

## Executive Director

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## Highlights

BIMSTEC Initiatives

SAARC Disaster  
Management Centre  
Inaugurated

First IDMC Success Story

South Asia Policy Dialogue

Administrative Reforms  
Commission

First Online Course on  
DRM NIDM-WBI Initiative

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## An Eventful Quarter

The last quarter was extremely eventful for the NIDM. First of all, the Institute organized the First India Disaster Management Congress at Vigyan Bhavan on 29-30 November 2006. The Congress was inaugurated by Dr. Manmohan Singh Hon'ble Prime Minister of India who released the first issue of the Journal *Disaster and Development* and further awarded Disaster Mitigation Award to Dr. Mohd. Yunus Nobel Laureate and Prof A.S.Arya National Seismic Advisor. Mr. Shivraj V. Patil Hon'ble Union Home Minister of India presided over the inaugural function while Ms. Sonia Gandhi Chairperson of the UPA delivered the Keynote Address. The inaugural function was attended by more than 1200 invitees which included Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, MPs, Ambassadors, Heads of UN Offices in India and scientists, scholars, activists and practitioners from all over the country and abroad. As many as 350 research papers were presented at the Congress in 17 thematic sessions. The phenomenal success of the First Disaster Management Congress would be a significant milestone towards a disaster free India.

Earlier on October 10, Mr. Shivraj V. Patil, Hon'ble Home Minister inaugurated the SAARC Disaster Management Centre at the premises of the NIDM on the conclusion of the two-day Governing Board meeting of the centre on 9-10 October which was attended by all the seven member countries of the SAARC, besides Afghanistan which would be joining the SAARC in April 2007.

In between, during 30-31 October, NIDM organized the two day *BIMSTEC Workshop on Regional Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management* which brought the governments of India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand together to discuss areas for enhanced cooperation for disaster risk reduction in the region. The workshop adopted its report for consideration by the BIMSTEC Summit, which would be hosted by India next year.

Many organizations and individuals collaborated with NIDM to make all these events success. I thank all of them for their help and assistance.



P.G. DHAR CHAKRABARTI

# SAARC Disaster Management Centre



In the backdrop of Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004 and Kashmir Earthquake of October 2005, 13th SAARC Summit of Heads of States and Governments held at Dhaka on 12-13 November 2005 considered the issues of Regional Cooperation for Preparedness and Mitigation of Natural Disasters and approved the proposal of India to set up a SAARC Disaster Management Centre at the National Institute of Disaster Management at New Delhi.

The modalities for setting up the Centre were decided by an Expert Group Meeting at New Delhi on 1-2 June 2006. The Report of the Expert Group was accepted by the SAARC Council of Ministers in its meeting held at Dhaka on 30-31 July 2006. The Centre was inaugurated by Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Govt. of India, Shri Shivraj Patil, on Oct. 9, 2006 and its first meeting of the Governing Board of the Centre was also held on 9-10 October 2006 to approve the budget and program of activities of the Centre for the year 2007.



*Expert Group Meeting for setting up SAARC Disaster Management Centre, 1-2 June 2006*



*First meeting of Governing Body SAARC Disaster Management Centre on 9-10 October 2006*

The SAARC Disaster Management Centre shall develop appropriate strategies for the performance of its functions, which includes the following: Network with the national focal points of disaster management and with the concerned regional and international bodies;

- Assist the national focal points of disaster management of Member Countries to develop appropriate models for networking with their research, training and other institutions;
- Develop a network of networking institutions to facilitate quick acquisition, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information, data and knowledge on disaster management including linkages with approved real-time data providers;
- Use information and communication technologies to develop a virtual resource centre for disaster management in South Asia.

The vision of the SAARC Disaster Management Centre would be to become a vibrant centre of excellence for knowledge, research and capacity development on disaster management. It would serve the Member Countries by providing policy advice and facilitating capacity development services including strategic learning, research, training, system development, expertise promotion and exchange of information for effective disaster risk reduction and management.

The Centre shall have the following divisions, viz., Water and climate related disasters, Geologically related disasters, Human Induced & biological disasters, and Policy, Planning & Related Issues. Each Division shall have appropriate technical and other personnel to look after networking, documentation, finance, administration and other supportive functions.



*Mr. Shivraj V Patil, Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, inaugurating the SAARC Disaster Management Centre*



*Mr. P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, Director, SAARC Disaster Management Centre addressing the dignitaries & guests in the Inaugural Function*

### **NIDM-WBI Launches First Online Course on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management**



National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi jointly with the World Bank Institute Washington launched a web-based learning program in disaster risk reduction. The first course of the program, on Comprehensive Disaster Management Framework was offered from October 9 to November 13 to development practitioners, central, state and local government officials, NGO representatives, community leaders and others interested in the challenges and issues related to disaster risk reduction and management. The course has addressed basic questions such as - why are disasters a development issue? And - what are the components of comprehensive disaster risk management?

