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Highlights:

World Bank-NIDM Regional Conference

National Workshop on Children in Disasters

Policies and Issues in Seismic Retrofitting of Life Line Structures


Contents

Message	- 1
Conf. On Hazards Nature	- 2
Children in Disasters	- 3
Seismic Retrofitting	- 4
ATI Conference	- 5
JICA Delegation	- 6
NIDM in Intl. Forum	- 7
Training Programs	- 7
Upcoming Events	- 8

Public-Private-Partnership in Disaster Risk Reduction

As the paradigm shift from post disaster RR (Relief and Reconstruction) to pre-disaster PP (Prevention and Preparedness) is accepted globally and nationally, various innovative ideas of investments on disaster risk reduction are coming up. It is increasingly realized that private, or more appropriately, corporate sector cannot remain insulated from either the effects of increasing natural disasters or the responsibilities of reducing the risks of disasters. Corporate sector depends on community at large for sustenance, not only as a source of labour, capital and material but also as a market for products and services. If the community life itself is destroyed by disaster the lifeline of the corporate gets threatened. Further in a globalized economy market in the remotest part is integrated by a long supply chain which is disrupted by disasters.

There are three ways corporate sector contributes to the process of disaster risk reduction: first is the Corporate Social Responsibility in supporting relief and reconstruction activities, which is taking place in no small measure; second is redefining the business continuity plan to factor in hazards, risks and vulnerabilities; and the third is the new business opportunities in disaster reduction. Software industries, for example, are developing new products for hazards mapping, heavy industries are designing new tools for search and rescue, while builders are adopting earthquake resistant technology for retrofitting lifeline buildings. Many corporate houses are investing in drought prone areas for cultivation of high value agricultural products, linking local communities with global markets, adding value to labour and livelihood. In the months and years to come such innovative models of public-private-partnership would enhance the process of reducing the risks of disasters.



P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti

Regional Conference on Hazards of Nature, Risks & Opportunities for Development in South Asia

29-30 November 2006

NIDM joined with World Bank to organize the *Conference on Hazards of Nature: Risks and Opportunities for Development in South Asian Countries* on 29-30 November, 2006 at Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi. The Conference was attended by senior officials of the World Bank from Washington and India and government and non-government experts and professionals from the South Asian countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Besides experts from Tokyo and Japan joined with their rich experiences on earthquake reconstruction and recovery in their respective countries.

The Conference was inaugurated by Gen. N.C. Vij, Hon'ble Vice Chairperson of the National Disaster Management Authority. Mr. S. Regupathy, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs presided over the function, while Mr. Ajay Chibber, Director of the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) of the World Bank delivered the Keynote Address.



Mr. Ajay Chibber Director of IEG of World Bank addressing the Inaugural Session



View of the Regional Conference at Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi

IEG had conducted an evaluation of the World Bank funded projects on Disaster Preparedness and Response for the last 20 years. The findings of this study were presented by Mr. Raun Parker. Experiences from reconstruction and recovery projects in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Japan were presented. Mr. Christoph Puch, South Asian Regional Coordinator of Hazards Risk Management, presented the World Bank perspective in South Asia, while Mr. Saroj Jha of the GFDRR outlined the objectives and strategy of the recently launched Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. This was followed by a panel discussion.

Mr. P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, Executive Director, NIDM presented the Workshop's conclusions. Mr. Salvano Biscerno, Director of the UNISDR delivered the special address. The Valedictory Address was delivered by Mr. M. Sashidhar Reddy, Hon'ble Member, National Disaster Management Authority.

National Workshop on Children in Disasters

14-15 December 2006

Disasters disrupt the normal predictable life of children and deeply hamper the process of healthy physical and mental development. Helping young people to overcome psychological, social, educational and health problems in the wake of natural and manmade disasters is one of the most important challenges a parent, teacher, child care specialists, mental health professional or a disaster manager can face. Keeping this in mind, a National Workshop on Children in Disasters was conducted on 14-15 December at India Habitat Centre in collaboration with UNICEF. The objective of the Workshop was to brainstorm on the various issues of children in disasters, take stock of the current initiatives in India and abroad, identify the gap areas and develop a set of guidelines to protect and promote the interests of children across sectors



The Workshop was inaugurated by Mrs. Jyothi Rao, Hon'ble Member of National Disaster Management Authority. Ms. Ann Hasselbalch, Deputy Director of UNICEF presided over the function. In her inaugural address Mrs. Rao informed that NDMA would be looking into various issues of interest to children during all the phases of disaster management cycle and would be laying down guidelines for the same. She said that NDMA would be looking forward to the deliberations and outcome of the Workshop.

