

Mr. Shyam Sunder from India

India has always been vulnerable to natural disasters on account of its unique geo-climatic conditions. Floods, Landslides, Hailstorm, Fire, Cyclones, Earthquakes, Avalanches and Drought have been recurrent phenomena. About 60% of the landmass is prone to earthquakes of various intensities; over 40 million hectares is prone to floods; about 8% of the total area is prone to cyclones and 68% of the area is susceptible to drought.

In India, the concerned State Governments are responsible to manage the disaster at ground level. The Union Government supplements the efforts by extending logistics and financial supports as well as coordinate efforts at national and international levels. In addition, many secondary organizations/Institutions also supplements efforts by assisting forecasting, providing relief and rescue operation, supporting preparedness and Mitigation and Human Resource development. A National Contingencies Action Plan (NCAP) for dealing with contingencies arising in the wake of natural disasters has been formulated by the Government. The NCAP identifies the initiatives required to be taken by various Central Ministries/Departments in the wake of natural calamities. Each State Government has relief manuals/codes which identify the role of each officer in the State for managing the natural disasters.

I joined ADRC this October, as a Visiting Researcher to share experiences of my country on disaster management and study the disaster management system of Japan and other member countries of ADRC. The experience will be useful to perform my duties and to minimize the effect of the disasters in India. Besides, I also want to promote cooperation between India and Japan and other Asian countries.

