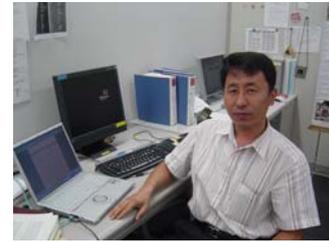


Mr. Sang Hyeok Kang, Republic of Korea

Typhoons Rusa (2002) and Maemi (2003) struck the Kangwon and Gyeongnam provinces of Korea and caused the most extensive flood damage recorded since the foundation of the Korean Meteorological Agency in 1927. Many cities were flooded in these two disasters, which not only destroyed important urban facilities and infrastructural components, but resulted in the extensive loss of human life. These floods are among the worst



natural disasters ever experienced by the Korean people. Based on the lessons of these two typhoons, people are gradually coming to realize that water-related disasters are not entirely natural disasters, but disasters that can be minimized by human intervention. The Korean government is creating an action plan to reduce disaster risks that addresses both infrastructural and organizational issues.

To manage sustainable disaster risk, the Korean government established the National Education Training Center for Disaster Reduction in 2006. The main objective of the center is to raise disaster awareness among government officials who are involved in disaster management. Upon returning to my country, I will give a lecture on how to reduce water-related disaster risks, using the knowledge I gained during my stay in Japan.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the NEMA of Korea and ADRC for their support.