



# ADRC Highlights

Asian Disaster Reduction Center Monthly News

Vol. 286  
January  
2017

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## ● Announcements

### Visit by Thailand Vice Minister of Interior

On January 25, a delegation led by Pol. Lt. Gen. Nadhapit Sanidvongs, Vice Minister of Interior of Thailand, who had come to Japan to attend the International Recovery Forum 2017, visited ADRC's office. During the visit, ADRC shared information about its projects, including the Sentinel Asia project, with the group. The visiting delegation learned how satellite images were provided to Thailand after flash flooding that occurred in southern Thailand in January. Discussions were also held around ideas for enhancing the Visiting Researcher program, issues related to the management of future disasters, and other topics. During their stay, the group also visited the Kobe City Crisis Management Center and the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake Memorial Museum.



## ● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

### Mr. Akbar Bacha (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



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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.

**Mr. J.M.A.R. Jayarathne (Sri Lanka)**

Aubowan! Konnichiwa! I am J.M.A.R. Jayarathne and I have been working as a Deputy Director of Emergency Operations and Early Warnings in the Disaster Management Centre of the Ministry of Disaster Management in Sri Lanka since 2008. In addition, I have been engaging with all sectors of disaster management in Sri Lanka to help contribute to the success of the ministry in the country and to promote resilience around the world. I have been to several countries including the US, Australia, Italy, Japan, Indonesia, and India to share my knowledge and experience with neighboring countries.



Over the past three decades, various types of disasters have struck Sri Lanka, particularly natural disasters like floods, droughts, landslides, and cyclones. The Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26 December 2004 is considered to be the largest and most devastating natural disaster in the history of the country. The existing administrative system in the country at the time was not capable of handling this calamity. Therefore, in May 2005, the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2005 was enacted, with legal provisions for instituting a disaster risk management system in Sri Lanka. The Act provides for the establishment of the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM), which is a high-level inter-ministerial body that provides direction for disaster risk management work in Sri Lanka, and also the establishment of the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), which is the lead disaster risk management agency involved in coordinating, facilitating, and liaising between agencies.

The DMC in Sri Lanka will be the main agency responsible for coordinating of any kind of disaster response in the country. It has to confirm the operations of early warning systems along with the relevant technical agencies and ensure that last-mile dissemination is achieved. The Emergency Operations Centre of the DMC will be in constant contact with all technical agencies responsible for natural and man-made hazards and will coordinate with those agencies in the event of any imminent disasters. The DMC has established an effective early warning system for natural, technological, and man-made disasters which disseminates real-time early warnings for vulnerable communities. It will take action to inform those responsible for forwarding communications to sub-national agencies and communities.

Japan faces multiple hazards and has vast experience and lessons learned from various disasters, especially tsunamis. We know that Japan has worked hard to address all phases of a disaster, including preparedness, mitigation, response, rehabilitation and recovery, to achieve the goal of becoming a resilient country.

I would like to express my gratitude and admiration to the ADRC staff for taking such good care of us and providing such excellent service to all of its visiting researchers. I would also like to express my

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sincere gratitude to the government of Sri Lanka and ADRC for giving me such a great opportunity to conduct research aimed at analyzing effective early warning systems for responding to future tsunamis in both Sri Lanka and Japan.

**Mr. Sarote Thiprut (Thailand)**

Sawad-Dee-Krub! Konnichiwa! My name is Sarote Thiprut and I am from Thailand. I have been working as a Civil Engineer in the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), Ministry of Interior since 2013.

DDPM is the federal agency responsible for disaster risk management. Its mission includes the preparation and development of disaster management plans before and after disasters based on disaster risk standards in cooperation with relevant agencies both in Thailand and abroad. Apart from that, the DDPM handles the reconstruction of areas affected by disasters by implementing rehabilitation projects to repair damaged infrastructure and by helping communities resume normal functioning as soon as possible.

I have more than 10 years of work experience in the field of civil engineering in Thailand. I have completed many emergency management trainings, especially trainings on the incident command system. Currently, I am studying the design of structures for the prevention and reduction of disaster impacts, the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) information in surveying and mapping, and water management. I am eager to learn and work in the field of disaster risk reduction in Thailand.

My term as a Visiting Researcher at ADRC extends from January to April 2017. During that time, I would like to study hazard mapping by GIS, remote sensing, the Sentinel Asia project, and engineering methods to prevent and reduce disasters in Thailand. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Thailand and ADRC for this opportunity to intensively learn about disaster management and to really experience best practices in disaster risk reduction in Japan.

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