

Ms. Janice Montes Padagdag from Philippines



Mabuhay!

I am Janice Montes Padagdag, a visiting researcher from the Philippines for the period 8 January to 5 April 2019. I joined the government service in 2002 in hopes of being able to make a difference and serve the public with dedication.

In October 2012, I was appointed to the position of Statistician I and later was promoted to the position of Civil Defense Officer II, both within the Policy Development and Planning Service of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), a bureau under the Department of National Defense.

With the passage of the Republic Act 10121, or the "Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010", OCD serves as the executive arm and secretariat of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), which provides policy-making, coordination, integration, supervision, monitoring and evaluation functions focusing on DRRM. Likewise, OCD's mission is to administer a comprehensive national civil defense and disaster risk reduction and management program by providing leadership in the continuous development of strategic and systematic approaches as well as measures to reduce the vulnerabilities and risks to hazards, and to manage the consequences of disasters. The Policy Development and Planning Service contributes to OCD's mission by providing responsive, efficient, and effective services relating to research, planning, programming, budgeting, project development, and policy formulation of civil defense and disaster risk reduction and management / climate change adaptation programs, projects, and activities.

As a Civil Defense Officer, my primary responsibility is in the development of the OCD's plans, activities, and programs (PAPs) and resource allocations in relation with the four thematic pillars on DRRM, namely: (1) disaster preparedness, (2) disaster prevention and mitigation, (3) disaster response, and (4) disaster rehabilitation and recovery. I have also been assigned roles in the monitoring and evaluation of these PAPs in terms of appropriate budget execution and regular implementation to achieve OCD's accomplishments annually. I evaluated and validated various DRR-CCA plans and programs, as well as initiatives of our DRRM stakeholders through the Gawad Kalasag program of the OCD. This exposure can help me measure, improve, and initiate more DRR-CCA activities at the regional level. Lastly, I have been facilitating the formulation and review of DRRM plans and policies for the past six years while serving at the OCD.

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to OCD, ADRC, and the government of Japan for the great opportunity to conduct a research in Japan. It is with gratitude and humility that I hope to accept and share all your invaluable DRR knowledge, expertise, advanced technology, best practices, and initiatives. These inputs will be put to good use and replicated back in my country, the Philippines, in order to achieve "safer, adaptive, and disaster-resilient Filipino communities towards sustainable development."