

Mr. Amirzudi Hashim from Malaysia



Hello everyone, my name is Amirzudi Hashim, and I am from Malaysia, a geographically unique country located in Southeast Asia. Malaysia shares borders with Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, and the Philippines, and is comprised of two land masses separated by the South China Sea. One consists of peninsular Malaysia, while the other consists of two states on Borneo Island. Malaysia has a total area of 329,847 sq. km (127,355 sq. miles) and a population of 28 million. Malays comprise 57% of the population, with the remainder comprised of Chinese, Indian, Bumiputeras, and individuals of other races. The diversity of races, religions and cultures is a significant characteristic of Malaysia, a multiracial country with a rich cultural heritage. The stability and peace enjoyed by Malaysia are also distinctive. Malaysia's many cultures live harmoniously in a country where there are no wars or internal conflicts. The 1Malaysia concept was introduced by our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who said "The government is committed to carrying out a transformation program as its main agenda based on the approaches and philosophy of 1Malaysia - people first, performance now." This initiative is about helping all Malaysians of different ethnic backgrounds and religions to fully understand and respect one another's cultures, to live together, and to work hand in hand, sharing responsibility for creating a better future for Malaysia in terms of its socio-economic and political stability.

At present, I am working as the Principle Assistant Director of the Central Forecast Office (CFO) in the Malaysia Meteorological Department (MMD). Weather forecasting is one of the main services of the MMD. The Central Forecast Office (CFO), located at the MMD's headquarters in Petaling Jaya, is the primary provider of public weather services and operates 24 hours a day. The MMD is a scientific department under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, and is tasked with the job of delivering early warnings related to weather, climate, seismic and water-related hazards. Although our country is shielded to some extent from major natural hazards such as typhoons, major earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions, our territories and coastal waters are not immune to the threat of heavy monsoonal rains that can lead to severe floods, very severe thunderstorms, tropical storms, climate and weather extremes, and other natural hazards. The early warning system has helped the disaster mitigation and management agencies, in particular the National Security Council, the Royal Malaysian Police, the National Civil Defence Department, the Department of Drainage and Irrigation, and the Department of Environment to reduce the impacts of floods, flash floods, drought, haze, and other natural hazards on the community.

I am spending four months from January to April as a visiting researcher with ADRC. I am excited to learn how Japan lives with its disaster risks and to gain knowledge and experience regarding good practices in Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM). I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to express my deep thanks to the government of Japan and ADRC for funding and organizing this visiting researcher program. This program offers visitors with a useful platform for exchanging information, ideas, experiences, and lessons learned from our own disaster management work in our respective countries. I plan to share the information and knowledge I have gained with the disaster mitigation and management agencies in Malaysia. My aim is to build disaster resilient communities in Malaysia and to increase the capacities of those communities to withstand hazard events.