

**COUNTRY REPORT  
ON  
NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION IN MALAYSIA  
FOR  
THE ASIAN NATURAL DISASTER  
REDUCTION CONFERENCE  
17 - 18 DECEMBER 1995  
KOBE, JAPAN**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

With a total area of 330,400 sq.km, Malaysia comprises two regions, namely Peninsular Malaysia and the states of Sabah and Sarawak. The two regions are separated by 640 km of the South China Sea. The country receives much of the rain during the Southwest and Northeast Monsoons; the latter brings rains to the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia, east Sabah and west Sarawak during November to February while the former, though less in effect, prevails in the period of May to August at the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia. Localized thunder-storms occur all the year round and at times could be very intense particularly during the intermonsoon months of April-May and September-October.

The average annual rainfall in Malaysia shows considerable spatial variability. The values for Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak are 2,420 mm, 2,630 mm and 3,830 mm respectively. Over the northern half of the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak and coastal areas of Sabah, rainfall exceeds 3,000 mm annually. However, in the mountainous areas of Sarawak the rainfall even exceeds 4,000 mm. The rest of the country generally receives rainfall in excess of 2,000 mm except over inland areas of Pahang and the Muar river basins.