

Mr. Akbar Bacha from Pakistan



Konnichiwa! I am Akbar Bacha and I am from Pakistan. I am presently working as an Assistant Director for the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Climate Change in Pakistan. I hold a Master of Science in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and a Master's in Public Administration (MPA). I belong to the core / permanent cadre of the NDMA. I remain involved in the process of disaster planning, logistics / relief operations, and the coordination of foreign humanitarian relief

assistance during emergencies.

Pakistan is a land of great topographic and climatic contrast. The topography varies from coastal beaches, sandy desert, plateaus, and plains, to high mountains and snow-covered peaks. It is ranked among the top 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change effects and is prone to a number of natural disasters, including earthquakes, floods, GLOFs, landslides, cyclones, drought, and heat and cold waves.

The overwhelming response to the earthquake in 2005 provided the required stimulus for the government to introduce a new disaster management system. Thereafter, the government of Pakistan promulgated the National Disaster Management Ordinance in 2007 to introduce a comprehensive disaster management system. This ultimately resulted in an act known as the National Disaster Management (NDM) Act 2010. The act establishes three tiers for disaster management in Pakistan: national (NDMA), provincial (PDMA), and district (DDMA).

Under the NDM Act 2010, the National Disaster Management Commission (NDMC) is the highest forum for approving national disaster management plans and for formulating guidelines for disaster risk reduction. The commission is headed by the prime minister of Pakistan and its members include the leaders of the opposition in both houses, chief ministers from all provinces, the Prime Minister of the AJK and Gilgit Baltistan, ministers from other crucial ministries, and members of civil society.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to NDMA, the government of Pakistan, and ADRC for providing me the great opportunity to conduct research on the "Education and Awareness as a tool for Disaster Risk Reduction – Comparative Study of Japan and Pakistan" This is my area of focus and I have been tasked with preparing relevant research material and necessary data. It is worth highlighting that Japan is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world and has extensive experience in addressing all phases of a disaster. The country has developed and adopted a well-articulated system for disaster management and has achieved vast experience in disaster management, especially in disaster risk reduction measures, including affective education and awareness system at grass route.

I am sure Japan's experience and knowledge, along with ADRC's expertise, will be of great benefit to the NDMA in Pakistan. I would like to express my gratitude and veneration to the whole ADRC staff for the kind and generous support they provided to me and my visiting researcher colleagues during our stay in Japan.