

I am Ei Shwe Sin Win, Staff Officer in the Department of Disaster Management in Myanmar, a country located at the crossroads of East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia.

Myanmar is prone to almost all types of hazards including fires, earthquakes, strong winds/cyclones, storm surges, landslides, floods, drought, and industrial and technological hazards. In recent years, the country has also witnessed a spate of localized disasters, such as lightning strikes and

riverbank erosion. Hazards are challenges faced by every developing country on their march toward development.

Disasters can occur anywhere, at any time, and in unexpected forms. It is the people in the affected areas that face the brunt of the effects of those events.

Disaster awareness is therefore most important for people living in their local communities, especially as they try to build their societies into disaster resilient communities. In Myanmar, the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) establishes a long-term vision for building resilience by 2030 under the guidance of the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC). To implement the 32 priority actions, we need strong cooperation and coordination among government departments, development partners, the private sector, and local communities, including members of the general public.

Japan has valuable experiences in the field of disaster management (DM). During my three-month stay here, I want to learn about DM systems, especially community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM).

I strongly believe that I will be able to contribute even more to my department and my country when I return to Myanmar after completing the ADRC Visiting Researcher program.