

Mr. Andrew Lalhruaia from India



Hello from India! I am Andrew Lalhruaia and I work in the Directorate of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Department, Government of Mizoram, India. Presently I hold the post of Deputy Director (Planning). The area of responsibility of my department, as indicated by the name itself, is very vast, potentially covering every activity within an urban area. Virtually all of the major urban infrastructure development work conducted by the state is implemented through my department. Its functions include urban planning, urban infrastructure development, modern technologies like Smart City functions and smart solutions, housing, and urban transportation. They also extend to urban development and poverty alleviation programs conducted as part of national projects, such as housing for the poor, skills training, and efforts to improve the financial situations of the economically disadvantaged. Having served in the department for nearly 15 years, I have been in-charge of civil construction, city planning, and national flagship programs like Smart Cities, housing for all, and poverty alleviation schemes. I also cooperate with other departments, including the Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Department, on all urban matters. It is deemed necessary and important for officials involved in urban development to have disaster management knowledge, so as to help them work more effectively for the people.

Japan is well known around the world to be highly advanced in the areas of disaster reduction, mitigation, and relief. I am very fortunate to have been selected as a Visiting Researcher (VR) by ADRC. I expect that the exchange of experiences and ideas that I will participate in here will allow me to expand my disaster knowledge, especially related to landslide disasters. It has been really wonderful meeting all of the ADRC staff members and I am deeply grateful for their devotion, cooperation, and guidance. I also have been delighted to have the opportunity to meet researchers from various countries and to share ideas with them. I am confident that I will be able to achieve my primary goals related to disaster management through my research.

I would like to focus my research on landslides (reduction/prevention) and the role of community-based organizations (CBOs) in disasters. I selected these topics because my home state of Mizoram in India faces landslide problems every year. Also, the ability to systematically integrate CBOs and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in disaster response efforts will be helpful and effective in any disaster.