The Workshop was attended by more than 50 organizations and individuals working on various aspects of health, education, nutrition, protection and other issues of children before, during and after disasters. This included Ministry of Women and Child Development, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR, IRC, Save the Children, NIPCCD, IAP, SEEDS, EFICOR, NCERT, CARA, VHAI, PRAYAS, Centre for Child Rights etc. The following four Working Groups of the Workshop brainstormed on the following issues and submitted their recommendations:

- Safety and environment
- Physical and mental health needs
- Educational and Recreational needs
- Social security and legal issues

Policies and Issues in Seismic Retrofitting of Lifeline Structures

1 February 2007

NIDM, in collaboration with Delhi Disaster Management Authority and Geohazards International USA, organized a workshop on “Policies and Issues in Seismic Retrofitting of Lifeline Structures” on 1 February 2007 at the Conference hall of Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi. Ms. Naini Jayseelam, Divisional Commissioner, Government of Delhi welcomed the participants and Mr. P. G. Dhar Chakrabarti, ED NIDM presented the context, background and expected outcome of the workshop. In his inaugural address Mr. R. Narayanswamy, Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT Delhi, called for creating massive awareness about the hazards and risks of earthquake and various structural and non-structural measures required for reducing the risks of disasters. Prof. A. S. Arya, National Seismic Advisor delivered a special lecture on earthquake risks to built environment of Delhi. Thomas Tobin of Geohazard International delivered the vote of thanks.



Mr. Narayanswamy, Chief Secretary
Delhi addressing the Workshop



Prof A.S.Arya and Mr. Holmes on the dais

The workshop was attended by more than 100 engineers from IITs, SERC, CPWD, DDA, MCD, NDMC, DSIDC, DTTDC, NBCC, practicing structural engineers and engineers from reputed private builders, academicians and other professionals working in this area. The workshop deliberations were divided into four technical sessions on

- The Context of Retrofitting
- Fundamentals of Seismic Assessment and Retrofitting
- Lessons from Recent Events
- Seismic Retrofit case studies and techniques.

Three renowned structural engineers from Geohazard International USA made the lead presentations Mr. Thomas Tobin on 'Policies for Earthquake Risk Management and Seismic Retrofit', Mr. W. Holmes on 'Engineering for Performance: Owner-Engineer Partnerships' and Mr. M.Green on 'Rapid Assessment of Building Vulnerability'.

Prof. N. V.C. Menon, Member, National Disaster Management Authority delivered the valedictory address highlighting the various initiatives on seismic risk mitigation at national level. Smt. Nina Minka, of USAID in her address discussed about the collaboration between India and USA for seismic risk mitigation.

Annual Training Conference of NIDM

5-6 February 2007

The Annual Training Conference of the NIDM was held on 5-6 February, 2007 at the Conference Hall of the SAARC Disaster Management Centre, NIDM Building, New Delhi. Director Generals of Administrative Training Institutes of the State Governments, Heads of Department of Disaster Management Centres of the ATIs, Relief Commissioners, Representatives of Central Ministries and Departments and Faculty Members of the NIDM attended this Conference. The Conference was inaugurated by Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon, Hon'ble Member, NDMA.

The first day the Conference deliberated on the following themes:-

- (a) Review of the activities of 2006-07 & strategies for 2007-08;
- (b) NDMA guidelines for NIDM; and
- (c) Review of the Central Sector Plan Scheme on Natural Disaster Management

On the second day Disaster Management Centres of the ATIs made their presentations of the activities during 2006-07 and proposals for 2007-08. In the concluding session the training calendars for the year 2007-08 were finalized.

It was decided that disaster management shall be included in the training programmes in all relevant sectors of administration such as police, civil defence, public works, health, education, rural development, rural and urban local self government etc. Training designs developed by the NIDM for different sectors shall be followed for such programmes with such adaptations as may be necessary for the State. Disaster Management Centres in the States shall be fully involved in the training programmes under GOI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programmes in 169 multi-



Mr. N.V.C. Menon, Member NDMA addressing Annual Training Conference

hazard districts in 17 States/ Union Territories and such other extended areas as may be decided in future. The Conference recommended revisions in the existing Central Sector Scheme for assistance to the Disaster Management Centres of the ATIs. It was informed that a proposal for transferring the scheme to the NIDM as a Non-Plan scheme is under active consideration of the Government.

Contributions from the States for NIDM Newsletter Tidings

During the Annual Training Conference, it has been decided that NIDM Newsletter shall include news items, stories, images etc. of all important events on disaster management in the States in general and DMCs in particular. Necessary materials shall be submitted to Dr. Surya Parkash, Associate Professor NIDM who would be Editing the newsletter.

