

Mr. Dungal Rameshwor from Nepal



My name is Rameshwor Dungal, and I work as the Section Chief of the Disaster Management Section in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal. The Ministry of Home Affairs is the core agency for disaster management in Nepal. The Ministry discharges its responsibility through the Disaster Management Section and National Emergency Operation Centre. Both sections work under the supervision of the Planning and Special Service Division. The Disaster Management Section is mainly responsible for policy and plan formulation and coordination among the national and international stakeholders working in disaster management. As the section chief, I am actively involved in activities related to formulating policies and plans, coordinating stakeholders, facilitating efforts of the concerned agencies, and organizing and participating in national and international meetings, workshops, seminars, and trainings.

Nepal's geographical location as well as its prevailing geographical features makes it one of the most disaster-prone countries in the region. Floods, landslides, fires, lightning, storms, and cold snaps are very common disasters in Nepal, and claim an average of 300 lives and much property each year. Nepal is also prone to earthquake disasters; it is ranked 11th among the nations of the world in terms of its earthquake disaster risk. In addition, unplanned growth and haphazard city development has increased the risk of urban disasters. Given its high level of vulnerability, Nepal follows a comprehensive approach to disaster management, constantly advancing emergency management systems, prioritizing disaster risk reduction activities, and promoting international cooperation in this field.

The ADRC Visiting Researcher (VR) Program is a great opportunity for conducting research on disaster management. I would like to express my deep gratitude to the government of Japan and the ADRC, and also to the Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal for giving me the opportunity to have such a fruitful experience in Japan.