

ADRC Official Statement at Global Platform 2019, 17th May

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

ADRC would introduce a latest initiative to overcome challenges in Asia and the Pacific and to promote implementing Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It is also the commitment for facilitating target e), Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.

Practically for the first time in ADRC 20-year activities with 31-member countries, it engages in promoting and supporting an academic study, namely “Study on Disaster Resilience Policies and Measures for Sustainable Economic Growth in ASEAN Region”

It is a partnership initiative with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Asian region is geographically prone to disasters and, at the same time, it is densely populated. Once a disaster occurs, the human sufferings will be considerable. Furthermore, since the region is also a home to industrial clusters in which many manufacturers are concentrated, the economic losses due to disasters are substantial.

With the flood that occurred in Thailand in 2011, the global supply chains of the automobile, electronics and electrical industries that were the major part of their production bases in Thailand were cut off.

The growth of ASEAN region is remarkable, with the population reaching 730 million by 2030, and it is said that, with further advances in economic integration, it will rank as the world's fourth-largest economy by 2050.

For this reason, the economic losses due to disasters are ever more severe, and such losses are estimated to average \$4.4 billion per year.

In other words, reducing the human and economic cost of disasters occurring in ASEAN region is of benefit to the global economy.

It is critical for the sustainable development in ASEAN to focus not only on economic development, but also on resilience against various crises and disasters.

In order to maintain and manage supply chains at the time of disasters, it is considered important to introduce advanced initiatives and to suggest the importance of low regret

investment with the aim of rebuilding more resilient cities to disasters.

In this context, this study is to be utilized in policies and measures for disaster risk reduction in ASEAN region.

Based on the “ASEAN Economic Community Blue Print 2025” and “AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020”, the objectives of the study and the final results are consistent with objectives of ASEAN policy.

In this research we focus on the following 3 themes.

1. Study on economic damages by natural hazards and local disaster management plans in ASEAN countries.

With regard to the importance of increasing disaster risk reduction capacities in ASEAN region, the study will examine the relationship between disasters and economic damages with the aim of widely disseminating information not only to disaster experts, but also to other policy making areas.

Furthermore, it will also be summarized as comprehensive considerations and recommendations relating to “Priority 4. Protecting Economic and Social Gains of ASEAN Community Integration through Risk Transfer and Social Protection”.

2. Study on Disaster Resilience in private sector of Japan

This study will introduce some cases of policy and measures of DRR and Business Continuity Management (BCM) including Business Continuity Plan (BCP) as a core and essential element for Disaster Resilience in private sector.

In conducting the study, recommendations will also be made regarding the importance and necessity of resilience of supply chain, as indicated in the “AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020”, with a view to deployment in the Asian region.

3. Low regret investment in disaster risk reduction for sustainable development

In order to contribute to economic and social development of developing regions, including ASEAN, this theme will provide, among other things, a summary of the

concept of the low or no regret investment in disaster risk reduction that has been implemented in several countries.

It will also introduce Disaster Risk Reduction Investment Accounts for Development (DR2AD) Model that can quantitatively evaluate the economic development effects of low regret investment for disaster risk reduction, adding recommendations on the protection of the economic and social gains of the ASEAN Community.

I believe the achievement of these studies would contribute to more resilience and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific.

Thank you for your attention