

Mr. Pham Hong Thanh from Vietnam



My name is Pham Hong Thanh, and I am a Visiting Researcher at ADRC from Vietnam. I am the Scientific Research Specialist of the Disaster Management Policy and Technology Center of the Vietnam Disaster Management Authority of Vietnam. I started my career as a Scientific Researcher in the Vietnam Academy for Water Resources in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Vietnam is located in eastern Indochina, and shares borders with China, Laos, and Cambodia. It is a narrow strip of land with an area of 329,241 km<sup>2</sup>. The southern part of the country includes the Mekong Delta and plains, while the central area is comprised of mountains and hills. The north is mountainous and hilly, except for the Red River Delta. The climate is tropical in the south and temperate in the north, with the rainy season lasting from April to October. In the mountains, annual precipitation is sometimes as high as 4000mm. The dry season lasts from October to March. The capital is Hanoi. Of Vietnam's 85.2 million people, 86 percent are the Kinh. The population includes 53 other ethnic minorities.

Vietnam is among the countries most seriously impacted by natural disasters and climate change (it experienced 20/21 types of disasters in 2016, with exception of a tsunami). Natural disasters, such as storms, floods, droughts, flash floods, and landslides are increasing in intensity and frequency, causing severe human and economic losses. Over the past 20 years, disasters results in 10,800 fatalities and missing persons, and an economic loss to the GDP of VND 28,000 billion.

I am employed by the Disaster Management Policy and Technology Center, whose activities are mainly targeted at disaster risk reduction and management. The Center also develops laws and plans, and carries out training programs to enhance skills and specialized knowledge in disaster preparedness and response, and climate change adaptation. It also conducts outreach campaigns related to the Law of Natural Disaster Preparedness and Response and other related legal documents. Other activities of the Center include conducting research, giving advice on the applications of new technologies in disaster early warnings, supporting the decision-making process regarding disaster preparedness and response, observing disasters, managing and monitoring community-based disaster warning systems, and other activities for natural disaster preparedness, response and mitigation.

ADRC's mission is to enhance disaster resilience of its member countries (30 countries), to build safe communities, and to create a society where sustainable development is possible. Vietnam needs up-to-date world expertise in any scientific area which is likely to contribute to its sustainable development, focusing on storms, floods, flash floods, landslides. My participation in the VR program at ADRC is therefore of great importance to my work. I am confident that I will be able to apply all the knowledge and skills in disaster management that I am gaining through the VR Program in relevant fields of practice in Vietnam.