

Mr. Ozgur Tuna Ozmen (Turkey)



I am Ozgur Tuna OZMEN, a geophysical engineer in the Department of Planning and Risk Reduction in the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), Turkey. Turkey is a transcontinental country located mainly on the Anatolian peninsula in Western Asia, with a smaller portion on the Balkan peninsula in Southeast Europe. It is prone to three main types of natural disasters: earthquakes, floods, and landslides. The majority of the population (72%) lives in seismically active areas.

Our primary mission is to build a disaster-resilient society in order to raise awareness about disasters and create a disaster-sensitive culture of living in Turkish society. Another key purpose of AFAD is to operate the integrated disaster management system associated with the National Disaster Management Strategy, which covers all phases and actors in the disaster management cycle in the most effective way, before, during, and after the disaster.

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) was established in July 1998 to promote multilateral cooperation for disaster reduction focusing on three pillars of activity: information sharing, capacity building, and cooperation. Many of us know that sharing experiences and knowledge of real life disasters and creating opportunities to network with people who have expertise in a variety of related areas, are indispensable for effective disaster reduction.

ADRC's Visiting Researcher Program has given me a great opportunity to learn about good examples of disaster risk reduction in Japan. I hope that the countries in this network will be able to develop the skills and tools needed to prepare for and respond to disasters, and to reduce their risks in future disasters.