

Mr. Adilet SEKIMOV (Kyrgyz Republic)



My name is Adilet Sekimov, and I work in the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic (MES KR) as a specialist in the Monitoring and Project Realization Bureau of the International Cooperation Department. As part of the Central Office of the MES KR, this department assists in the implementation

of international cooperation in the sphere of preventing and managing emergency situations and also pursues foreign investment (grants and technical assistance).

The main objectives of our department are to establish and maintain international cooperation in emergency prevention and management through partnerships with foreign states and international organizations, and to promote efforts to attract foreign investment in the area of disaster risk reduction through work with international financial and donor institutions. As a specialist in this department, I am actively involved in its activities. I am responsible for all matters under the purview of the department and for activities involving such international organizations as the World Bank, UNHCR, and UNWFP.

The location of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as its prevailing geographical features make it one of the most disaster-prone countries in the region. The country is located in the northeast part of Central Asia and has an area of 198,500 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 5.5 million. Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country, with nearly 90% located above 1,500 m and an average height of 2,750 m above sea level. Its tallest mountain is Pobeda peak, at an elevation of 7,439 m. The mountainous terrain and varied climate zones influence the natural processes that lead to emergency situations. Among the 70 types of dangerous natural processes that occur worldwide, more than 20 occur in Kyrgyzstan. These include earthquakes, mudflows, floods, landslides, snow avalanches, and water logging.

One of the ADRC's missions is to build disaster-resilient communities and to establish networks among countries through programs that include personnel exchanges in this field, and its coordinating efforts in the fields of risk and hazard assessment, risk reduction, and disaster management for the Asian region are important for member countries.

The ADRC's visiting researcher program offers me a unique opportunity to enrich and deepen my knowledge in the field of disaster management. I expect to learn about disaster prevention and preparedness, disaster management measures, and community-based early warning systems. Also, if possible, I'm planning to visit some of the areas that were damaged by last year's earthquake and tsunami disaster. I'm sure my experience as a visiting researcher with ADRC will be very beneficial and useful for me in my work in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the ADRC as well as to the government of Japan for giving me this chance to learn and enrich my knowledge in the field of disaster risk reduction. Also, many thanks to the ADRC staff for their assistance and cooperation. I would like to wish them prosperity and peace.