP was established following the Second UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan in 2005 to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) by addressing the gaps and constraints experienced in the context of post-disaster recovery. After a decade of functioning as an international source of knowledge on good recovery practice, IRP refocused its role as an "international mechanism for sharing experience and lessons associated with build-back-better".

IRP is not an operational body. So, it does not directly implement project activities. Instead, it functions as a platform for interested partners to periodically meet to exchange lessons and ideas that will promote recovery best practice and learnings as well as capacity building. Its activities are governed by a Steering Committee and supported by a small Secretariat based in Kobe Japan and hosted by the Japanese Government, the Hyogo Prefectural Government, ADRC, and UNDRR.

IRP works towards supporting greater advancements in the field of resilient recovery and build-back-better by:

- bringing together a broad range of senior policy makers and practitioners to exchange experiences and facilitate discussion on resilient recovery challenges and build-back-better opportunities at the annual International Recovery Forum
- advocating for closer cooperation with development partners, regional intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction in promoting and building capacity for achieving effective build-back-better outcomes
- sharing of information through its inter-active website

IRP is governed by the Steering Committee, where membership is decided by consensus. Steering Committee members contribute towards the approved activities of IRP, by means of commitment of funds or in-kind contributions. The Steering Committee members can request the Chair for technical experts or specialist to attend meetings on an ad-hoc basis to provide specialist inputs as and when deemed necessary. The members of IRP Steering Committee are: ADB, ADRC, ASEAN, Cabinet Office Japan, CEPREDENAC, Hyogo Prefectural Government Japan, ILO, MOFA-Italy, SDC-Switzerland, the World Bank, UN-Environment, UNCRD, UNDP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNDRR, UNOPS, and WHO (Figure 1 Logos of IRP SC members).


Figure 1. Logos of IRP SC Members

# Notes on Sources of Data

## Natural Disaster Data

All disaster data are based on EM-DAT/CRED: The Emergency Events Database - Université Catholique de Louvain - CRED, www.emdat.be, Brussels, Belgium. Datasets were obtained on 25 March 2024, unless otherwise stated. The Natural Disaster Databook 2023 focused only on seven disaster types: drought, earthquake, extreme temperature, flood, storm, wildfire, and volcanic activity.

*EM-DAT Criteria:*

For a disaster to be entered into the database, at least one of the following criteria must be fulfilled:

- Ten (10) or more people reported killed
- Hundred (100) or more people reported affected
- Declaration of a state of emergency
- Call for international assistance

The Natural Disaster Databook 2023 follows the EM-DAT definitions of “people killed” as persons confirmed as dead and persons missing and presumed dead; “people affected” as the sum of injured, homeless, and affected requiring immediate assistance during the period of emergency and requiring basic survival needs such as food, water, shelter, sanitation and immediate medical assistance.

*Disaster Terms:*

**Drought** includes an extended period of unusually low precipitation that produces a shortage of water for people, animals and plants.

**Earthquake** includes ground shaking and tsunami.

**Epidemic** includes bacterial and viral infectious diseases.

**Extreme Temperature** includes heat wave, cold wave, and extreme winter conditions.

**Flood** includes general flood, and flash flood.

**Insect Infection** is pervasive influx and development of insects or parasites affecting humans, animals, crops and materials.

**Landslide** includes avalanche, debris, and rockfall.

**Storm** includes local storm, tropical cyclone, and winter storm.

**Volcanic activity** means volcanic eruption.

**Wildfire** includes bush/brush fire, forest fire, and scrub/grassland fire.

*Classification of EM-DAT:*

EM-DAT distinguishes between two generic categories for disasters: natural and technological. The natural disaster category is divided into 5 sub-groups, which in turn cover 15 disaster types and more than 30 sub-types. The technological disaster category is divided into 3 sub-groups which in turn cover 15 disaster types:

https://council.science/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Peril-Classification-and-Hazard-Glossary-1.pdf

## COVID-19 Data

All COVID-19 data used in the Databook 2023 is based from the World Health Organization Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard, https://covid19.who.int/ accessed on 10 July 2024.

Data from the WHO COVID-19 Dashboard are from the official reporting to WHO through regional offices and also from public websites, not officially reported to WHO. Member States select the data and the reporting systems they prefer to use. Individual countries, areas, and territories may decline to allow country-level disaggregation.

In past three years, ADRC has been showing some COVID-19 data from the WHO COVID-19 Dashboard to report on the situation, such as confirmed cases, deaths, and health systems in member countries. Providing such information is useful to sustain early warning, surveillance, and travel advisories. In May 2023, many countries around the world, including Japan, had lifted all remaining COVID-19 travel restrictions (e.g., proof of vaccination to enter the country). Consequently, many countries discontinued reporting the COVID-19 situations to the World Health Organization (WHO) since 2023.

It is on this context that the COVID-19 data is presented in the Databook 2023.