



# ADRC Highlights

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## TOPICS

### Human Resource Development

Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management

### ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

¶ Ms. Phatsita Rerngnirunsathit (Thailand)

¶ Ms. Sodnom BAZAR-RAGCHAA (Mongolia)

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## ● Human Resource Development

### Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted a training course entitled “Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management” in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) from 16 January to 24 February 2012. This course aimed to help participants formulate and further develop Disaster Risk Management (DRM) plans in their own countries based on the concept of total disaster risk management by enhancing their understanding of the disaster management systems adopted by the central and local governments of Japan.

Thirteen central/local government officials involved in disaster management in Brazil, China, Haiti, Indonesia, Jamaica, Myanmar, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, and Tonga participated in the training. Participants attended a series of lectures on such topics as Japanese disaster management systems at the central and local levels, Japanese measures against flooding, sediment disasters, and earthquakes, community-based DRM, the role of the media in disaster risk reduction, DRM for lifelines, Project Design Method (PDM), and Business Continuity Planning (BCP). The participants’ other activities included a disaster management drill, a Kaeru Caravan event, hazard-map making, a Memorial Walk for the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, and a site visit to Sendai City (which was affected by the 2011 tsunami).

These experiences provided an invaluable opportunity for the participants to see how Japanese government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector are promoting disaster risk reduction in Japan. The trainees were excited to utilize what they learned in Japan to contribute to efforts aimed at promoting disaster risk reduction in their respective countries.

ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all of those who contributed to the success of this course.



## ● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

### Ms. Phatsita Rerngnirunsathit (Thailand)

My name is Phatsita Rerngnirunsathit, and I work as a Scientist, Profession level, in the Disaster Prevention Measures Bureau of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) in Thailand's Ministry of Interior. My main responsibilities are to study, research, and analyze the processes and characteristics of hazards, and to establish standards in disaster prevention and mitigation by gathering information from flood forecasting systems, including information from geological, meteorological, and modern technological systems

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and from management information systems.

The DDPM was established in 2002 under the Ministry of Interior. It is responsible for disaster prevention and mitigation in Thailand, for ensuring people's safety prior to and during catastrophes, as well as for handling relief efforts after disasters. The DDPM engages in activities to strengthen disaster preparedness and prevention, such as formulating annual disaster prevention and mitigation plans, developing emergency drills, establishing community-based disaster risk management, and deploying early warning systems.

Like other countries worldwide, Thailand has seen an increase in the number and intensity of disasters due to climate change and other factors. At the same time, the advancements and prosperity that Thailand has achieved through national development have inevitably brought about the undesirable effect of increasingly vulnerability to disasters which are more complex in nature. Thus, a systematic approach to disaster management is very necessary, and must be pursued in alignment with other national policies and plans. During my term at ADRC (January-April 2012), I will be studying disaster preparedness and early warning systems in Japan. I personally believe that Japan is the world leader in innovative early warning systems, and it will be interesting to compare the disaster preparedness structures and early warning systems in place in a developing country like Thailand and a developed country like Japan. The resulting report will serve as a comprehensive and reliable source of information, and will be particularly useful since Thailand still suffers a shortage of knowledge in disaster management. What I learn during my studies here should be useful for the future development of disaster prevention measures in Thailand.

I look forward to acquiring disaster management knowledge and experiences that will be applicable to Thailand. I sincerely hope that I will be able to promote further cooperation between the DDPM and ADRC by discussing and sharing ideas with the ADRC staff.

**Ms. Sodnom BAZARRAGCHAA (Mongolia)**

My name is Sodnom BAZARRAGCHAA, and I am a researcher and engineer for the Disaster Research Institute (DRI) under the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) of Mongolia. I earned my undergraduate degree in 2000 and my master's degree in 2009, both from the University of Science and Technology of Mongolia.

I have been with the DRI for the past seven years, and I am currently serving as a researcher and engineer. Mongolia is a landlocked country located in the center of the Asian continent, between China and Russia, and shares a western border with Kazakhstan. It has an area of more than 1.6 million square kilometers and a population of 2.7 million. Mongolia is classified as one of the world's developing countries. Its capital is Ulaanbaatar and its political system is a parliamentary democracy.

With the increase in disasters in Mongolia, the government took steps to strengthen its disaster management system so as to minimize the damage to lives and property that would be caused by future natural and manmade disasters. As a result, the parliament passed the Disaster Management Act on 20 May 2003. NEMA is intended to be an institution staffed by highly qualified personnel and modern techniques and equipment, and to provide disaster management functions at the international level. The mission of NEMA is to reduce risk and vulnerability through disaster management activities. The minister in charge of emergency management directs disaster management activities at the national level. The heads



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of NEMA organize and manage disaster management activities in their respective units and organizations.

The national administrative organization in charge of emergency management (NEMA) is responsible for the implementation of the national disaster management policy, legislation related to disaster management and the organization of nation-wide disaster management activities, and provides professional management of those activities.

Lastly, I am grateful to the government of Japan and ADRC, the organizer of this program, for all the support they have given to me, for being such cooperative partners to the government of Mongolia, and for allowing me to have such a wonderful experience during my stay in Japan.

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