

About Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

A Hub of Regional Cooperation in Asia

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) was established in Kobe, Hyogo prefecture, in 1998 with the mission of enhancing the disaster resilience of its 30 member countries,* building safe communities, and creating a society where sustainable development is attainable. ADRC works to build disaster-resilient communities and to establish networks among countries through personnel exchanges and a variety of other programs.

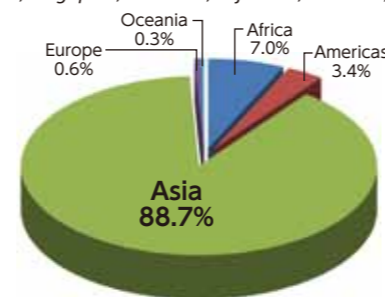
ADRC addresses the issue of disaster reduction from a global perspective in cooperation with a variety of United Nations (UN) agencies and international organizations, such as the UN Secretariat for International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).



*30 Member Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen (as of March 2015)

Disaster Risk Reduction is a MUST for Sustainable Development

The number of people affected by natural disasters is on the rise. Especially in Asia, massive disasters that cause more than 1,000 deaths and missing persons occur two or three times a year on average. In fact, disaster statistics show that Asia accounts for about 90% of the total number of people killed/affected by natural disasters over the past several decades. The frequent occurrence of disasters is believed to be a result of unsustainable growth, rapid urbanization, environmental disruptions (such as large-scale deforestation), and global environmental change.



Number of People Affected by Natural Disasters (by Region: 1984-2013)
Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database (www.emdat.be)

Main Activities

1. Information Sharing

- Learning from disasters, benefiting from information -

(1) Dissemination of Disaster Information

ADRC has developed a database of disaster information that it publishes on its website in order to serve as a clearinghouse of disaster information from various sources since 1998. Summarized information with direct links to the original data sources enables the rapid search and retrieval of information. The database provides a brief summary of disasters (dates, locations, and descriptions), outlines of damage status, and links to information categorized as either reports/articles, geographic data, emergency relief information, urgent reports from ADRC member countries, and graphic information. Such information is continually updated as it becomes available.



Latest Disaster Information

(2) Sentinel Asia: Space-Based Disaster Management Support in the Asia-Pacific

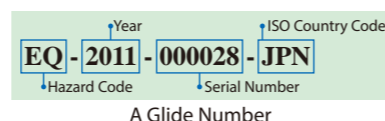
The Sentinel Asia Project was launched in 2006 to establish a disaster risk management system in Asia using satellites. ADRC receives emergency observation requests from member countries and other organizations that participate in collaborative projects. The Disaster Management Support System is also a part of this Sentinel Asia project, and through it ADRC offers maps and satellite images, as well as disaster information, to the Asia Pacific region.



Satellite Images (the Great East Japan Earthquake)

(3) Promotion of the GLObal unique disaster IDentifier (GLIDE) Numbers

Since 2001, ADRC has conducted a globally common, unique identification scheme for disaster events as a tool for facilitating the sharing of disaster information archived by organizations around the world. The project, known as the new GLObal unique disaster IDentifier Number (GLIDE) initiative, was jointly launched with such organizations as UNOCHA. GLIDE is an open standard, accessible at no cost to anyone interested in disaster data. Using GLIDE will promote transparent linking and efficient retrieval of disaster information from multiple sources, thereby facilitating improved disaster data management and analysis.



A Glide Number

(4) Organization of International Conferences

ADRC convenes an annual international conference, the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR). Attended by disaster risk management officials from member countries, as well as disaster experts from international organizations, ACDR aims to promote the sharing of information and ideas, and to enhance partnerships among participating countries and organizations. ACDR is expected to facilitate for implementation of the priority actions of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.



ACDR 2017 in Baku, Azerbaijan

2. Human Resources Development

- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Begins with Capacity Building -

(1) Conferences, Workshops, & Trainings

ADRC organizes and conducts various conferences, workshops, and trainings for developing human resources capable of pursuing effective disaster risk management in member countries.

[ADRC DRR Policy Peer Review]

Since 2009, ADRC has been conducting DRR Policy Peer Reviews to help develop the DRR capacity of ADRC-member countries by promoting information sharing and facilitating efforts to strengthen relationships among member countries. This program had been conducted in seven countries as of March 2015.



DRR Policy Peer Review FY2014 in Armenia

[Urban Search-and-Rescue Training in Singapore]

The Singaporean government holds an annual training course for search-and-rescue professionals, and has included trainees from outside Singapore in this event. Training is provided on the search-and-rescue expertise required in urban disaster situations. To utilize Singapore's expertise and facilities, ADRC has been inviting around 50 fire fighters and rescue workers from member countries to participate in this training course annually since 2001.



Urban Search and Rescue Training

(2) Visiting Researcher Program

ADRC has been receiving Visiting Researchers (VR) from member countries since 1999. As of March 2015, 87 officials from 26 member countries have taken part in this program. During their stay, Visiting Researchers learn about Japan's advanced DRR knowledge and technologies and its international cooperation in this field. Visiting Researchers are expected not only to contribute to DRR capacity-building efforts in their own home countries, but also to further promote cooperation between their countries and ADRC.



GIS Lecture for VR

3. Building Community Capabilities

- Community Involvement is a Key to Effective DRR -

Development and Dissemination of Tools for Encouraging Community Participation

Risk reduction measures are most successful and effective when they directly involve the communities most likely to be exposed to hazards. ADRC undertakes various efforts including increasing public awareness of disaster risk reduction, development and dissemination of tools for reducing vulnerability of communities.

[Town Watching for DRR]

Town-Watching for DRR is a simple and practical tool for efficiently implementing community-based hazard mapping in local communities. The major benefit of Town-Watching is that the physical involvement of participants (in such activities as walking, observing, mapping by hand, and discussing findings) enables them to better develop a concrete image of DRR activities.



Field Survey in Town Watching

[Tsunami Awareness Educational Material: Inamura no Hi]

Inamura no Hi is the story of a man who noticed the early warning signs of a large tsunami and led his fellow villagers to high ground by burning harvested rice sheaves. This story can be traced to the time of the Ansei-Nankai Tsunami (1854), which claimed around 3,000 lives in the coastal areas of Western Japan. ADRC has developed tsunami awareness educational materials based on the Inamura no Hi story for eight Asian countries. These materials are available for download on the ADRC website.



Inamura no Hi Story for Eight Asian Countries