

Mr. Beda Nidhi Khanal (Nepal)



My name is Beda Nidhi Khanal and I am from Nepal. I have earned master's degrees in Public Administration and Sociology and am working as an under-secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nepal. I have also worked as the chief of the National Emergency Operation Centre at the central level and as a chief district officer at the district level as well. In my role at the national level, I was responsible for disaster preparedness and response. I worked in the Disaster and Conflict Management Division, where I contributed significantly to the

development of various legal frameworks, policy instruments, and institutional arrangements for disaster risk management in Nepal. When working at the district level, I fully experienced how poorly these policies are implemented in real life on the ground.

Nepal is vulnerable to multiple hazards, which result in a multitude of disasters throughout the country. These disastrous incidents claim large numbers of lives and cause significant economic loss every year. The nation's geography, geological position, and impacts of climate change are the primary causes of disasters. Rapid and unplanned urbanization, environmental degradation, variations in nature and type of disaster, and an inadequate understanding of disaster risk management have further intensified disaster risks in Nepal.

Since the restructuring that was undertaken in 2015, Nepal has started implementing a federal governance system with new constitution. Under this new system, the government has recently endorsed new acts and policies for disaster risk management. The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017, the Disaster Risk Reduction National Policy 2018, and the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Action Plan 2018-2030 are key examples of those policies. These policies and plans are being implemented at the local level throughout the country by all three tiers of government in the new structure. The applicability of these new policies is being tested and the results are yet to be calculated.

To address the various perspectives of disaster risk management in Nepal, some policies and guidelines are still being developed at different levels. Mitigating gaps, creating new policy demand, prescribing policy adjustments, or influencing policy formulation are always challenging tasks. These require extensive experience and knowledge as well as evidence to prove the new need for structural, legal, and institutional reforms in the system. Japan has been a model for effective disaster risk reduction based on modern approaches and methods in all areas of concern. The

knowledge and experience gained and practiced by a developed country like Japan will benefit Nepal as it seeks to strengthen its disaster risk reduction structures.

I believe ADRC's Visiting Researcher Program has provided me a good opportunity to gain experiences and learn about the best practices of disaster risk management both at the policy making and implementation levels. This platform is sure to benefit me and my organization in the days to come. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the government of Japan, ADRC, and the government of Nepal for their strong support for this research program.