

Ms. Thandar Aung from Myanmar



My name is Thandar Aung and I am from Myanmar. I work in the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) under the Ministry of Social Welfare, and am presently posted as the Upper Divisional Clerk in the Coordination and Research Section of RRD in NayPyiTaw, a city in Myanmar. In addition, I have also worked in the RRD's Emergency Operation Center (EOC).

I joined the RRD in 2010.

The population of Myanmar is nearly 60 million. The country is divided into seven primarily Myanmar ethnic regions (tain dae tha gyi) of Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy), Bago (Pegu), Magway, Mandalay, Yangon (Rangoon), Sagaing, and Tanintharyi (Tenassarim), and seven ethnic states (pyi nay): Chin, Kachin, Kayin (Karen), Kayah (Karenni), Mon, Rakhine (Arakan), and Shan.

Myanmar is regarded as an agricultural economy. With a total area of 676,578 square kilometers, it is the second largest country in Southeast Asia. It extends about 2,200 km north to south and about 925 km east to west. Its neighbors are China to the north and northeast, Lao PDR & Thailand to the east and southeast, India and Bangladesh to the west, and the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea to the west and south. Myanmar is exposed to multiple natural hazards which include cyclones, storm surges, floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, fires, and forest fires. The coastal regions of the Ayeyarwady Region and Rakhine State are prone to storm surges. Myanmar is potentially rich with natural marine resources while also potentially threatened by waves, cyclones, and associated weather.

As per the data from 2000-2001 to 2009-2012, fires constituted about 73% of the reported disaster events, followed by floods (11%), storms (12%), and other disasters (4%), including earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides. Cyclone Nargis (2008) was the worst natural disaster in the living memory of Myanmar. Currently, we are applying to open the EOC under the RRD. In addition, we are starting to use an End-to-End Early Warning System by cooperating with JICA in the Ayeyarwady Region. Due to an increase in the rate of natural disasters occurring in Myanmar, a disaster management system has been developed by the government and a disaster management law was enacted by the parliament on 13 July 2013.

I would like to conclude by expressing my deepest gratitude to the government of Myanmar and ADRC for giving me the great opportunity to participate in this program. I am sure it will help me grow professionally. I would also like to express my deep gratitude and admiration to the ADRC staff for taking such good care of all of the visiting researchers.