



ADRC Highlights

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●ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Ms. Lorene Sia-Catedral (Philippines)

Greetings from the Philippines, Mabuhay! I am Lorene Sia-Catedral, Civil Defense Officer III from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) – Department of National Defense (DND), the executive arm and secretariat of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). With OCD's vision to be the center of excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) by 2020, it is faithful to its mission to provide leadership and administration of a comprehensive national civil defense and DRRM program in the country.



Presently, I am assigned at the OCD Caraga Regional Office located in Butuan City. Caraga Region comprises 5 provinces, 1 highly urbanized city, 5 component cities, 67 municipalities and 1,310 barangays.

In my fifteen (15) years at OCD Caraga Regional Office since 2001, I have gained experience in both the administrative and technical aspects of the work in the office and have undergone extensive technical training on DRRM. At present, I am designated as the Head, Plans and Program and Capability Building Sections and Focal Officer for the Regional DRRM Council (RDRRMC) as well as its Technical Working Group (TWG) and Regional Selection Committee (RSC) for Gawad KALASAG Search for Excellence in DRRM and Humanitarian Assistance. As such, I am working closely with the Local DRRM Councils (LDRRMCs), RDRRMC member-agencies and other partners in the implementation of DRRM capability building activities and training programs. One of my tasks is to serve as facilitator/resource person in providing technical assistance to various stakeholders in the conduct of DRRM capacity development activities and trainings programs, and in the formulation of DRRM-related plans in the region.

I would like to sincerely express my wholehearted appreciation to the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) and the Government of Japan for the opportunity to learn and experience the best practices and innovations in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Japan. I am grateful to have been accepted as Visiting Researcher as this allowed me to take full advantage of the wealth of DRR information in Japan and to personally get a glimpse of Japan's incredible resilience. It is a nation where preparedness and resilience is at the core of what people do on a daily basis. DRR has truly become a way of life. The country and its people are DRR exemplars worthy of emulation and replication not only by the Philippines but the entire world.

I hope that this research paper, as my humble contribution to ADRC and the Republic of the Philippines through the Office of Civil Defense, would serve as an instrumental resource in promoting resilience of Filipino communities towards a safer and brighter future.

Ms. Susilastuti (Indonesia)

My name is Susilastuti, and I am from Indonesia. Indonesia is sovereign transcontinental country located mainly in Southeast Asia with some territories in Oceania. It has an estimated population of more than 260 million (September

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2016). Indonesia is located on the Ring of Fire at the intersection of three tectonic plates: the Indo-Australian, Eurasian, and Pacific. This makes Indonesia one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, with regular exposure to earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, volcanic eruptions, flooding, and drought.

I work as a Disaster Management Facilitator at the National Authority for Disaster Management (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana: BNPB). In Indonesia, various disasters triggered by geographic, geologic, hydrologic, and demographic conditions have motivated to establish a vision for building national resilience to cope with disasters.

I have previous experience working with non-governmental organizations. I worked as a community organizer and psychosocial staff member for the YEU (YAKKUM Emergency Unit), with a focus on emergency response to disasters, humanitarian crises, and disaster risk reduction programs. I also served as a social worker for Church World Service (CWS) Indonesia, protecting urban refugees and asylum seekers through empowerment programs.

ADRC's Visiting Research (VR) Program has given me a great opportunity to gain experience in the organization's activities and to learn best practices in Japanese disaster management. It is my honor and privilege to be part of the VR program in 2016. This program has offered me a chance to enrich my skills and knowledge of disaster management, and this is sure to benefit both myself and my country, especially the BNPB. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan and the ADRC management and staff for all their support and assistance during my stay in Japan, and also to BNPB for giving me the opportunity to have such a fruitful experience. Terima kasih!

**Ms. Syuzanna Kakoyan (Armenia)**

I am an ADRC Visiting Researcher from Armenia, a country located in the northeast of the Armenian Upland between the Caucasus and Southwestern Asia. The last and most catastrophic disaster to strike Armenia was the Spitak earthquake (1988 December 7). It caused massive destruction and killed more than 25,000 people. Disaster education, human resource development, and other tasks involved in disaster risk reduction are the responsibility of the Survey for Seismic Protection of the Ministry of Emergency Situation of Republic of Armenia (SSP).

I am employed by the Western Survey for Seismic Protection of the MES of RA, and its activities are primarily focused on disaster risk reduction and management. I work as the leading specialist in the department of sociology and psychology and my work is focused on activities involving the local residents. This department carries out psychological research on stress resistance and anxiety in communities. It implements public education for disaster risk reduction, social-psychological research, and educational programs for developing knowledge about what to do before, during, and after an earthquake.

Armenia is considered a developing country, persistently in need of up-to-date world expertise in any scientific area that is likely to contribute to its sustainable development. All the knowledge I have gained during the VR program at ADRC – both theory and practice – will be applied in relevant fields of practice, thereby serving as an asset in Armenia's effort to reach the Millennium Development Goals. I am sure that the results of my research will give me more new ideas and allow me to learn new methods that will help me improve my knowledge in the field of public education and stimulate ideas around new approaches. I hope the results of my research will serve as an important resource in promoting seismic risk reduction. I also hope it will facilitate the use of new approaches and methodologies in the field of disaster education and human resource development, as these are very important goals for my country, Armenia.

**● Announcement (Report from ADRC Internship)****ADRC Internship, Mr. Ataru Nakajima**

My name is Ataru Nakajima and I am a second year student in the Faculty of Safety Science at

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Kansai University. This faculty aims to develop human resources capable of contributing to the creation of a safe and secure society. The safety science students study safety and security through various academic disciplines such as seismology, psychology, and business law. My studies focus on business management and insurance because I am interested in overseas business risk and the impacts of disasters on companies.



I am pleased to be working as an intern at the ADRC as it, too, is concerned about these issues. During my internship, I updated explanatory material for visitors who come to the ADRC and worked on the publication of the newsletter. In addition, I visited the International Industrial Fair 2016 in Kobe and the Tsunami and Flood Station in Osaka. It was great opportunity through my work and my experience at the Fair, as it was very effective at conveying the tragic impacts of natural disasters and conveying those to visitors. Moreover, I enjoyed a satisfying five days thanks to my interactions with employees and Visiting Researchers. I will do my best to use what I've learned from this experience to help create a safe and secure society. I am very grateful to the ADRC and Kansai University for giving me such a wonderful opportunity.

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