

Ms. Ameerha P. Ortega from Philippines



Mabuhay! Greetings from the Philippines! My name is Ameerha P. Ortega, and I am a Civil Defense Officer from the Office of Civil Defense, Department of National Defense (OCD-DND). I joined the OCD in 2009, at which time I was assigned to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Operations Center (NDRRMC OpCen). I was the Chief of Resource Mobilization and Coordination Section (RMCS), responsible for the coordination of rescue, evacuation, relief, and rehabilitation activities among government agencies, NGOs, and local and international civil society organizations. During emergency situations, I was responsible for ensuring that all needs in the affected regions in terms of rescue, evacuation, relief, and transportation (air, sea, and land) were promptly addressed and properly referred to the appropriate agencies for action. I was also a Team Leader of one of the Alert Teams that serves at the ND RRMCM OpCen and prepares NDRRMC Situational Reports. Lastly, I served as a Media Relations Officer, preparing media updates and handling media events, including press conferences and briefings.

Currently, I'm the Chief of the Operations Division of the OCD Regional Office 3 located in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga. At the regional level, the OCD Regional Director serves as the Chairperson of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council or the RDRRMC. OCD Region 3 covers all of Central Luzon, including its seven provinces (Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales) and two highly urbanized cities (Angeles City and Olongapo City). As an operations officer, I am in charge of disaster operations and serve as the point person for disaster response efforts together with the Vice-Chairperson for Disaster Response, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Region 3.

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation for the opportunity given to me by ADRC and the government of Japan to conduct research in Japan. I hope this research will be of great service to the residents of Bulacan Province, OCD Region 3 (in preparing for the "Big One"), and the NDRRMC.