

Mr. Ranjith ALAHAKOON (Sri Lanka)



I am Ranjith Alahakoon, and I work as an Assistant Director of the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) in the Puttalam District of Sri Lanka. The DMC is the agency responsible for disaster management in Sri Lanka, and it currently operates under the Ministry of Defense. I joined the DMC in 2018 after five years of serving as a Disaster Relief Services Officer in the National Disaster Relief Services Center of the Ministry of Disaster Management. I earned a bachelor's degree in Geography (Special) in 2009 from the University of Sri Jayawardenapura,

Sri Lanka, and earned a master's degree in Geography Information Systems & Remote Sensing (GIS & RS) in 2018 from the Post Graduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka. I trained as a JICA young leader in disaster management.

In my current role, I am responsible for ensuring the full range of Disaster Preparedness, Response, Mitigation, and Training & Awareness Activities across the entire district to achieve the Sendai Targets.

The Visiting Researcher Program at ADRC has afforded me the opportunity to learn about disaster countermeasures and to learn about disaster management perspectives and activities. Japan's role in the field of disaster management is particularly remarkable as a result of its vast experience in facing serious disasters. During my time here, I would like to learn about the preparation of emergency response and recovery plans for flood hazards, so that I can use this knowledge to improve disaster emergency response and recovery planning capabilities at the national and subnational levels in Sri Lanka. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan, ADRC, the government of Sri Lanka, and the Disaster Management Centre, Sri Lanka for their support for this work.