

Mr Lee, Young Kyu (Republic of Korea)



Hello, my name is Young Kyu Lee, and I am from Korea. Recently, Korea has been facing significant political turmoil due to the impeachment of the president. To make matters worse, a tragic plane crash claimed the lives of 179 people not long ago. Amid these difficult circumstances, I have come to the ADRC as a VR. While I am grateful for this opportunity, I cannot help but carry a heavy heart. I currently work for the KFPA (Korean Fire Protection Association), and with the support of Korea's Ministry of the Interior and Safety, I was able to participate in this VR program.

On January 17, 1995, the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake occurred. At that time, I was a high school senior, preparing to graduate. Since Japan is Korea's neighbouring country, the horrific scenes of the earthquake remain an unforgettable memory for me to this day. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. On January 17, 2025, I, along with other researchers participating in the ADRC VR program, attended the 30th-anniversary commemoration ceremony under the guidance of ADRC staff. The solemnity of the event left a profound impression on me.

This is my first visit to Kobe. Unlike the typical street scenes in Korea, where cigarette butts and flyers are often scattered, I was struck by how clean the streets are here. Seeing Kobe now, 30 years after the earthquake, feels like witnessing a prime example of the "Build Back Better" slogan in action.

I hope to learn from Japan's disaster management technologies and culture, which lead the way in Asia, and bring this knowledge back to Korea to share with many others. The three-month VR program provided by the ADRC will undoubtedly become an unforgettable experience for me. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone at the ADRC on behalf of the Republic of Korea.