

Mr. LIU Nanjiang from China



I work for the National Disaster Reduction Center of China (NDRCC) which is part of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of P. R. China (MCA). This ministry is responsible for organizing and coordinating disaster relief work for all of China. The NDRCC, set up in 2002, is mainly responsible for providing technological and information services, conducting applied research and personnel training, and helping the government make decisions related to disaster reduction and relief.

China is a country that suffers some of the world's most serious natural disasters due to its vast territory, complicated climatic, geographical, and geological conditions, and fragile ecological conditions. Over 70% of China's cities and 50% of its population are located in regions frequently hit by major meteorological, seismological, geological, and maritime disasters. Since 2000, the annual direct economic losses due to natural disasters have ranged from 5% to 7% of China's GDP, with death tolls having numbered in the thousands. It is clear that natural disasters have become a great obstacle to sustainable social and economic development in China.

To reduce the damage and losses resulting from natural disasters, China has established the National Commission for Disaster Reduction (NCDR), an organization responsible for establishing state policies, regulations, guidelines, and action plans for disaster mitigation. It is also responsible for organizing major national disaster reduction activities, directing local efforts, and facilitating cross-border interactions and collaborations.

In recent years, the government has stepped up its efforts to build a disaster reduction system. First, steps were taken to incorporate disaster reduction into the state's development plan. The Chinese government has made disaster risk reduction a top priority in its state and local socioeconomic development plans. A national emergency response system has been built and is gradually being improved. The government has formulated the State 12th Five-year Plan for Disaster Reduction.

Second, with the development of disaster management efforts, the Chinese government is paying more attention to disaster information management. Thus we developed the National Disaster Information Management System in 2008.

Third, China is enhancing its disaster response management practices. The State Council issued the State Overall Contingency Plan for Emergent Public Events,

while the Ministry of Civil Affairs developed a Contingency Plan for Disaster Relief, Operating Procedures for Abrupt Natural Disasters, and Operating Procedures for Emergent Disaster Relief. Contingency plans have been developed at the provincial, city, and county levels, as well as for towns, factories, and schools.

While at ADRC, I would like to conduct research on the risk assessment of disasters that occur in Japan, such as earthquakes and typhoons. I want to thoroughly examine the disaster risk index system and risk assessment models, among other topics. I will use Japan's advanced experience and technologies to design a set of disaster risk assessment standards and enhance the level of disaster prevention and mitigation in China. I also hope to study Japanese disaster mitigation communities, including the methods by which they are established and related legislation.