

Ms. Lyudmila Harutyunyan, Armenia

The Republic of Armenia is a typical mountainous country situated in the southern Caucasus, with the average elevation of 1,800 meters above sea level. Armenia is deemed one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. It is prone to almost all types of disasters including earthquakes, landslides, hail storms, droughts, strong winds and floods.

I belong to the National Survey for Seismic Protection (NSSP), an agency functioning under the Ministry of Territorial Administration. NSSP conducts the overall earthquake disaster reduction in the areas of seismic hazard assessment, preparedness of central and local authorities, development of early warning systems and public education. Recently, national programs on raising public awareness have been developed and corresponding training programs are being conducted in all public schools, colleges and higher educational institutions nationwide.

Three months have already passed since I joined ADRC as a VR. I have visited governmental offices, schools, hospitals and museums in Japan. My experience at ADRC is of particular importance not only for my work in NSSP but also for Armenia. I am eager to achieve our common goal: natural disaster risk reduction. At ADRC, I would like to further study the disaster management system and relevant political arrangements in Japan, so that I can make a valuable contribution to disaster risk reduction in Armenia.

