

Mr. Safaraliyev Rustam from Azerbaijan



My name is Rustam Safaraliyev, and I am the Deputy Head of the Crisis Management Centre (CMC) of the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) in the Azerbaijan Republic. Established in 2005 by presidential decree, the MES has succeeded in developing sufficient capabilities covering every single area. The CMC is a functional body of the MES. As the central operating body of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, it is responsible for the centralized management and coordination of the resources and capacities of the ministry when it comes to disaster prevention and emergency response. Furthermore, the CMC gathers and analyzes disaster data and statistics, and operates an emergency hotline services call center. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the CMC acts in close cooperation with other organizations and departments of the MES. The CMC's activities include:

- Centralized control and coordination of search and rescue efforts
- Coordination of ministry operations
- Disaster-related information exchange with local and central executive bodies as well as self-governing authorities
- Distribution of necessary information related to hazards and emergencies to the authorized heads of the ministry, including the heads of structural units and appropriate agencies, as well as the heads of the central executive bodies of the Azerbaijan Republic.
- Compilation, generalization, processing, and analysis of disaster-related information, including data on emergencies occurring within and beyond the country's borders; relate decision making and policy proposals.
- Development and application of the Automated Information Management System (AIMS), including relevant information networks and software.
- Development and application of the Geographical Information System for Emergency Management.
- Administration of the 112 Call Center.

About the 112 Call Center

The 112 Call Center is an integrated and functional part of the CMC. The 112 hotline service should be used in the following situations:

- In the event of a natural or manmade disaster
- In case of fire or when conditions that could lead to a fire are detected
- When a child, elderly person, or sick person finds themselves in need of assistance

- Severe traffic accidents
- In the that an industrial or construction accident has occurred or is likely to occur
- When water rescue is needed
- In case of the detection or loss of CBRN or other hazardous materials, as well as containers designed for their storage and transportation; and in cases where explosive materials, weapons, or ammunition are detected
- In other cases where assistance is urgently needed (e.g., when a person is lost in the forest, or experiences an emergency out at sea)
- In case of a failure to directly connect with relevant services (101, 102, 103, 104)

As the Deputy Head of the Crisis Management Centre (CMC), my daily duties consist of coordinating and supervising the operations and functions of all departments and units. Azerbaijan's geographical location, as well as its prevailing geographical features, makes it one of the most disaster-prone countries in the region. On the other hand, our booming construction and industrial sectors, particularly the well-developed oil and gas sector, increase the risk of technical disasters. Azerbaijan is a highly seismic region and is also subject to other kind of natural disasters such as floods and landslides. Azerbaijan is committed to taking a comprehensive approach to disaster management by continuously improving emergency management systems (including prevention, mitigation, and response), prioritizing disaster risk reduction activities, and promoting international cooperation in this field.

Given this, and considering the various disasters taking place in Azerbaijan and around the world, the Ministry in general, and the Crises Management Centre in particular, place a high value on sharing international experiences, notably with those countries that face many different kinds of devastating disasters. Japan is located in highly disaster prone area, and has to be ready to withstand various natural disasters and to develop and improve its disaster management systems. Japan has extensive experience in this area. I am interested in gaining a better understanding of the disaster management system in one of the most vulnerable places of Japan in terms of disasters -Hyogo prefecture. The ADRC Visiting Researcher program has provided me an opportunity to closely familiarize myself with the Japanese system of disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response at the local level and to learn about the interconnections between state agencies and local communities. I am confident this program will enrich and deepen my knowledge of the disaster management field. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all of the ADRC staff for their cooperation and assistance, and to wish them great success in all their future efforts.