Japanese delegation discusses disaster risk reduction projects

29 January 2007

A High Level team of Japanese delegation visited NIDM to discuss the proposed project of Disaster Prevention and Reconstruction in South Asia. The delegation was led by Mr. Hidetomi, Senior Advisor, Global Environment Department of JICA and included Mr. Satoru Nishikawa of the Cabinet Office, Mr. Tadashi Kondo of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tatsuo Narafu of Building Research Institute and Mr. Masahiko Murata of International Recovery Platform. Mr. Koji Suzuki, Executive Director of Asian Disaster Reduction Center, Kobe also attended the delegation with a separate project on Disaster Reduction and Management under the SAARC-Japan Fund.



Meeting with Japanese delegation

Two project proposals of JICA on Earthquake and Tsunami Risk Reduction and Recovery for South Asian region were discussed. Both the projects will have two components: national and regional. The national components would be implemented through the national governments on the basis of priorities agreed with the governments, while the regional programmes are proposed to be implemented by the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery of UNDP through the SAARC Disaster Management Centre. The regional programme will address two components; (a) regional coordination, knowledge and networking, and (b) regional and international technical assistance for activities

Under SAARC-Japan Fund a separate project for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in South Asian countries shall be taken up. The components of the project would include:

- a) Establishment of Information Sharing System on Disasters and Disaster Risk Management,
- b) Supporting Small-scale Pilot Projects for Promoting Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction Activities
- c) Studies on Vulnerability Assessment Methodologies with Application of Remote Sensing Technologies

NIDM in International Forum

- Dr Sujata Satapathy participated and presented a paper in the DAISY Consortium in Collaboration with twelve governmental and non-governmental organizations had organised an International Conference on Tsunami Preparedness of Persons with Disabilities from 11-12 January 2007 at Phuket in Thailand.
- Dr. Sujata Satapathy and Dr. Ajinder Walia participated in International Conference on School Safety at Ahmedabad on 18-20 January 2007 organized by GSDMA in collaboration with World Bank, SEEDS, UN-ISDR, UNDP and the Coalition of Global School Safety.
- Mr. P.G.Dhar Chakrabarti Executive Director of the National Institute of Disaster Management attended the Conference on Global Facility of Disaster Reduction and Recovery at World Bank, Washington DC USA on 20-22 February 2007. He made four different presentations in various sessions of the Conference.

Appointments / Resignations

1. Shri Lal Arun Kumar Nath Sahdeo joined as Consultant on 18 December 2006
2. Shri Binod Doley, Assistant Professor resigned from the Institute w.e.f. January 18, 2007 to join the post of Deputy Manager at ECIL.

Training Programs

On-Campus

- *Incident Command System (ICS)*, 4-6 Dec. 2006
- *Incident Command Software (I Suite)*, 7-8 Dec. 2006
- *Incident Command System - Basic & Intermediate Course*, 3-5 January 2007
- *Incident Command System for PSC and OSC*, 15-31 January 2007, jointly organized by NIDM and United States Forest Services
- *2nd Online Course on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Framework*, NIDM-WBI Online Program, 7 Jan.-16 Feb. 2007 (131 participants)
- *Managing Disaster Risks to Cultural Property*, 8-12 January 2007
- *Exercise Design and Evaluation Master Exercise Practitioner Program*, 26 Feb.- 2 March 2007
- *Disaster Risk Mitigation of Cultural Heritage*, 8-12 January 2007

Off-Campus

- *Application of RS & GIS for Disaster Management* at ATI Pune, 18-23 Jan. 2007
- *Creation of Landslides Databases for Planning, Policy Making and Risk Management*, 22-24 Jan. 2007, at IMPA, Jammu
- *Gender Issues in Disaster Management* at ATI West Bengal, 27 Feb. - 1 March 2007
- *Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management* at NEHU/NEC Shillong, 26 Feb. - 2 March 2007
- *Preparation of District Disaster Management Plan*, 26 Feb. - 2 March, 2007
- *Urban Risk Mitigation* at YASHADA, Pune, 6-8 December, 2006
- *ToT on Disaster Psychosocial Care* at ATI, Mysore, 5-9 Feb. 2007

Upcoming Events

Training Programs

- Risk Financing and Risk Transfer, 1-2 March 2007, at NIDM, New Delhi
- Managing the Consequences of Major Building Collapse, 12-16 March 2007, at NIDM, New Delhi
- Comprehensive Landslide Risk Management, 12-15 March 2007, at GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Sikkim Unit, Gangtok
- Disaster Damage Assessment, 14-16 March 2007, at NIDM, New Delhi
- Drought Management and Mitigation, 19-23 March 2007, at NIDM, New Delhi

“The benefits of prevention and preparedness are far reaching than the tangible benefits we get from disaster loss reduction. There are long term gains that can not be evaluated in economical terms”.

Kofi Annan, Former Secretary General, United Nations

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