

Ms. Lorene Sia-Catedral from Philippines



Greetings from the Philippines, Mabuhay! I am Lorene Sia-Catedral, Civil Defense Officer III from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) – Department of National Defense (DND), the executive arm and secretariat of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). With OCD's vision to be the center of excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) by 2020, it is faithful to its mission to provide leadership and administration of a comprehensive national civil defense and DRRM program in the country.

Presently, I am assigned at the OCD Caraga Regional Office located in Butuan City. Caraga Region comprises 5 provinces, 1 highly urbanized city, 5 component cities, 67 municipalities and 1,310 barangays.

In my fifteen (15) years at OCD Caraga Regional Office since 2001, I have gained experience in both the administrative and technical aspects of the work in the office and have undergone extensive technical training on DRRM. At present, I am designated as the Head, Plans and Program and Capability Building Sections and Focal Officer for the Regional DRRM Council (RDRRMC) as well as its Technical Working Group (TWG) and Regional Selection Committee (RSC) for Gawad KALASAG Search for Excellence in DRRM and Humanitarian Assistance. As such, I am working closely with the Local DRRM Councils (LDRRMCs), RDRRMC member-agencies and other partners in the implementation of DRRM capability building activities and training programs. One of my tasks is to serve as facilitator/resource person in providing technical assistance to various stakeholders in the conduct of DRRM capacity development activities and trainings programs, and in the formulation of DRRM-related plans in the region.

I would like to sincerely express my wholehearted appreciation to the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and the Government of Japan for the opportunity to learn and experience the best practices and innovations in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Japan. I am grateful to have been accepted as Visiting Researcher as this allowed me to take full advantage of the wealth of DRR information in Japan and to personally get a glimpse of Japan's incredible resilience. It is a nation where preparedness and resilience is at the core of what people do on a daily basis. DRR has truly become a way of life. The country and its people are DRR exemplars worthy of emulation and replication not only by the Philippines but the entire world.

I hope that this research paper, as my humble contribution to ADRC and the Republic of the Philippines through the Office of Civil Defense, would serve as an instrumental resource in promoting resilience of Filipino communities towards a safer and brighter future.