

Ms. Fathmath Saushan Moosa from Maldives



Greetings from Maldives! I am Fathmath Saushan Moosa, and I work in the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) of the Maldives, which is part of the Ministry of Defense and National Security. The functions of the NDMC are to create awareness of and build institutional frameworks for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA), to coordinate the activities the nation in facing all disasters, and to provide temporary shelters and coordinate the repair and restoration of damaged houses and social infrastructure after disasters strike. In addition, the NDMC manages temporary shelters and internally displaced people, formulates and conducts programs for preparing for any natural disaster, and strives to improve disaster awareness among government officials, government institutions, as well as the general public.

In alignment with the priorities outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action, the Maldives has integrated the development of policies, legislation, and institutional frameworks with concrete implementation plans by incorporating DRR concerns into its new national development plan. My responsibilities include working with others on the disaster management cycle, and developing incident reporting formats and damage assessment methodologies that reduce the suffering of displaced people.

The opportunity to participate in this program is very 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. I truly believe that Japan is the best place to learn from when it comes to dealing with disasters.

My research focuses on the tsunami early warning system in Japan. I chose this area because the Maldives is a nation comprised of around 1,200 islands and is 99% ocean. When it comes to disasters, tsunamis are the one disaster that could wash away our islands in a fraction of a second (as we know from the experience of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami). Should the worst happen, we want to be ready for it Next time.

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 the Maldives, and for allowing me to have such a wonderful experience during my stay in Japan.