

Mr. Leng Heng An from Cambodia



Cambodia is geographically situated in the Southeast Asian region, and approximately 80% of its population makes a living by farming paddies and growing crops. Thus, the Cambodian economy is largely dependent on agricultural production. Over the last decade, Cambodia has experienced increasingly frequent and severe natural disasters, mainly floods and droughts, and these have had a serious, negative impact on people's livelihoods. The Royal Government of Cambodia is therefore paying a great deal of attention to this critical issue. In 1995, it created a national disaster management coordinating agency called the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM). Operating under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Cambodia, the NCDM's mandate is to lead and coordinate disaster management work throughout the country.

I have been working as Assistant to the Secretary General of the NCDM since 2009. Prior to that, I was a communication official in the Press and Communication Department of the Office of the Council Ministers. I am currently a visiting researcher at ADRC in Kobe, Japan, where I will conduct research from January to April 2014.

Japan, a country known for its strong disaster resilience and remarkable culture of preparedness, has developed effective disaster management mechanisms and human resources and has accumulated useful experiences and lessons learned that enable it to engage in increasingly effective natural disaster, preparedness, response, and recovery. My research topic at ADRC is "Collaboration between the NCDM and NGOs in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Management (DM) Work." During my time at ADRC, I would like to learn first-hand about disaster management work, particularly DRR/DM coordination and collaboration between all DM stakeholders. I look forward to learning from ADRC researchers and other lecturers, to participating in workshops and conferences, to conducting field visits in Japan, and to sharing experiences and information about DRR/DM in Cambodia with my fellow visiting researchers.

During my stay in Japan, I will seek to learn more about the Japanese culture and economy, and hope that I am able, both personally and professionally, to foster cooperation and friendship between Japan and Cambodia and to boost the partnership and collaboration between NCDM and ADRC.