

Ms.Borah Mridusmita (India)



My name is (Ms.) Mridusmita Borah, and I am a Visiting Researcher at ADRC from India. I am a Project Officer (Disaster Risk Reduction) for the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) for the State of Assam, India. Prior to taking my current position, I had worked with various research organizations and institutions and gained experience working with applications for GIS & remote sensing technologies in geology, land use, disaster management, and rural development. I also worked with an NGO. I have a Master of Science in Applied Geology, and

therefore am quite familiar with the anthropogenic and natural phenomena that cause disasters, as well as the earth's processes that contribute to those disasters. I joined ASDMA in 2014 and have been actively working on implementing DRR activities in the state since then. ASDMA is one of the most pro-active disaster management authorities in India, and Assam was recently declared the 4th most Disaster Resilient State in India per the Disaster Resilience Index, a report published by the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the UNDP.

India shares borders with Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Assam is situated in northeastern India and shares borders with China, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. India has a total area of about 3.287 million sq. km., comprised of 29 states and 7 union territories. Of these 36 regions, 27 are prone to disasters. Population growth has a direct impact on the increase in anthropogenic activities and thus escalates the possibility of disasters caused by human intervention. Natural disasters are also quite common in my country.

As the DRR officer in my state, I am responsible for developing DRR policies relevant and suitable to that state. My work is varied, and includes CBDRR projects, the School Safety National Flagship project, identifying local DRR innovations, conducting trainings, preparing departmental plans, and the development of local policies and guidelines. However, while preparing DRR policies/guidelines for my own state, I take into consideration the national guidelines of the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs as well as the NDMA. I design DRR pilot projects for relevant disaster-prone areas of my state with support from technical experts within my organization. My organization also engages in collaborations with technical agencies like UNICEF, IAG, the Red Cross, and Save the Children on policy support and project implementation. I coordinate with these agencies for the effective implementation of DRR in the state. I am also working on a pilot project called Developing Flood Resilient Villages, and the second phase of the project is now in the planning stage. The project was initiated in May 2016 and the first phase activities are nearly complete. The first phase of this pilot project has been considered by the World Bank to include the project initiatives under Assam Flood, Erosion and River Management Modernization Project.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the relentless efforts of ADRC to support knowledge co-creation programs, enable research, and promote DRR in Asian member countries. I feel privileged to be a part of the 2018 Visiting Researcher Program, where I can represent India and enhance my knowledge of DRR.

I hope this trip will give me fruitful insights for planning the second phase of the CBDRR pilot project. Jai Hind!! (Victory to India)