

Ms. Phatsita RERNGNIRUNSATHIT from Thailand



My name is Phatsita Rerngnirunsathit, and I work as a Scientist, Profession level, in the Disaster Prevention Measures Bureau of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) in Thailand's Ministry of Interior. My main responsibilities are to study, research, and analyze the processes and characteristics of hazards, and to establish standards in disaster prevention

and mitigation by gathering information from flood forecasting systems, including information from geological, meteorological, and modern technological systems and from management information systems.

The DDPM was established in 2002 under the Ministry of Interior. It is responsible for disaster prevention and mitigation in Thailand, for ensuring people's safety prior to and during catastrophes, as well as for handling relief efforts after disasters. The DDPM engages in activities to strengthen disaster preparedness and prevention, such as formulating annual disaster prevention and mitigation plans, developing emergency drills, establishing community-based disaster risk management, and deploying early warning systems.

Like other countries worldwide, Thailand has seen an increase in the number and intensity of disasters due to climate change and other factors. At the same time, the advancements and prosperity that Thailand has achieved through national development have inevitably brought about the undesirable effect of increasingly vulnerability to disasters which are more complex in nature. Thus, a systematic approach to disaster management is very necessary, and must be pursued in alignment with other national policies and plans. During my term at ADRC (January-April 2012), I will be studying disaster preparedness and early warning systems in Japan. I personally believe that Japan is the world leader in innovative early warning systems, and it will be interesting to compare the disaster preparedness structures and early warning systems in place in a developing country like Thailand and a developed country like Japan. The resulting report will serve as a comprehensive and reliable source of information, and will be particularly useful since Thailand still suffers a shortage of

knowledge in disaster management. What I learn during my studies here should be useful for the future development of disaster prevention measures in Thailand.

I look forward to acquiring disaster management knowledge and experiences that will be applicable to Thailand. I sincerely hope that I will be able to promote further cooperation between the DDPM and ADRC by discussing and sharing ideas with the ADRC staff.