



ADRC Highlights

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● Participation in International Conferences

7th APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) Meeting

The 7th meeting of the APEC EPWG, which is co-chaired by the executive director of ADRC, was held on 27-28 January 2015 at Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines and attended by about 30 disaster management officials and diplomats from the APEC economies.

The main purposes of this workshop were to (1) review activities conducted last year and (2) discuss the work plan for 2015. At the meeting, it was noted that the Guidebook on Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME) Business Continuity Planning, which ADRC published several years ago, has been translated into seven languages, including Japanese.

The participants also exchanged information on the natural disasters that occurred last year. The government of the Philippines presented the lessons learned from Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 and how improvements in DRR policy that were made based on those lessons helped mitigate the damage caused by another large disaster, Typhoon Ruby in 2014. The government of Japan presented information on the eruption of Mt. Ontake and a large-scale landslide that occurred in the city of Hiroshima. The executive director of ADRC reported on the dissemination of lessons learned from the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake on the 20th anniversary of that disaster.

● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Ms. Ameerha P. Ortega (Philippines)

Mabuhay! Greetings from the Philippines! My name is Ameerha P. Ortega, and I am a Civil Defense Officer from the Office of Civil Defense, Department of National Defense (OCD-DND). I joined the OCD in 2009, at which time I was assigned to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Operations Center (NDRRMC OpCen). I was the Chief of Resource Mobilization and Coordination Section (RMCS), responsible for the coordination of rescue, evacuation, relief, and rehabilitation activities among government agencies, NGOs, and local and international civil society organizations. During emergency situations, I was responsible for ensuring that all needs in the affected regions in terms of rescue, evacuation, relief, and transportation (air, sea, and land) were promptly addressed and properly referred to the appropriate agencies for action. I was also a Team Leader of one of the Alert Teams that serves at the NDRRMC OpCen and prepares NDRRMC Situational Reports. Lastly, I served as a Media Relations Officer, preparing media updates and handling media events, including press conferences and briefings.



Currently, I'm the Chief of the Operations Division of the OCD Regional Office 3 located in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga. At the regional level, the OCD Regional Director serves as the Chairperson of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council or the RDRRMC. OCD Region 3 covers all

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of Central Luzon, including its seven provinces (Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales) and two highly urbanized cities (Angeles City and Olongapo City). As an operations officer, I am in charge of disaster operations and serve as the point person for disaster response efforts together with the Vice-Chairperson for Disaster Response, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Region 3.

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation for the opportunity given to me by ADRC and the government of Japan to conduct research in Japan. I hope this research will be of great service to the residents of Bulacan Province, OCD Region 3 (in preparing for the “Big One”), and the NDRRMC.

Ms. Fathmath Saushan Moosa (Maldives)

Greetings from Maldives! I am Fathmath Saushan Moosa, and I work in the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) of the Maldives, which is part of the Ministry of Defense and National Security. The functions of the NDMC are to create awareness of and build institutional frameworks for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA), to coordinate the activities the nation in facing all disasters, and to provide temporary shelters and coordinate the repair and restoration of damaged houses and social infrastructure after disasters strike. In addition, the NDMC manages temporary shelters and internally displaced people, formulates and conducts programs for preparing for any natural disaster, and strives to improve disaster awareness among government officials, government institutions, as well as the general public.



In alignment with the priorities outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action, the Maldives has integrated the development of policies, legislation, and institutional frameworks with concrete implementation plans by incorporating DRR concerns into its new national development plan. My responsibilities include working with others on the disaster management cycle, and developing incident reporting formats and damage assessment methodologies that reduce the suffering of displaced people.

The opportunity to participate in this program is very valuable to me, as it offers me a way to upgrade my skills and knowledge related to disaster risk management for severe disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and floods, and even related to climate change itself. This will surely be beneficial to me and my country. I truly believe that Japan is the best place to learn from when it comes to dealing with disasters.

My research focuses on the tsunami early warning system in Japan. I chose this area because the Maldives is a nation comprised of around 1,200 islands and is 99% ocean. When it comes to disasters, tsunamis are the one disaster that could wash away our islands in a fraction of a second (as we know from the experience of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami). Should the worst happen, we want to be ready for it Next time.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan and ADRC itself as the organizer of this program, and to both its management and staff, for all the support they have given to me, for being such a cooperative partner to the government of the Maldives, and for allowing me to have such a wonderful experience during my stay in Japan.

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