

Ms. Nyo Nyo Aye from Myanmar



My name is Nyo Aye and I am from Myanmar. I work in the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) of the Ministry of Social Welfare, and am presently posted as the Upper Divisional Clerk in the Coordination and Research Section of the RRD in Nay Pyi Taw, a city in Myanmar. I have also worked in the RRD's Coordination and Research Section. I joined the RRD in 2010.

Myanmar has a population of nearly 60 million and is divided into the seven primarily Myanmar ethnic regions (tain dae tha gyi) of Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy), Bago (Pegu), Magway, Mandalay, Yangon (Rangoon), Sagaing, and Tanintharyi (Tenassarim), and the seven ethnic states (pyi nay) of Chin, Kachin, Kayin (Karen), Kayah (Karenni), Mon, Rakhine (Arakan), and Shan. Myanmar is regarded as an agricultural economy. With a total area of 676,578 km², it is the second largest country in Southeast Asia. It extends about 2,200 km north to south and about 925 km east to west. Its neighbors are China to the north and northeast, Lao PDR & Thailand to the east and southeast, and India and Bangladesh to the west. To the west and south lie the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. Myanmar is exposed to multiple natural hazards including cyclones, storm surges, floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, fires, and forest fires.

Data from 2000-2001 and 2009-2012 shows that fires constituted about 73% of the reported disaster events, followed by floods (11%), storms (12%), and other disasters (4%), including earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides. Cyclone Nargis (2008) was the worst natural disaster in the living memory of Myanmar. Currently, we are working on opening an emergency operations center (EOC) under the RRD. In addition, we are starting to use an End-to-End Early Warning System, a project on which we are cooperating with JICA, in the Ayeyarwady Region. The Disaster Management Law was ratified by the national government on 31 July 2013 and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is developing regulations for disaster management.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude and admiration to the ADRC staff for taking such good care of all of the visiting researchers.