

Mr. Muhammad Khalil Bin Ab Aziz from Malaysia



My name is Muhammad Khalil Bin Ab Aziz, and I am from Malaysia, a federation consisting of 13 states and three federal territories covering a total land mass of 329,847 km² (127,355 square miles), located in Southeast Asia. Our capital city is Kuala Lumpur, while the administrative center of the federal government is located in Putrajaya. The population currently stands at over 27 million. The country is separated into two regions –Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia– by the South China Sea. Bordering Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, and the Philippines, Malaysia is located near the equator and has a tropical climate. The head of state is the Yang di–Pertuan Agong (conventionally referred to as 'the King' or 'the Agong') and the government is headed by a Prime Minister.

As an assistant director and weather forecaster for the Malaysian Meteorological Department at Kota Kinabalu International Airport, my responsibilities include monitoring and forecasting the weather and issuing weather warnings for public and aviation purposes. I am also responsible for briefing disaster management committee members when weather–related disasters have occurred or are likely to occur, and to provide meteorological information for search and rescue operations.

Since Malaysia is located in a tropical zone and is surrounded by the sea, the most common disaster the country experiences is flooding, mostly during the northeast monsoon season (November to March). The state of Sabah, located on Borneo Island, also experiences heavy rain and flooding as a result of the tail–effect (outer–band) of tropical storms that pass over the Philippines toward the Asian continent. Malaysia is also prone to disasters like landslides, flash floods, haze (local and trans boundary) and forest fires.

I've been selected to be a visiting researcher at the ADRC for the January – June 2009 term. The Visiting Researcher Program is giving me an opportunity to share information and experiences with fellow ADRC member countries and to develop information networks related to disaster risk reduction. I would like to express my appreciation to the ADRC as well as to the government of Japan for offering me this opportunity. It is sure to enhance my knowledge and understanding of disasters, and thus to help me and my department to cooperate with other agencies in Malaysia to promote better ways of dealing with disasters in the future.