

Mr. Tigran Sayiyan, Armenia

Armenia is one of the ancient countries in the world. Geographically, it is located in the northeast of Armenian Upland between the Caucasus and Southwestern Asia. Among various types of disasters, main hazard for the territory of Armenia is the earthquake-94%, and only 6% is another hazards. Strong earthquakes have occurred in Armenia beginning since 18-15 centuries A.C., such as in Vaick

in 735 (M=6.5), in Vaiots-Dzor in 906 (M=6.5), in Garni in 1679 (M=7.0). One of the main tragic and destructive earthquakes is the Spitack earthquake occurred on December 7, 1988 (M=7.1). About 40 % of the total territory affected; 25,000 people were killed, 530,000 became homeless.

The lessons learned from the Spitack earthquake showed that seismic risk reduction strategy and disaster management system for the territory is an integral part of national safety of the country. To reduce the consequences of disasters and to protect of population from strong earthquakes, the National Survey for Seismic Protection was formed under the Government of the Republic of Armenia on July 17, 1991. Armenian NSSP is divided into 3 regional administrative departments, which are Central, Southern, and Northern Departments. I work in Southern Department of Armenia NSSP as a Head of Task Force including different teams for various tasks. The main goal of Task Force is to reduce of possible consequences of disaster by conducting operative actions in case of emergency.

ADRC has been a coordinating body in field of risk and hazard assessment, risk reduction and disaster management for Asian region since its foundation and ADRC is the center which allows member countries to share not only by theoretical knowledge, learned in disaster related field to put these knowledge into practice. I think my purpose and position at ADRC as Visiting Researcher is very important. Since I joined ADRC, I have already visited some disaster related organizations such as "Phoenix Plaza," the Promotion Center for the Reconstruction from Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and Town Management Organization in Nagata whose main activity is reconstruction of disaster area. I was able to observe and compare various actual pictures of earthquake stricken area before and after earthquake and to see making progress towards to the reconstruction.

I made my first presentation about Disaster Management in Armenia and had a good chance to share the knowledge on Disasters in my country with ADRC researchers. I expect to learn disaster prevention & preparedness, disaster emergency measures, disaster recovery & reconstruction, and earthquake disaster counter-measures. To learn these fields, I would like to visit various areas of latest earthquakes occurrence in Japan. I am sure that my experience at ADRC will be beneficial my work, Armenian NSSP, Government of Armenia, as well as other Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations in my country responsible for Disaster Management and Prevention when I return to my country.

(Tigran Sayiyan, Head of Task Force, Armenia NSSP)

