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I am currently serving as a Visiting Researcher at ADRC in Kobe. I am the principal specialist of Observation Network and Information Analysis Department of the “National Survey for Seismic Protection” Agency (Armenian NSSP) at the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia. I started my career as a specialist in the Department of Data Acquisition Processing and Analysis in 1998. My main responsibilities in order to evaluate seismic hazard are to develop and expand the Databases

of various parameters getting from the National network observation of RA, to separate the anomalies, to analyze seismic hazard by special programs typical methodologies used in Armenian NSSP. I’m expecting to study special programs typical methodologies used in Japan in the field of data acquisition, processing and analysis,

Armenia is a landlocked country in the Trans-caucasian region, between the Black and Caspian Seas, bordered on the north and east by Georgia and Azerbaijan and on the south and west by Iran and Turkey.

Armenia is one of the countries having numerous natural hazards and man-made emergencies (except the sea ones). The natural hazards including earthquakes; mudslides; transport accidents; landslides etc. likely affected the country. Analysis of the loss caused by various hazards revealed that the most catastrophic one in the region is earthquake.

Armenia is in the zone of high seismic hazard of Alpine-Himalayan and Balkan-Carpathian seismic belts. The most tragic seismic event in the recent history of the region was the Spitak earthquake on 7 December 1988 in Armenia. The earthquake hit 40 % of the territory of Armenia, densely populated region with 1 million people. The affected area involved 3000sq. km. 514.000 people were left without shelter, 20.000 people were injured and 12500 people were hospitalized. Number of victims was about 25.000. The earthquake completely destroyed the town of Spitak, parts of Leninakan and Kirovakan. The seismic risk has been highly increased by the potential threat of new earthquakes. After that catastrophic earthquake In 1991 Armenian NSSP was founded under the Government of RA. Armenian NSSP takes various measures for earthquake disaster management. The main objectives and the aims of Armenian NSSP are as follows: provision of seismic hazard monitoring in the RA territory; assessment of the seismic hazard and seismic risk of the territories; seismic risk reduction; assessment of the levels of caused seismicity and assessment of other secondary hazards connected with the seismic hazard. Since the day of its foundation the Armenian NSSP made close links with

international organizations like ADRC well known in the field of seismic hazard and seismic risk assessment and reduction, giving importance to the experience of these organizations and aiming to adjust it to Armenian reality. ADRC has a mission to enhance disaster resilience of the member countries, to build safe communities, and to create a society where sustainable development is possible. It is very important for me to take the great opportunity for conducting my research provided by the Government of Japan and the ADRC, as well as the Armenian NSSP and to acquire valuable experience in Japan.

During my stay in Japan, with my friends-Visiting Researchers from the member countries, I have visited the various research institutions and governmental organizations. Lessons learned from The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of January 1995 and other disasters caused enormous damage, and the Government of Japan had to change the Strategy of Earthquake Disaster Management that call for reducing fatalities and economic damage. 11 major redevelopment projects were undertaken and all were completed in 10 years. Progress of recovery which was, after such a major disaster; it astonished the world.

In Japan I 'm immersed myself in traditional Japanese culture. I would like all of the knowledge and skills in disaster management that I'm gaining through the ADRC VR Program, to report to the administration group of Armenian NSSP and of course sharing with my colleagues.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to both Governments of Japan and Armenia in providing me the tremendous opportunity of participating in this Program; my appreciation to all those specially ADRC, who made my time in Japan an experience that far surpassed my every expectation; and my admiration to all those who continue to devote their time and efforts to the education and training for Disaster management.

I'm sure that I have gained, professionally, culturally, and personally would leave a deep imprint on my future.