

Mr. Moneer Abdullah AL-MASNI (Yemen)



My name is Moneer Abdullah AL-MASNI and I am from Yemen, where I work in the Seismological and Volcanological Observatory Center (SVOC). I started my professional career in 1998 as a specialist in seismic data analysis. In 2004, I attended the International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (IISEE) at the Building Research Institute (BRI) in Japan

to study seismology and earned a post-graduate degree in Seismology (equivalent to a master's degree in at a Japanese university). Since August 2006, I have been working in the Department of Earthquake Risk Mitigation/Earthquake Engineering. I have conducted several studies on seismic hazard assessment in various parts of Yemen as well as in Muscat city in Oman.

Yemen is located on the Arabian Peninsula, and is bordered by the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden to the south and the Red Sea to the west, which is considered to be one of the most active tectonic boundary zones. Saudi Arabia is located to the north and Oman is to the east. Yemen covers an area of nearly 528,000 km<sup>2</sup> and is home to a population of about 22 million. The country's topography of rugged mountains, highlands, deserts, and coastal plains, coupled with its arid weather conditions, make it highly susceptible to desertification, landslides, earthquakes, and floods. It is a disaster-prone country that has experienced at least one disaster a year over the last three decades. These various disasters have resulted in significant economic damage due to the loss of life as well as damage to livelihoods, property, and infrastructure.

Disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels has not as yet received attention in Yemen, as the focus of planning efforts has been on disaster relief and recovery (post-disaster) operations. The implementation of initiatives to identify disaster risks is well underway, although a formal early warning system does not yet exist. A National Probabilistic Risk Assessment of Yemen was issued last year by UN agencies and the World Bank, but detailed risk assessments are still needed at the local governorate level. Therefore, the main objective of my research plan at ADRC focuses on disaster preparedness planning based on damage and loss estimates for Sana'a city, the capital of Yemen, using earthquake scenarios from historical events. My research plan will be useful for National Disaster Management Unit (NDMU) in the development of

planning stage (pre-disaster) and preparing appropriate policy guidelines for promoting disaster preparedness planning in Sana'a city.

I joined ADRC this August as a visiting researcher to share the experiences of my country in disaster management and to study disaster management systems in Japan and other ADRC member countries. This experience will be useful in terms of helping me perform my duties and in minimizing damage from disasters in Yemen.

I am thankful to ADRC for the efforts taken to make my stay in Japan comfortable as well as to the government of Japan for providing me such an opportunity to spend time here and learn from the vast experience of governmental and other disaster management institutions in Japan, as well as other ADRC member countries. I would also like to thank the government of Yemen for allowing me to benefit from Japan's practical experience in the field of disaster management.