

## **Ms. Nwet Yin Aye from Myanmar**

I am Nwet Yin Aye, Head of the Training and Research Division of the Department of Relief and Resettlement in Myanmar. Myanmar is located in Southeast Asia to the north of Indian Ocean. Since it has a long coastline along the Bay of Bengal, it is vulnerable to annual floods and cyclones. Other disasters such as urban fires, earthquakes, and landslides also occur there.



Myanmar suffered relatively little damage in the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami compared with the other affected countries. Nonetheless, this event made us ever more aware of the destructive impact of natural disasters, and provided the impetus for the government of Myanmar to establish the Central Committee on National Disaster Prevention under the chairmanship of prime minister, to effectively carry out disaster prevention and relief measures. A Management Working Committee and 10 respective sub-committees were established under the Central Committee. Our department is responsible for the Subcommittee on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, our department actively participates in regional and international cooperative activities. Myanmar has been a member of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) since it was formed in 2002. The Department of Relief and Resettlement acts as focal point for the ACDM. Myanmar is making efforts to develop its human resources by sending officials to various capacity building programs, and I am very pleased to be an ADRC visiting researcher, the first from Myanmar, for July-December 2007.

Though Japan has suffered various natural disasters, it is well developed and has an excellent disaster management system. During my six-month stay, I will learn about Japan's disaster management practices, especially in the areas of flood and cyclone management and disaster education systems. I am confident that Myanmar will receive benefit greatly from the ADRC's visiting researcher program.