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Reflecting on Two Decades Since the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami

Twenty years ago, on 26 December 2004, the Indian Ocean Tsunami caused unprecedented devastation across numerous regions.

Over the years, tsunamis have repeatedly struck communities worldwide. Major events include the 1960 Chile tsunami, the 1976 tsunami in the Philippines, the 1998 Papua New Guinea tsunami, the 1999 Turkey earthquake, the 2001 tsunami in Peru, the catastrophic 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the 2009 Samoa and Tonga tsunami, the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, and the 2018 Sunda Strait tsunami. These events underscore the urgent need for global collaboration to address tsunami hazards, which is a significant challenge for all nations.

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) has been steadfast in its efforts to reduce the risk caused by tsunamis including sharing of information on tsunami disaster risk reduction (DRR), human resource capacity building for disaster preparedness, and enhancement of community resilience. ADRC has compiled best practices from affected communities, and developed educational frameworks for disaster preparedness. It has also organized annual online tsunami seminars to promote World Tsunami Awareness Day, which is on 5 November as designated by the United Nations General Assembly, to disseminate the latest insights to government officials and researchers worldwide. (Please [click here](#) for more details.)

This year, marking the 20th commemoration of the Indian Ocean tsunami, ADRC partnered with the Tsunami Disaster Mitigation Research Center of Universitas Syiah Kuala (TDMRC/USK) to host the International Seminar on Tsunami Disaster Mitigation in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. (For more details, please visit: <https://tdmrc.usk.ac.id/international-seminar-on-tsunami-mitigation/>)

ADRC remains committed to fostering global initiatives aimed at creating safer, more resilient, and harmonious communities across the Asia-Pacific region, in collaboration with its 33 member countries.