It also reviewed the institutional arrangements and financing mechanisms of disaster management systems, and identified the role of national and local actors in the processes related to risk assessment, mitigation and financing. The interactive character of the course allowed lively exchanges among participants on how to improve the disaster risk management system in India in order to reduce the vulnerability of population, assets and institutions. From more than 400 applicants 130 were selected to participate in the first course. Due to high interest, the course will be offered again from January 8, 2007. (by Katalin Demeter, Sustainable Development, World Bank Institute)

# Workshop on Regional Cooperation among BIMSTEC Countries for Disaster Risk Reduction & Management

30-31 October 2006

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) brings together Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand besides India for cooperation in Trade, Industry and sectors of mutual interest.



Launched in 1997, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation or BIMSTEC is one of the youngest of all organizations conceived to promote cooperation in our region. Aimed at providing a unique link between South Asia and South East Asia, BIMSTEC brings together nations bound by ties of history and culture to foster the cherished ideals of peace, freedom and economic well being. BIMSTEC is based on mutual interests and common concerns among member countries and complementarities of their economies.



*Presentations at BIMSTEC Workshop on Regional Cooperation on Disaster Management*

The shared ties of history and culture also manifest in shared hazards, which, with scant regard to national boundaries, cause destruction and devastation in large areas and affect the economy of the entire region. In order to create an enabling environment for all round sustainable development, disaster risk reduction assumes crucial importance. It is in this context, that the Workshop on Regional Cooperation among BIMSTEC Countries for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management has been organized by NIDM and Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India. Recognizing the need for a holistic approach to disaster management transcending geo-political

considerations, the *BIMSTEC Workshop on Regional Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management* organized in New Delhi, India, 30 - 31 October 2006, reiterated the need for proactive regional cooperation in all aspects of disaster management viz. mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation.

BIMSTEC sought to integrate the essence of mutual cooperation in disaster risk reduction and management as articulated in the SAARC Framework on Disaster Management, June 2006 and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Vientienne, July 2005. Distinguished representatives from the participating Member Countries and eminent Resource Persons made presentations on various aspects and issues of regional cooperation like early warning, emergency response, knowledge sharing, reconstruction and rehabilitation. A Report was adopted by the participants of the Workshop.



## NIDM Organizes First India Disaster Management Congress

NIDM organized the First India Disaster Management Congress at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 29-30 November 2006. More than 500 scientists, scholars, intellectuals, administrators, activists and practitioners working on diverse fields of disaster risk reduction and management attended the Congress.



*Congress Logo*

The Congress was inaugurated by Dr. Manmohan Singh Hon'ble Prime Minister of India who released the first issue of the Journal *Disaster and Development* and further awarded Disaster Mitigation

Award to Dr. Mohd Yunus, Nobel Laureate and Prof A.S.Arya. National Seismic Advisor for their significant contributions for disaster reduction in the sub continent. Mr. Shiv Raj Patil Hon'ble Union Home Minister of India presided over the inaugural function while Ms. Sonia Gandhi Chairperson of the UPA delivered the Keynote Address. The inaugural function was attended by more than 1200 invitees which included Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, MPs, Ambassadors, Heads of UN Offices in India and scientists, scholars, activists and practitioners from all over the country and abroad.

The Valedictory Session of the Congress was presided over by Mr. S.Raghupathy, Honb'le Union Minister of State for Home Affairs. Mr. Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences delivered the Valedictory Address.

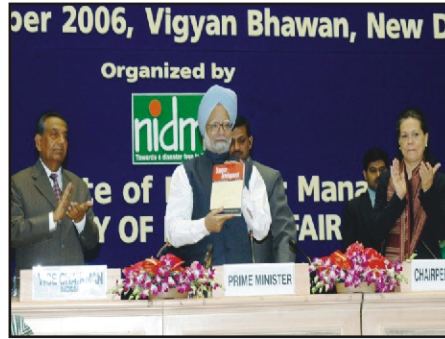
As many as 350 research papers were presented at the Congress in 17 thematic sessions around 7 Thematic Clusters, as follows:

Thematic Cluster	Thematic Sessions
A. Geologically Related Disasters	1. Earthquake 2. Landslide
B. Hydro Meteorological Disasters	3. Climate Change 4. Flood 5. Drought 6. Cyclone and Tsunami
C. Human Induced Disasters	7. Industrial and Chemical Disasters 8. Nuclear Disasters
D. Development, Governance & Cross Cutting Issues	9. Disaster, Development and Governance 10. Community Based Disaster Management 11. Disaster Risk Financing and Micro-Finance 12. Gender & Other Social Issues 13. Role of Local Self Government 14. Role of NGOs & Civil Society
E. Health Related Issues	15. Disaster Health Management 16. Disaster Psycho-Social Care Management
F. Role of ICT in Disaster Management	17. Role of ICT in Disaster Management
G. Private-Public Partnership	Private-Public Partnership in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (This session was held as a Round Table at Taj Palace Hotel. Participation in collaboration with UN/ISDR and World Economic Forum).

