

Ms. Surina Binti OTHMAN from Malaysia



My name is Surina Binti Othman, and I am from the Malaysian Meteorological Department (METMalaysia) under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) in Malaysia. The METMalaysia is mainly responsible for issuing timely meteorological information and forecasts for civil and military aviation, marine activities, and the general public. The METMalaysia also issues early warnings and immediate information on earthquake events that affect the country, occurrences of adverse weather phenomena, and dangerous sea conditions in the Malaysian region, to the public, media outlets, and agencies involved in disaster mitigation. Our early warning system has helped the disaster management and mitigation agencies, particularly the National Security Council (NSC), National Civil Defense Department, Royal Malaysian Police, Department of Drainage and Irrigation, and Department of Environment to reduce the impacts of earthquakes, floods, landslides, droughts, and other natural hazards.

As an Assistant Director currently working in the Competency Development Section, I am responsible for coordinating and enhancing human resource development, which involves planning and scheduling training for all METMalaysia officials. I am also responsible for coordinating the Competency Level Assessment (CLA) for METMalaysia staff to ensure that the staff members are fulfilling their job promotion requirements. Previously, I worked in the Geophysics and Tsunami Division of the METMalaysia, where I was responsible for monitoring earthquake occurrences and issuing tsunami warnings when necessary. I also have experience in issuing weather forecasts and warnings regarding oil exploration and extraction in the South China Sea. Thus, my professional background has already exposed me to issues of weather and geophysical hazards, and to the field of disaster risk reduction and management.

The opportunity to participate in this program is really valuable to me, as it offers me a way to upgrade my skills and knowledge related to disaster risk management for severe disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and floods, and even related to climate change itself. This will surely be beneficial to me and my country, as I may have opportunities to utilize the knowledge I gain in conducting research for the METMalaysia on disaster risk management related to natural disasters and hazards in Malaysia. It affords me a great opportunity, as a meteorological official who works in the field of disaster management, to become more familiar with good practices and lessons learned from Japan's recent disaster, the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011,

which was unlike any disaster Malaysia has ever experienced.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan and ADRC itself as the organizer of this program, and to both its management and staff, for all the support they have given to me, for being such a cooperative partner to the government of Malaysia, and for allowing me to have such a wonderful experience during my stay in Japan.