

Mr. Nuwan Prasantha Madawan Arachchi from Sri Lanka



I am Nuwan Prasantha Madawan Arachchi, from Sri Lanka, and I joined ADRC as a Visiting Researcher on 18 August 2014. Currently I work as an Assistant Director (Preparedness) in the disaster preparedness planning division of the Disaster Management Center (DMC) in Sri Lanka. The DMC is a mandated institution responsible for the coordination and implementation of disaster management activities. It is governed by the National Council for Disaster Management, which is chaired by the president of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The mission of the DMC is to constantly work “Towards a Safer Sri Lanka.” I am responsible for disaster preparation efforts from the national to the local level (districts, divisions, and Grama Niladharee, Sri Lanka's smallest administrative unit). My work includes disaster management planning and the implementation and coordination of all the preparedness planning activities. I have also spent the last 10 years working as an environmental activist, a climate change and global warming mitigation campaigner, and a researcher and technical officer for disaster-related disciplines.

I earned my first degree (B.Sc in agriculture) at the University of Ruhuna, and then enrolled in the University of Peradeniya to pursue a master's degree in disaster management. Over the course of my studies, I achieved a Fulbright scholarship, which is the most notable achievement in my professional life. This allowed me to study at the Alexandria campus in Washington DC.

I have produced several publications on topics related to the environment and disaster management. During my tenure with the DMC, I have worked in several fields, such as agriculture, youth affairs, the plantation industry, and human right works. I have worked on both a permanent and contract basis. I hope to serve as a dedicated expert in the field of DRM to serve those who are vulnerable to various manmade and natural hazards both locally and internationally.