

Mr. Chathura Liyanaarachchige from Sri Lanka



Konnichiwa! I am Chathura Liyanaarachchige and I am from Sri Lanka. I am presently working as an Assistant Director in the Disaster Management Center of the Ministry of Disaster Management of Sri Lanka. Also I am a committee member, coordinator, and key person involved in several national committees in Sri Lanka such as Building a Common Resilient Framework, the National Center for Lighting Safety, Redress Gender Based Violence, National Committee on Water Safety, and Preparation of Institutional Disaster Management Plan in Sri Lanka.

Various types of disasters have struck Sri Lanka over the past three decades, and the likelihood of the recurrence of natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, landslides, and cyclones is bound to increase in the future. The Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26 December 2004 is considered the largest and most devastating natural disaster in the history of the country.

Disaster Management Act No.13 was enacted in May 2005, with legal provisions for instituting a disaster risk management system for the country. The Act provided for the establishment of the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM), which is a high-level inter-ministerial body that provides direction for disaster risk management work, and the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), which is the lead agency in disaster risk management and plays a considerable role in coordinating and facilitating the efforts of various agencies.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Sri Lanka and ADRC for giving me the great opportunity to conduct research on the Institutional Disaster Management Plan (IDMP). This is my area of focus and I have been tasked with preparing the guidelines and format for an IDMP in Sri Lanka. There is no argument that Japan is the most disaster-prone country in the world and has experience in addressing all phases of a disaster, including preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery, and rehabilitation, to achieve the goal of being a disaster-resilient country. I am sure Japan's experience and knowledge, along with the ADRC's expertise, will be of great benefit to the DMC. I would also like to express my gratitude and admiration to the ADRC staff for taking such good care of me and all of the visiting researchers during our stay in Japan.