



ADRC Highlights

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● Promoting Cooperation with Affiliated Institutions

The JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program “Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction”

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) conducted a JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program “Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction” from 19 December 2023 to 21 February 2024, with the cooperation of JICA Kansai. Six government officials from six countries: Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, participated in this course, learning how to formulate and implement local disaster risk reduction (DRR) plans to promote DRR measures in each country.

It was conducted in a hybrid format, where participants attended online programs before coming to Japan for the in-person program. In the six-week program in Japan, the participants attended site visits and lectures in disaster-related organizations/facilities in Hyogo, Osaka, Kyoto, Kumamoto, and Hiroshima prefectures to learn about Japanese experiences and countermeasures of DRR. Furthermore, they exchanged information and opinions on each country’s budget situation and inter-organizational cooperation to promote DRR. At the end of the course, they presented a draft local DRR plan, which they formulated through the programs.



Site visit on Kizugawa Floodgate (Osaka Prefecture)

● ADRC Visiting Researcher Report

Ms Sonekham Phommahaxay (Lao PDR)

I am Sonekham Phommahaxay from Lao PDR.

Laos is a landlocked country which is located in the Southeast Asia sharing border with China, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam. I completed my Bachelor degree of the environment management course at the National University of Laos in 2010.

Currently, I’m working as a Senior Deputy at the Disaster Prevention Division of Social Welfare Department. My main responsibility is to provide assistance and relief to disaster victims, poor people, disadvantaged people, children who need

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special protection, and victims of human trafficking. In addition, my division is also responsible for coordinating with relevant parties to collect risk information, create risk maps, prepare disaster sites and be the center in coordinating the creation of national strategy and action plans for DRR at the central and provincial level, develop a disaster database system and be a focal point for the implementation of DRR. I am responsible for developing DRR strategy in provincial level, creating a DRR plan for districts, DRR capacity building in provinces and districts.

I am very happy to receive this opportunity. I had always been interested in participating in the ADRC Visiting Researcher Program in Japan because I wanted to gain knowledge and learn from this program as well as by observing how Japan implement DRR. I also want to improve my work experience on the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management because Japan has the best implementation system about this. The lessons I experience in Japan will be crucial to take away and improve my work more effectively.

Finally, I would like to thank so much to all parties, especially thanks to the Japanese government to support funding and giving me the opportunity to join this important program and again, I'd love to express my appreciation to all staff members at ADRC for providing all facilities and conveniences for this program.

Thank you, Khop chai lai lai !!!

**Ms Thanchanok Nuntatikul (Thailand)**

初めまして！

My name is Thanchanok Nuntatikul or Amp for short. I am a Plan and Policy Analyst. I have been working for the Research and International Cooperation Bureau, Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), Ministry of Interior, Thailand since 2015. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Developmental Psychology, Laws, and Japanese from Kasetsart University, Chulalongkorn University, and University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce respectively and I earned a master's degree in Public and Private Management from Silpakorn University.

Even though my background has nothing related to disaster fields, I am really aware that disaster and climate change risks and impacts are real and becoming more and more close to our life. In 2004, Thailand experienced a Tsunami for the first time this century. There were more than 5,400 dead, 8,000 injured, and 3,000 persons missing. As far as I know, Thailand seemed to be located on very peaceful land, where there were no large-scale natural disasters to harm our life, but Indian Ocean Tsunami incident confirmed that disasters can happen everywhere if we do not prepare for them. Similarly,

northern part of Thailand got affected from a 6.2 magnitude earthquake in 2014, which was the strongest ever recorded, and it caused serious cracks on road and building, and old houses collapsed. It was quite shocked that such earthquake can occur in Thailand. But, well...it is just because we have never noticed that there are some historical records about earthquake occurrence in the ancient Thailand, not only this fact, we also have 16 active faults which might cause in-land earthquake in someday. I also got direct impact from the mega flood in 2011, my house was flooded almost one month at that time, I lost many precious things and until now it still causes some effects to the house's structures. Although we have known about global warming and how necessary it is to be careful for our activities that increase risk such as unplanned urbanization and deforestation, but it is just an inconvenient truth that we still close our eyes and place important at economic first. During my study period, I learnt about the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy which is one of the answers to balancing our lives and nature and create resilience. I also like the concept of better, cheaper, faster, and safer which is similar to Build Back Better. Though, I hadn't imagined myself finally working in disaster risk management (DRM) organization.

After I joined DDPM, I have been working for International Cooperation section. Working here brought

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good opportunities to me to support various projects related to DRR and collaboration with UN, ASEAN, and international organizations including foreign embassies in Thailand and other member states, as well as to attend international conferences and workshops. I love learning and self-development. It is really great to learn from many countries' knowledges and experiences. Japan is, no doubt, the role model of living with disaster. People's discipline, safety awareness, disaster preventive efforts in structural and non-structural measures, and resilient recovery are keys to success in building resilience in Japan. It is very important to keep educating people about DRR and preparedness, because in the end, it depends on our mindset that decides our action that leads to the achievement of becoming resilience to disaster and climate change.

The ADRC Visiting Researcher Program provided learning opportunity and brought me valuable experiences, not just visiting many organizations and communities to learn about DRR and DRM, but also obtaining Japanese culture and living. Furthermore, we had a chance to participate in Town Watching activity and Iza! Kaeru Caravan!, the big DRR event in Kobe which were impressive. In this regard, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan, Government of Thailand, and all staff members of ADRC for financial support, warm welcome, and everything.

—本当にありがとうございます。—

● Participation in International Conferences

Participation in the 56th Session of the Typhoon Committee

Marking the first in-person Session following the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Fifty-Sixth Session of the Typhoon Committee (TC-56) was held in Swiss-Garden Hotel Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 27 February to 1 March 2024. The Typhoon Committee, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), convened the Session and hosted by the Malaysian Meteorological Department.

The 56th Session reviewed the progress made in its programme of work in 2023 and planned the activities to be undertaken in 2024 and beyond, together with the support required to implement them. The Session also covered the strategic and development issues such as the implementation of the updated Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

ADRC made a presentation to promote the use of the QZSS (Quasi-Zenith Satellite System) for early warning systems in each country and GLIDE numbers for disaster information sharing. Since the Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (WGDRR) has included GLIDE in its 2024 Annual Operation Plans (AOPs), many participants showed great interest.



TC-56 Participants

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