

Ms. Thai Minh Huong (Vietnam)



My name is Thai Minh Huong and I am an ADRC Visiting Researcher from Vietnam. Currently, I am the disaster risk management and climate change adaptation expert for the Vietnam Disaster Management Authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. I received my Master of Science degree in Technology and Resources Management with a focus on Water Resources Management from the Cologne University of Applied Science in 2013 and a Bachelor's Degree in Business English from the Foreign Trade University in 2007. For the last 17 years, I have pursued a career in the development sector, especially in the field of water resources management, agriculture and rural development, disaster risk management, and climate change adaptation. I have held a variety of roles as consultant, national expert, national coordinator, and government expert in development programs/organizations. In these various roles, I have had hands-on experience in strategic and results-based management, planning, participatory monitoring and evaluation, policy dialogue facilitating, communication, and information management.

I have worked for VNDMA since 2018. VNDMA is the main national organization that deals with disasters in Vietnam. It is also the Standing Office of the National Committee for Disaster Prevention and Control. From its origins 20 years ago as the Department of Dike Management and Flood Control, VNDMA's mandate has widened to cover 22 or so different types of hazards.

As the DRM and CCA Expert at the VNDMA, I have been actively working on international cooperation and community-based disaster risk management. I am responsible for coordinating the international donor-funded programs/projects in disaster risk management. I'm also in charge of implementing awareness raising, capacity building, and communication activities. With 17 years of experience in this field, I understand that the community plays a central role in disaster response, and that by equipping them with sufficient knowledge and skills, we can minimize the damage and losses caused by disasters.

Like Vietnam, Japan is also prone to disasters. However, Japan has shown strong resilience in coping with disasters by applying modern technologies, good governance, and effective international cooperation. I also learned that Japan is famous for the Bokomi model that promotes a community-based approach to reducing disaster risks.

Thanks to the Visiting Researcher Program of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center, I have a chance to witness how Japan deals with disaster risks. By taking the program activities, I can update my knowledge and skills, and learn best practices in community-based disaster risk management. After my time in Japan, when I return to Vietnam, I am excited to be able to share my new knowledge with my colleagues and practice what I have learned in my own country.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my ADRC colleagues for their help and support during my stay in Japan.