

## **Ms. Diloru Mirova from Republic of Tajikistan.**

Since July 2005, I have joined ADRC as a Visiting Researcher. Starting from November 2002, I have been working with the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (MESCD) of the Republic of Tajikistan, as Chief Specialist, Minister's Office.



My main responsibility was to collect and analyze information about disaster management in Tajikistan. The main purpose of my research in ADRC is to gain knowledge in the field of early warning systems for emergency situations, including community based early warning systems, innovative new ways and techniques on prevention, mitigation, response and liquidation of negative consequences of natural disasters. Asian Disaster Reduction Center, based in Kobe, Japan, is an ideal place to learn about disaster reduction.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense of Tajikistan (MoES) is the state organization specially authorized by the Government of Tajikistan to deal with disaster management issues, such as prevention, mitigation and response to natural and technological disasters. It is mandated to draft and propose state policies covering the field of disaster management.

Tajikistan is a mountainous country prone to different kinds of disasters, especially those triggered by floods, drought, landslides and earthquakes. Half of the total recorded disasters in Central Asia during the period of 1992-2002 occurred in Tajikistan. Disasters triggered by natural hazards threaten people's lives and livelihood. The recent floods of July 2005, for example, caused direct economic loss of more than USD 10 million, and during the floods of July 2004 about 60% of the total population of the capital city Dushanbe was left without access to drinking water.

To ensure effective coordination of response, back in 2001 the REACT Team (Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team) was set up jointly by MoES and UN OCHA. This interagency disaster management coordination body brings all antinational agencies and relevant national institutions together. The overall objective is to support the Government of Tajikistan, namely the Ministry of Emergency Situation and Civil Defense, in disaster response, to assist in identifying urgent needs for disaster relief assistance and to facilitate timely and adequate response. The forum was expanded considerably in 2003 and serves as general interagency disaster management platform.

Under the framework of ADRC's joint cooperative programme developed to strengthen the capacity of its member countries in disaster risk reduction, the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, of the Republic of Tajikistan, in August 2004 organized a workshop titled "National Workshop on Disaster Risk Management".

After my return back home, I will join the newly established Information Management and Analytical Center of our ministry, and will utilize all the skills and knowledge I acquired in Japan. I am thankful to ADRC as well as to the Government of Japan for providing me such an opportunity to visit Japan and learn from the vast experience of Japanese Government and Institutions and from other ADRC member state countries.