

Mr. J.M.A.R. Jayarathne from Sri Lanka



Aubowan! Konnichiwa! I am J.M.A.R. Jayarathne and I have been working as a Deputy Director of Emergency Operations and Early Warnings in the Disaster Management Centre of the Ministry of Disaster Management in Sri Lanka since 2008. In addition, I have been engaging with all sectors of disaster management in Sri Lanka to help contribute to the success of the ministry in the country and to promote resilience around the world. I have been to several countries including the US, Australia, Italy, Japan, Indonesia, and India to share my knowledge and experience with neighbor countries.

Over the past three decades, various types of disasters have struck Sri Lanka, particularly natural disasters like floods, droughts, landslides, and cyclones. The Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26 December 2004 is considered to be the largest and most devastating natural disaster in the history of the country. The existing administrative system in the country at the time was not capable of handling this calamity. Therefore, In May 2005, the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2005 was enacted, with legal provisions for instituting a disaster risk management system in Sri Lanka. The Act provides for the establishment of the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM), which is a high-level inter-ministerial body that provides direction for disaster risk management work Sri Lanka, and also the establishment of the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), which is the lead disaster risk management agency involved in coordinating, facilitating, and liaising between agencies.

The DMC in Sri Lanka will be the main agency responsible for coordinating of any kind of disaster response in the country. It has to confirm the operations of early warning systems along with the relevant technical agencies and ensure that last-mile dissemination is achieved. The Emergency Operations Centre of the DMC will be in constant contact with all technical agencies responsible for natural and man-made hazards and will coordinate with those agencies in the event of any imminent disasters. The DMC has established an effective early warning system for natural, technological, and man-made disasters which disseminates real-time early warnings for vulnerable communities. It will take action to inform those responsible for forwarding communications to sub-national agencies and communities.

Japan faces multiple hazards and has vast experience and lessons learned from various disasters, especially tsunamis. We know that Japan has worked hard to address all phases of a disaster, including preparedness, mitigation, response, rehabilitation and recovery, to achieve the goal of becoming a resilient country.

I would like to express my gratitude and admiration to the ADRC staff for taking such

good care of us and providing such excellent service to all of its visiting researchers. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Sri Lanka and ADRC for giving me such a great opportunity to conduct research aimed at analyzing effective early warning systems for responding to future tsunamis in both Sri Lanka and Japan.