# PHOTO GALLERY OF FIRST INDIA DISASTER MANAGEMENT CONGRESS



Dignitaries on the dais



Prime Minister releasing Journal "Disaster & Development"



Prime Minister lighting ceremonial lamp



Mrs. Sonia Gandhi lighting ceremonial lamp



Prof A.S.Arya receiving Disaster Mitigation Award



Mrs. Sonia Gandhi releasing book on Earthquake Safe Design



Mrs. Sonia Gandhi delivering the Keynote Address



Prime Minister addressing



Participants of the Congress



Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences addressing



Congress in Session



NIDM Team on the successful conclusion of the Congress

## **NIDM in International Forum**

- Executive Director, P.G. Dhar Chakraborti, attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the CERF Advisory Group in Geneva, Switzerland on 11-12 October 2006
- Executive Director, P.G. Dhar Chakraborti, attended the SAARC Project Committee Meeting of Kathmandu, Nepal on 14-16 November 2006

## **Regional Workshop with UNHCR**

Ms. Carol Batchelor, Chief of Mission UNHCR had met ED NIDM on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2006 to discuss possible avenues of collaboration. Pursuant to their discussions, a Regional Workshop on Disaster Preparedness focusing on the SAARC countries has been organized by UNHCR in collaboration with NIDM in November 2006. This was attended by government and non-government functionaries from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

## **Evaluation of GoI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management Program**

Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program had launched the GoI-UNDP Disaster Risk Mitigation program in 169 districts of 17 states in India. NIDM was asked to lead a team to evaluate the first phase of the programme. In this connection, NIDM faculty visited states of Bihar, Gujarat, Orissa to gain first hand knowledge and experience on the implementation of the project.

## **Capacity Enhancement and Training Need Assessment (CETNA)**

A template on Developed a Capacity Enhancement and Training Need Assessment (CETNA) has been developed by the Institute. The template focuses on the assessment of raining needs in a systematic form. A step-by-step method for this purpose had been illustrated in the template. This template was developed with active participation and consultation with the experts working in the area of training and disaster management. A number of consultative workshops were organized to finalize the template. The template has been circulated to all the States for conducting training Need Analysis in the respective States.

## **Appointments at the Institute**

1. Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta joined as Associate Professor on 1 September 2006
2. Shri Hemant Khare joined as Librarian on 11 October 2006
3. Dr. Sudip Mitra joined as Assistant Professor on 16 October 2006
4. Shri Jitendra Singh as Videographer-cum-Technical Assistant on 20 November 2006

## Training Programmes

### On Campus

- *Earthquake Risk Mitigation & Management* at NIDM, 17-21 April 2006
- *Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management*, 3-6 October 2006
- *Coastal Erosion Management*, 9 -13 October 2006
- *Flood Mitigation and Management*, 9-13 October 2006

### Off Campus

- *Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management* at ATI Guwahati, 4-8 September 2006
- *Landslide Risk Mitigation and Management* at ATI Shimla, 13-15 September 2006
- *Workshop on Development of District Disaster Management plan* at ATI Chandigarh, 9 -13 October 2006
- *District Disaster Management Plan* at ATI Kohima, Nagaland, 26 -28 October 2006
- *Flood Disaster Management* at Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (YASHADA) Pune, 30 Oct -3 Nov 2006
- *Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management* at SAT, Imphal, 13-17 November 2006
- *Understanding Hailstorms & Cloudburst* at ATI Lucknow, 15-17 November 2006

## Upcoming Events

### Training Programs

- *Training Programme on Incident Command System* at NIDM, December 4-6, 2006
- *Training Course on ICS Software (Isuite)* at NIDM, December 7-8, 2006
- *Managing Disaster Risks to Cultural Property* at NIDM, January 8-12, 2007
- *Application of Remote Sensing and GIS for disaster management* at ATI, Pune, January 19-23, 2007
- *Incident Command System* at NIDM, January 15-31, 2007
- *Understanding and Management of Avalanche* at ATI Srinagar, 31 Jan-2 Feb. 2007

**We welcome comments/responses/articles from readers of our Newsletter  
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