

Ms. Yuan Yi from China

Since 2003, I have served as a staff member of National Disaster Reduction Center of China (NDRCC) that belongs to Ministry of Civil Affairs of P. R. China (MCA). The ministry is responsible for organizing and coordinating the disaster relief work of the whole country. NDRCC, set up in last year, is mainly responsible for providing technological service, information service, application research and personnel training as well as helping the government to make decision-making for disaster reduction and relief. I have engaged in the disaster study in my master program and Ph.D program. At work, I am mainly engaged in disaster assessment and information management.



Due to the varied topography and unsteady climate, China has almost all kinds of natural disasters including flood, drought and earthquake. In the past decade, China has experienced some catastrophes such as Lijiang Earthquake in 1996, floods occurred along the Yangtze River, the Songhuajiang River, the Pearl River and the Minjiang River in 1998, Bachu-Jiashi Earthquake in 2003 and floods occurred along the Huaihe River and the Weihe River in 2003. Since 1990, the annual direct economic losses due to natural disasters range from 4% to 6% of China's GDP, with a death toll of thousands of people. It is clear that natural disaster has become a great obstacle to sustainable social and economic development in China.

In order to reduce the damage and loss resulted from natural disasters, China has established an integrated management system of natural disasters composed of the unified leadership of the government, the division of labor among government departments and the graded management of government at different levels. With regard to China's integrated coordination mechanism for disaster management, the State Council exercises unified leadership and have established China International Disaster Reduction Committee, the National Office for Overall Disaster Control and Relief Coordination and other agencies under their control. These coordination agencies provide decision-making services for the governments at different levels and ensure the timely implementation of the decisions of the governments at different levels on disaster management.

On July 2004, I have joined ADRC as a Visiting Researcher and will stay in Japan for three months. My main purpose here is to acquire knowledge about disaster management of Japan, and to introduce disaster management system of China. Besides this, I also want to promote cooperation among China, Japan and other Asia countries.