

Ms. Amornthip PAKSUCHON from Thailand



My name is Amornthip Paksuchon, and I am from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation in Thailand. The main mission of this department is to integrate and collaborate with relevant agencies on disaster preparedness. During emergencies and their immediate aftermath, the department does this by assisting disaster victims and rehabilitating the areas affected by the disaster, and by mobilizing diverse forms of assistance relevant to disaster recovery and rehabilitation across diverse areas. In everyday, non-emergency situations, the department develops preparedness activities by conducting training courses, holding simulation exercises, and coordinating with various agencies, both public and private, through the Ministry of Interior.

The main responsibility of the Disaster Prevention Promotion Bureau is to promote and support disaster prevention among the general public by raising public awareness of disaster risks through disaster prevention activities. Its prevention efforts include encouraging public awareness of disaster risk reduction in different areas, such as at the community level and in the schools. They also include coordinating the disaster prevention activities of other concerned agencies and conducting communication activities to build capacity and strengthen communities in high-risk areas.

I am involved in human resource development under the Disaster Prevention Promotion Bureau. I have been working as the liaison to the director on the preparation and implementation of training activities and seminars/workshops on disaster risk management, and have helped coordinate various disaster management activities with other agencies, including joint seminars, conferences, and fire fighting drills.

As a VR in 2010, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all of those who contributed to my selection as a participant in this valuable program. The ADRC's Visiting Researcher Program is a great opportunity for me to learn more and conduct research around the "Comparative Study on the Dissemination of Disaster Prevention Culture for Communities." The ability to share information and experiences with other ADRC members and JICA participants will help me develop a strategic approach to the

promotion of safer communities in my own country.

My participation in the JICA training course "Dissemination and Establishment of Disaster Prevention Culture for Asian Countries" has been key for learning how this knowledge can be used to develop interesting activities. Kaeru Caravan is a great new method that I learned from the JICA training course, and is a model that will facilitate the implementation of various activities and help strengthen the disaster prevention culture in my home country. This course also allowed participants to reinforce their relationships with one another, thereby strengthening information networks on disaster management in the Asian region.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan and ADRC, both its management and staff, for all the support they have given me, for being such a cooperative partner to the Kingdom of Thailand, and for allowing me to have such a fruitful experience in Japan.