



# ADRC Highlights

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## ●ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

### Mr. Andrew Lalhruaia (India)

Hello from India! I am Andrew Lalhruaia and I work in the Directorate of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Department, Government of Mizoram, India. Presently I hold the post of Deputy Director (Planning). The area of responsibility of my department, as indicated by the name itself, is very vast, potentially covering every activity within an urban area. Virtually all of the major urban infrastructure development work conducted by the state is implemented through my department. Its functions include urban planning, urban infrastructure development, modern technologies like Smart City functions and smart solutions, housing, and urban transportation. They also extend to urban development and poverty alleviation programs conducted as part of national projects, such as housing for the poor, skills training, and efforts to improve the financial situations of the economically disadvantaged. Having served in the department for nearly 15 years, I have been in-charge of civil construction, city planning, and national flagship programs like Smart Cities, housing for all, and poverty alleviation schemes. I also cooperation with other departments, including the Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Department, on all urban matters. It is deemed necessary and important for officials involved in urban development to have disaster management knowledge, so as to help them work more effectively for the people.



Japan is well known around the world to be highly advanced in the areas of disaster reduction, mitigation, and relief. I am very fortunate to have been selected as a Visiting Researcher (VR) by ADRC. I expect that the exchange of experiences and ideas that I will participate in here will allow me to expand my disaster knowledge, especially related to landslide disasters. It has been really wonderful meeting all of the ADRC staff members and I am deeply grateful for their devotion, cooperation, and guidance. I also have been delighted to have the opportunity to meet researchers from various countries and to share ideas with them. I am confident that I will be able to achieve my primary goals related to disaster management through my research.

I would like to focus my research on landslides (reduction/prevention) and the role of community-based organizations (CBOs) in disasters. I selected these topics because my home state of Mizoram in India faces landslide problems every year. Also, the ability to systematically integrate CBOs and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in disaster response efforts will helpful and effective in any disaster.

### Mr. Mohamed Inayath (Maldives)

Hello! Greetings from the Maldives. I am Mohamed Inayath, Director of Programs at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of the Ministry of Defense and National Security. I am also a Marine Corps Captain for the Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF). I have been assigned to the NDMA since August 2014. Currently, I am the Emergency Operations

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Coordinator: my primary responsibility is to coordinate response and relief efforts with first responder agencies and other stakeholders. These include the dissemination of early warnings, the activation of National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC), the deployment of first responders and Island Community Emergency Response Teams (ICERT), and the mobilization of resources prior to, during, and after disaster events in the country.

I served as the Alternate Focal Point in the implementation of the HFA (2005 – 2015) in the Maldives in 2014 and 2015. I was actively involved in response and relief activities of the Disaster Management Center just after the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004 and was in-charge of relocation operations of Th.Vilufushi Island people from Buruni Island in 2009, as part of the resettlement program for those affected by the tsunami. I have contributed significantly to the National Emergency Operations Plan (NEOP), National Early Warning SOP, and the Relief Guideline and National Framework for Managing IDPs in the Maldives.

I intend to do my research on the Early Warning Systems and the Island Community Emergency Response Mechanism. More focus would be given to address on how local early warnings initiate effective and efficient first response at the island community level in the Maldives.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the ADRC and all its Staff, to the kind people and Government of Japan the wonderful opportunity to access Japanese DRM knowledge and expertise through the VR Program. Thank you for enabling me to conduct my research successfully. I do believe my research will benefit the Maldives and the NDMA, helping us manage disasters more effectively and thereby helping to make the Maldives more resilient country.

**● Announcement (FLASH)****Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2016 Draws to Successful Conclusion**

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2016 was conducted in Phuket, Thailand from 25 to 26 February 2016. ACDR 2016 was organized jointly by the government of Thailand, the government of Japan, the United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), and ADRC. Detailed conference coverage will be presented in the next issue of this newsletter.

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