



# ADRC Highlights

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## ● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

### Ms. Borah Mridusmita (India)

My name is (Ms.) Mridusmita Borah, and I am a Visiting Researcher at ADRC from India. I am a Project Officer (Disaster Risk Reduction) for the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) for the State of Assam, India. Prior to taking my current position, I had worked with various research organizations and institutions and gained experience working with applications for GIS & remote sensing technologies in geology, land use, disaster management, and rural development. I also worked with an NGO. I have a Master of Science in Applied Geology, and therefore am quite familiar with the anthropogenic and natural phenomena that cause disasters, as well as the earth's processes that contribute to those disasters. I joined ASDMA in 2014 and have been actively working on implementing DRR activities in the state since then. ASDMA is one of the most pro-active disaster management authorities in India, and Assam was recently declared the 4th most Disaster Resilient State in India per the Disaster Resilience Index, a report published by the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the UNDP.



India shares borders with Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Assam is situated in northeastern India and shares borders with China, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. India has a total area of about 3.287 million sq. km., comprised of 29 states and 7 union territories. Of these 36 regions, 27 are prone to disasters. Population growth has a direct impact on the increase in anthropogenic activities and thus escalates the possibility of disasters caused by human intervention. Natural disasters are also quite common in my country.

As the DRR officer in my state, I am responsible for developing DRR policies relevant and suitable to that state. My work is varied, and includes CBDRR projects, the School Safety National Flagship project, identifying local DRR innovations, conducting trainings, preparing departmental plans, and the development of local policies and guidelines. However, while preparing DRR policies/guidelines for my own state, I take into consideration the national guidelines of the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs as well as the NDMA. I design DRR pilot projects for relevant disaster-prone areas of my state with support from technical experts within my organization. My organization also engages in collaborations with technical agencies like UNICEF, IAG, the Red Cross, and Save the Children on policy support and project implementation. I coordinate with these agencies for the effective implementation of DRR in the state. I am also working on a pilot project called Developing Flood Resilient Villages, and the second phase of the project is now in the planning stage. The project was initiated in May 2016 and the first phase activities are nearly complete. The first phase of this pilot project has been considered by the World Bank to include the project initiatives under Assam Flood, Erosion and River Management Modernization Project.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the relentless efforts of ADRC to support knowledge co-creation programs, enable research, and promote DRR in Asian member countries. I feel privileged to be a part of the 2018 Visiting Researcher Program, where I can represent India and enhance my knowledge of DRR.

## **Continued**

I hope this trip will give me fruitful insights for planning the second phase of the CBDRR pilot project. Jai Hind!! (Victory to India)

### **● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report**

#### **Ms. Shaufa Aminath (Maldives)**

As-salāmu ‘alaykum (peace be upon you)  
I'm Shaufa, a humanitarian worker by passion, and a project officer by profession from the Maldives Islands in the Indian Ocean.

Since 2014, I have been working for the National Disaster Management Center (NDMC), the main coordinating body for disaster management activities at the national and local level which was formed after the destructive 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

For more than 10 years, NDMC was involved in the response and coordination of relief efforts. Currently, NDMC adheres to a more holistic model which addresses the processes of hazard identification, mitigation, community preparedness, integrated response efforts, and recovery. These are planned for and undertaken continuously within a risk management context, and issues of vulnerability in the Islands are addressed in partnership with international organizations, donor agencies and other partners.

The Maldives experience low impact, high frequency disasters such as storm surges, flooding due to heavy rainfall, and urban fires. Hence our work has focused on preparedness, mitigation, relief, and response activities over the past few years. During emergency situations, all staff members work at the emergency operation center (EOC) until the situation subsides, providing shelter and basic necessities for the Internally Displace People (IDP's) During emergencies, my key role is in information dissemination, planning, and IDP management.

As a project officer in the Disaster Risk Reduction unit, I am tasked with the implementation and facilitation of projects from local and donor agencies. That is, I carry out community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) efforts, including two core trainings: the Island Disaster Management Planning Workshop (IDMP) and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings in local island communities. I also work to raise community awareness of disaster risk reduction, and conduct various school-based awareness programs and activities.

Furthermore, I am involved in most of the planning and implementation of various trainings and workshops organized by the NDMC. As the Communications and Information Officer, I manage the official web-based elements, social media profiles, and outreach. I also act as the focal point for the Information Commissioner office of the Maldives while assisting in the ongoing development of emergency operations and the development of other program guidelines and standard operating procedures.

Nevertheless, during my tenure at ADRC I believe that I will be able to make a positive contribution to the organization and have a positive impact on the people I work with, especially in the DRR and Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) education sector. I look forward to equipping others with proper disaster prevention knowledge while having the chance to develop and enhance my own skills.

I'm beyond grateful for the immense learning opportunity this program offers in terms of helping me more effectively make a difference at both the local and national levels. I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan, ADRC family, my fellow visiting researchers of 2018 from India and Malaysia and to the friends in Japan for the time I will get to spend exploring and learning more about disaster preparedness measures.

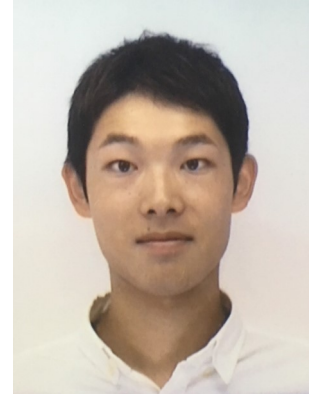


**Continued****●Announcement (Report from ADRC Internship)****ADRC Internship, Mr. Masato Higuchi**

My name is Masato Higuchi and I am in my third-year of studying Safety Science at Kansai University. My studies are focused on natural disasters and social disasters, and I am particularly interested in next-generation technologies and services in various fields, and the ways those are going to be applied to disaster prevention and reduction. My research theme is “Disaster Prevention of the Sun.” When I traveled to Canada and the U.S. last year, I realized just how large the world is, and became keenly aware of the connections we all share and our cultural differences. Thus developed my interest in worldwide disaster reduction and in learning about cultural differences, which led me to apply for this internship through my university. I worked as an intern at ADRC from 20 to 24 August 2018.

During my internship, I prepared for ACDR and made a list of teaching materials on tsunamis in Japan. I also proofread and edited the ADRC 20th Anniversary Newsletter, visited the IRP and JICA, and created teaching materials on disaster prevention. When creating those materials, I realized how challenging it is to create materials that junior high school students in developing countries can understand, and how important it is to make presentation materials that the audience can easily understand. I also learned how ADRC and IRP contribute to Asian countries.

My internship was only five days, but I learned a lot every day and I hope to make good use of this experience in the future. I am very grateful to ADRC, IRP, and Kansai University for giving me such a wonderful opportunity.

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