

Mr. Ibrahim Thaufeeq from Maldives



Hello from the Maldives! I am Ibrahim Thaufeeq and I work at the Directorate of Operations and Training, Integrated Headquarters of the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF). The functions of the directorate are twofold. First, we are in charge of coordinating and conducting all operations, military, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and internal security operations, on behalf of the Armed Forces of the Maldives. Second, we coordinate with relevant agencies and countries to conduct trainings, seminars, and conferences, and we provide capacity-building opportunities for all the soldiers and sailors of the Maldives National Defence Force, in addition to facilitating local training exercises. My primary responsibilities include coordinating with training teams for bilateral trainings and coordinating with other units of MNDF to conduct operations and trainings. Disaster management is one of my secondary responsibilities, and I have participated in ongoing work to formulate a National Emergency Operations Plan for Disaster Management by the National Disaster Management Centre.

My heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone at ADRC for blessing me with this priceless opportunity. It is simply amazing to see the disaster resilience Japan has developed as a nation and the perseverance of the Japanese people during times of disaster. I truly believe that Japan is the best place to learn from when it comes to dealing with disasters. It is wonderful to have researchers from various countries come here and share their experiences. We are here to learn from one another and from Japan, and our goal is to mitigate the risks we face in our own countries. Should the worst happen, we want to be able to respond in a timely manner, recover efficiently, and effectively help our nations return to a state of normalcy.

My research focuses on Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction. I purposely chose this area because the Maldives is a nation of around 1,200 islands. Considering all the logistical and fiscal constraints we face, building resilience against disasters at the community level and empowering the everyday citizen is the best way to address disasters in this environment. We need to foster a community-based approach to disaster risk reduction in order to protect our country for generations to come.