



ADRC Highlights

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●ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Ms. Hasmik Kirakosyan (Armenia)

My name is Hasmik Kirakosyan, and I am a Visiting Researcher at the ADRC from Armenia. I am the main specialist of the Department of Seismic Disaster Risk Reduction of the “Survey for Seismic Protection” Agency (Armenian SSP) in the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) of the Republic of Armenia. I started my career as a psychologist in the Centre of Activities with Population of the Western Survey for Seismic Protection of the MES.

Armenia is a sovereign state in the South Caucasus region of Eurasia. Located in West Asia on the Armenian Highlands, it is bordered by Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, Azerbaijan to the east, and Iran and Azerbaijan's exclave of Nakhchivan to the south. Armenia is a country that faces numerous natural hazards and man-made emergencies, but the most devastating are earthquakes. The last and the most catastrophic disaster in Armenia was the Spitak earthquake (December 7, 1988), which caused massive destruction and killed more than 25,000 people. Disaster education and tasks related to addressing the social and psychological vulnerabilities to earthquakes are the responsibility of Armenia’s Survey for Seismic Protection of the Ministry of Emergency Situation. I am employed by the Survey for Seismic Protection Agency, whose activities are mainly targeted at disaster risk reduction and management. The Survey for Seismic Protection Agency also develops laws and juridical acts of seismic protections field such as Government Resolution N 140 of 16 February 2012 on “Approving Pilot Program on Training of Impacts and Behavioral Impacts in Strong Earthquakes in Public Schools, Hospitals and Other Medical Institutions in Yerevan City.” The department where I am employed carries out psychological research on stress resistance and anxiety in the population.

ADRC’s mission is to enhance disaster resilience of its member countries, to build safe communities, and to create a society where sustainable development is possible. Armenia needs up-to-date world expertise in any scientific area which is likely to contribute to its sustainable development. My participation in the VR program at ADRC is therefore of great importance to my country. I am confident that I will be able to apply all the knowledge and skills in disaster management that I’m gaining through the VR Program in relevant fields of practice in Armenia, allowing me to serve as an asset in efforts to achieve the millennium development goals.



Mr. Marc Gil P. Calang (Philippines)

Greetings from the Philippines, Mabuhay! My name is Marc Gil P. Calang, and I am the Civil Defense Assistant and Training Officer for the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in the Department of National Defense (DND), the executive arm and secretariat of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

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OCD's vision is to become the center of excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) by 2020, and it is pursuing that mission by providing leadership in the administration of a comprehensive national civil defense and DRRM program in the Philippines.

Presently, I am assigned to the OCD Caraga Regional Office located in Butuan City. The Caraga Region is comprised of five provinces, one highly urbanized city, five component cities, 67 municipalities, and 1,310 barangays.

In my nine years of government service since 2008, I have gained disaster knowledge and awareness through experiences, trainings, workshops, conferences, and deployments to actual events and incidents. I have been designated the Regional Training Officer under the Plans and Program Section and the Capability Building Section, and I am a National/ Regional Course Monitor in the conduct of the All Laddered Courses of Incident Command System. As such, I work closely with the Local DRRM Councils, NDRRMC member-agencies, and other partners in the implementation of DRRM capacity-building activities and training programs. One of my tasks is to serve as a facilitator/resource person in providing technical assistance to various stakeholders in the conduct of DRRM capacity-development activities and training programs, and in the formulation of DRRM-related plans in the region.

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to the ADRC and the government of Japan for the opportunity to learn and experience best practices and state of the art Japanese technology in the field of disaster risk reduction (DRR).

My research here will be of great help to the agency where I work, as well as to the Filipino citizens in making the nation more resilient to disaster and better equipped to strive for safer and more sustainable development.



● Announcement (Report from ADRC Internship)

ADRC Internship, Mr. Kazuyoshi Morimoto

My name is Kazuyoshi Morimoto and I am a third year student in the Faculty of Safety Science at Kansai University. I worked as an intern at ADRC from 11 to 15 September 2017. I am studying natural and social disasters in my university coursework, and I am majoring in urban space design and planning on disaster prevention, reconstruction and safety. I experienced an earthquake in my second year of studies, when I went to the Philippines on a study abroad program. Since then, I have become more interested in disaster risks and disaster prevention activities not only in Japan but also around the world. For that reason, it was a very valuable experience for me to be involved in disaster related work involving the English language.

During my internship, I updated disaster information data, prepared for the ACDR conference, visited other organizations such as the IRP, and participated in a presentation by staff of ADRC and IRP. I found that the various disaster-related organizations established around ADRC are working cooperatively on international disaster prevention activities. I had a very fulfilling five days at the ADRC because there were many opportunities to engage in English communication not only in my interactions with the visiting researchers, but also in the opportunity I had to give a presentation.

It was only five days, but I learned a lot during that period and I hope to make good use of this experience in the future. I am deeply grateful to ADRC and to Kansai University for giving me such a wonderful opportunity.



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