

Foreword

Fiscal Year 2020 was tough. On top of the COVID-19 pandemic, Asian region experienced record-breaking heat waves, droughts, flooding, typhoons, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Since many governments had imposed lockdowns, travel restrictions, and social distancing to prevent the spread of infection, disaster risk management has become even more challenging. The pandemic demanded that our approaches to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery should change. Considering all these, the activities of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) have adapted to the situation to continue working with the communities to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of concurrent crises.



Instead of holding it in Tajikistan, the Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2020 was organized online for the first time since 2003. Evidently, it showed that a crisis, like the pandemic, could instantly complicate our annual assembly as well as other activities. As you read through this Annual Report, you will notice that ADRC activities are gradually adapting to the “new normal”. Not only that many of our events were conducted virtually, our working systems have also begun to embrace greater digitalization and localization.

Towards the end of FY 2020, we had already developed some innovative ways of responding to disasters during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as through the utilization of remote technologies as well as the application of multi-hazards and multi-disciplinary approaches in disaster risk management. On behalf of ADRC, I would like to extend my appreciation to all member countries for supporting our activities in FY 2020. I look forward to greater collaboration and synergies in our future activities.

April 2021

HAMADA Masanori

Chairman

Asian Disaster Reduction Center