

Mr. Khun Sokha

I joined ADRC on July 30, 2002 and am from Cambodia, which is often faced with disasters like flood, drought, and storm. In 2001, Cambodia was again affected by flood and drought even though the country had not recovered from the disasters of 2000.

The flood of 2000 was more serious than any previously recorded in Cambodia, including those of 1961, 1966, 1978, 1984, 1991, and 1996. The total damage was approximately \$161 million US dollars and the death toll was 347. The flood and drought of 2001 caused damage to many social infrastructure systems, properties, crops, and the lives and health of people and animals. The flood of 2001 affected about 2 million people in 14 Provinces/Municipalities. The estimated total direct damage was \$36 million US dollars.



Disasters in Cambodia are therefore affecting the Royal Government of Cambodia's development program, especially in relation to poverty reduction. For strengthening its capacity and capability in disaster management, the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) transformed its role through a Royal Decree that set up the new NCDM and a sub-decree outlining the organization and functioning of the NCDM.

The NCDM is the national agency responsible for disaster management in the country, and directly reports to the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministries. The NCDM is run by an executive committee composed of a President, a 1st Vice President, and a Secretary General. The Prime Minister, currently Samdech Hun Sen, is the President of NCDM. The members of NCDM include the heads of all seventeen government ministries. Under the Royal sub-decree, all government ministries and agencies are to actively participate and collaborate with the NCDM.

For the 6 months that I will be conducting research, I would like to learn the experiences of Japan and share disaster information with ADRC member countries. As I am also very interested in conducting research on disaster management, I would like to know about Internet based GIS system "VENTEN", which is available on ADRC website. I hope that my 6 months of research study at ADRC will provide me with varied experience and knowledge, including information on new technology that will increase my own skills so that I can help to improve disaster reduction management in Cambodia.

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