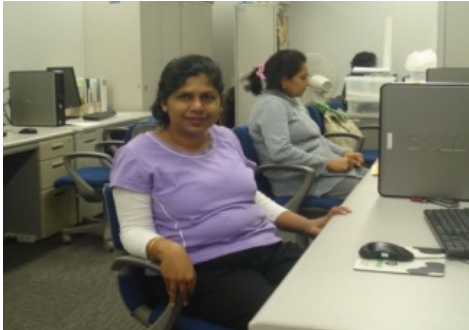


Ms. A.M.J.D.K Mudalige from Sri Lanka



I am Janaki Mudalige, and I am the District Disaster Management Coordinator at the Disaster Management Centre in Kegalle District, located in the central part of Sri Lanka. I started my career as a scientist in 1994 and I joined to Disaster Management Centre in 2006. I am currently serving as a Visiting Researcher at ADRC in Kobe.

Sri Lanka has experienced several natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and landslides, it has a lower incidence of natural disasters than other countries. There were remarkable levels of flooding and landslides in 2003, and in the following year, 2004, Sri Lanka suffered its most devastating event: the Indian Ocean tsunami. Thereafter, the government took steps to strengthen its disaster management system so as to minimize the damage to lives and properties that would be caused by future natural disasters. As a result, the parliament passed the Disaster Management Act on 13 May 2005. The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) was established immediately thereafter, and the Ministry of Disaster Management was formed in January, 2006. Since then, the DMC has served as a pioneer in the field of disaster management, conducting rapid assessments, implementing efforts to raise awareness, and promoting preparedness and mitigation activities all over the country.

The ADRC's Visiting Researcher (VR) Program affords me a great opportunity to conduct research on disaster reduction. The sharing of information and experiences with fellow ADRC member will give enable me to help develop a strategic approach to the promotion of safer communities. For these reasons and more, I am impressed with the program and I am delighted and honored to have been chosen to serve as a visiting researcher. The experiences I have had during my stay have been tremendously helpful. Japan has achieved an amazing level of development, and is implementing an impressive portfolio of mitigation and preparedness measures. Looking around, one can readily see the care and commitment of Japan's local communities and government agencies with regard to the protection of the environment, forests, water supply, air quality, and surroundings. Japan's role in the field of disaster management is particularly impressive because of the country's vast experiences in facing severe

disasters, including the atomic bomb attack during World War II. Japan's disaster risk reduction plans, programs, development projects, and efforts to build a resilient community are exemplary of good government leadership.

During my stay, I will also be able to immerse myself in traditional Japanese culture by participating in various festivals and tasting many Japanese foods. It will be my great pleasure to develop friendships with many students and other local residents. I look forward to taking all of the skills and disaster management knowledge that I gain through this VR Program and putting them to good use back at my workplace in Sri Lanka by sharing them with my colleagues.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the government of Japan and the ADRC, both its management and staff, for all the support that has been extended to me and to the Sri Lankan government and for allowing me to have such a fruitful experience in Japan.

In this regard, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the government of Japan and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), both its management and staff, for all the support that has been extended to me and to the Philippines, and for allowing me to have such a fruitful experience in Japan.