

Ms. Lalita Panoottikorn from Thailand



My name is Lalita Panoottikorn and I am from Thailand. Bangkok is my home town. I earned a Master's Degree in Law at Thammasat University. Now I'm working as a Plan and Policy Analyst for the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM). My work involves formulating policies, guidelines, and measures on disaster prevention and mitigation. The DDPM, which is part of the Ministry of Interior, is the principal government agency responsible for integrating national disaster prevention and mitigation efforts in Thailand.

Let me tell you a little bit about my country. The Kingdom of Thailand lies in the heart of Southeast of Asia. It has a mixture of forested areas, high-lying areas, low-lying areas, seacoasts, and some islands. The climate pattern is controlled by two monsoon winds: the North East Monsoon and South West Monsoon. This leaves Thailand vulnerable to natural hazards including floods, drought, landslides, windstorms, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

On April 24, 2012, the Cabinet approved guidelines for crisis preparation. The government's management system can respond when a problem occurs and can fill gaps in state-level mechanisms for providing services. DDPM has implemented a Cabinet resolution to achieve disaster risk management pursuant to the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy of the National Disaster Risk Management Plan 2015, which assigned government agencies to set up their own Business Continuity Plans. Japan has effective disaster management systems based on the concept of business continuity management, and effective preparation efforts are conducted based on those systems. It would be helpful to adopt similar practices in Thailand.

I believe ADRC's Visiting Research Program has given me a great opportunity to gain experience and to learn about the best disaster management practices in Japan. This is sure to benefit both myself and my country. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan, ADRC, and the government of Thailand for their support in this work.