

Mr. Nima Tshering (Bhutan)



I am Nima Tshering from Bhutan, where I work as a District Disaster Management Officer for Dagana District. I joined Bhutan's Civil Service as a District Council Secretary for Samtse District in May 2005 under the Department of Local Governance, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs. I completed my Master's Degree in Public Administration at the Royal Institute of Management in 2013.

My country, Bhutan, is a small land-locked country located in the Himalayan region between the two densely populated neighbours of China to the North and India to the South. Our country has 20 district administrations and 205 blocks, mostly covered by forests, and it has rich, unique, and diverse cultural heritages.

Bhutan lies in one of the most seismically active zones in the world. Past records show that several earthquakes have struck Bhutan and resulted in the destruction of many rural homes, schools, and other government structures worth millions. Bhutan is also vulnerable to many other hazards like glacier lake outburst floods (GLOF), landslides and flash flooding during the monsoon season (June, July, and August), windstorms, structural and forest fires, and hail that affects standing agricultural crops. Disaster risk management is still in the evolutionary stages due to issues including limited financial and human resource availability for capacity building, challenges in coordinating across agencies, and lack of technical skills.

The ADRC Visiting Researcher Program has given me a great opportunity to study, learn, and experience good disaster management practices around the globe and particularly in Japan. During my three-month stay here in Japan, I am confident that I will learn about many vital programs relating to disaster reduction and will have a chance to study Japan's disaster management systems. This knowledge will definitely be useful in helping to develop disaster management contingency plans at the district and local level in Bhutan. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to ADRC, the governments of Japan and Bhutan, and my District Governor, Phintsho Choeden for the support provided to me to participate in this important program.