

Mr. Sagar Mishra from Nepal



Hello, my name is Sagar Mishra, and I was born in Duhagadhi v.d.c. Jhapa district, in the eastern part of Nepal. I started my career in 1997, teaching at Tribhuvan University as an assistant lecturer at Nepal Commerce Campus Minbahawan, in Kathmandu. In 2000, I became an auditing officer for the district development committee of Jhapa, and

in 2002, I began working as an administrative service section officer for the government of Nepal. Since then, I have worked for various offices within the Ministry of Home Affairs. Over the past seven years, I have been involved in disaster risk management and in other work for this ministry at both the central and district levels. Most of my time was spent on field work in different districts, where I worked as an assistant chief district officer, camp supervisor (Bhutanese refugee camp), and administrative officer of the District Administration Office, the main agency responsible for implementing disaster risk reduction activities at the local level.

Nepal is a new federal democratic republic consisting of five regional headquarters, 14 zones, 75 districts, 58 municipalities, and 3,913 village development committees. The head of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal is President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, while the government is headed by Prime-Minister Mr. Madhab Kumar Nepal. Nepal is a small landlocked country with an elevation ranging from 60m above sea level to 8,848m. It has a total land mass of 147,181 sq km, and is situated in South Asia. The capital is Kathmandu, and the administrative headquarters of the national government is located in Singhdarbar, Kathmandu. The current population is approx. 27 million. The country is graphically divided into three regions, with the Himalayan region covering 15% of the country's area, the Mid hill region covering 68%, and the Terai region covering 17%. It has four major seasons: winter from December to February, Spring from March to May, summer from June to August, and autumn from September to November. The monsoon season lasts from June until mid September.

It is prone to floods, landslides, earthquakes, snowfall, avalanches, fires, epidemics, and glacial lake outburst. The intensity of these disasters is generally moderate as compared with those in neighboring countries. This has led to a general lack of awareness of disaster risks and a lack of preparedness efforts, as was brought to light by the Koshi Flood of 2008. I believe that we could have minimized the damage caused by that disaster by educating people about preparedness measures and implementing disaster awareness programs among the general public.

Before joining ADRC, I had been working as a section officer in the Ministry of Home Affairs in Kathmandu, Nepal. Under the existing legal framework, the Ministry of Home Affairs is mandated to serve as the National Focal Point for disaster risk management in Nepal. The leading body is the Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee, which is chaired by the Honorable Home Minister and comprised of representatives of more than 30 policy-making agencies of the government of Nepal.

During my term at ADRC, I will be studying the Japanese systems for managing floods, landslides, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes. I personally feel that Japan is the one of the most developed countries in the world in terms of the effective management of these types of disasters. The Visiting Researcher Program is a great opportunity for me to share information and experiences with ADRC member countries. I would like to express my appreciation to ADRC and the government of Nepal for giving me this opportunity to enhance my knowledge and organizational capabilities in the field of disaster risk reduction and management. This program will also help to produce disaster management experts in Asia and will be helpful in formulating new policies, plans, programs, and procedures. Furthermore, it will help the Nepalese government achieve greater levels of disaster prevention/mitigation and preparedness, and develop the ability to implement post-disaster response and recovery efforts in cooperation with other agencies in Nepal. I am completely confident that these next three months will enable me to make a positive difference in enhancing and strengthening disaster risk reduction and disaster management practices in my country, Nepal. Thank you.