

Mr. Lotay Yeshey from Bhutan



My name is Yeshey Lotay and I am from Bhutan, a small landlocked country bordered by India to the south and China to the north, with a population of around 700,000. I have been working as a Deputy Executive Engineer for the Department of Disaster Management under the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs in Bhutan since October 2010. I am happy to be back in the place I consider my second home and am eager to enjoy the blooming of the cherry blossoms (sakura), to taste many Japanese foods, and to experience Kansai culture.

I started my professional career as a structural engineer in the Ministry of Works and Human Settlement (January 2006 to October 2010), which offered valuable experience related to the detailed design of different structures in high seismic zones. I have nine years of professional experience in various government organizations involved in planning, design, construction, and disaster management.

I spent two years in Japan studying at Yokohama National University, during which time I learned a great deal about Japanese culture as well as Japanese disaster management systems. This inspired me to continue studying Japan and pursuing Japanese cultural experiences. I received an opportunity to participate in the Visiting Researcher Program organized by ADRC for the FY2014 term. During my stay as an ADRC Visiting Researcher from 13 January to 25 April 2015, I would like to conduct a Comparative Study on Windstorm Damage on Rural Homes in Bhutan and Japan.

Bhutan is vulnerable to many natural hazards due to its fragile geological features, which include steep terrains, a wide range of elevation differences, and a location in a high seismic zone. One of the most recent disasters was caused by strong seasonal winds that caused massive damage to rural home roofs. In 2011 and 2013, massive windstorms severely damaged rural home roof structures and caused huge economy losses. Thus, the purpose of my research is to help ordinary people in Bhutan reduce the damage sustained by rural home roofs, to mitigate economic losses, and to preserve traditional Bhutanese architectural structures.