

Editorial Board

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Highlights

First Meeting of NIDM

International Symposium on Impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage

CSO- NIDM Workshop on National Disaster Statistical System

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National Disaster Statistical System

Regular and reliable flow of data on hazards and disasters are crucial for an efficient disaster management system. Data is important not only for assessing hazards, risks and damages, but also for analyzing trends and making projections, formulating policies, deciding strategies for prevention and preparedness, allocating resources for relief and reconstruction and recovery and last but not the least, for monitoring progress. Disaster statistics are also important for assessing long term macro economic and environmental impact of disasters.

Unfortunately a comprehensive national statistical system on disasters is yet to be fully developed in most of the countries, although some initiatives have been taken in a few countries. For example, the University of South Carolina is maintaining a Spatial Hazard Event and Losses Database for the United States (SHELDUS), Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness (OCIPEP) of Canada maintains a Canadian Disaster Database, Emergency Management Australia (EMA) has developed an Australian Disaster Database, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DWSD) of Government of Philippines is maintaining a Disaster Response Operations Monitoring & Information Center (DROMIC) and a Network for Social Studies on Disaster Prevention in Latin America (LA RED) has developed DesInventar which specializes in capturing losses in informal sector and presents national disasters through local data. None of these systems is comprehensive enough to generate data on all types of hazards and disasters. Munich Re and Swiss Re, two of the world's largest reinsurance companies, have developed sophisticated databases in NatCat and Sigma but these are developed from the perspectives of insurance and the data are also not available in public domain. The Brussels-based Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) is managing an Emergency Disasters Data Base (EM-DAT) which is by far the best international database on disasters involving deaths of 10 or more persons. But it covers only a few parameters and does not cover most of the dimensions of natural or man made disasters. None of these systems disaggregates data at the local level according to specific natural and man made disasters. Besides the scope of the data does not go beyond deaths and injuries to incorporate the entire range of losses of housing, infrastructure, environment, economy etc.

The Central Statistical Organization (CSO) of the Government of India and the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) have taken the initiative to develop a National Statistical System on Hazards and Disasters which would generate comprehensive data on hazards and disaster at the district level on an annual basis. A brain storming workshop was held on 27th April to kick start the process and it is expected that the first such Statistical Volume shall be released during 2007-08.



P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti

First Meeting of NIDM

New Delhi, 18 April 2007

In term of Section 42(2) of the Disaster Management Act 2005, Government has constituted the National Institute of Disaster Management comprising 42 Members which include Secretaries of ten different Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, Directors of IIT Roorkee, IIM Kolkata, IIPA Delhi, National Academy of Administration Mussorie, National Police Academy and National Geophysical Research Institute Hyderabad, Director Generals of IMD, ICAR, NDRF, Vice Chancellor IPU, Secretary General IRC, Presidents of FICCI and CII etc. Hon'ble Home Minister of India is the President, while Vice Chairperson of NDMA is the Vice President of the Institute. First meeting of the Institute was held on 18 April 2007 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



A view of the first meeting of NIDM in progress



Shri Shiv Raj Patil Hon'ble Home Minister presiding over the meeting

In his opening remarks, the President elaborated upon the entire Disaster Management (DM) apparatus as mandated by the law. NIDM is an important part of this apparatus and has critical role to play, he said. NIDM would assist the National Authority in the formulation of policies and guidelines, capacity building and training etc. and also will work within the framework of broad policy and guidelines of the Authority.

The Institute will network and coordinate with other research and academic institutions within and outside the country to become a centre of excellence and develop appropriate modules for government, corporate and non-governmental sectors. Vice-Chairman NDMA and the Vice-President of the Institute appreciated the role NIDM has played so far and emphasized that it has a larger role to play in future. A Vision, Strategic Planning and a Networking and Collaboration Plan of the Institute were also approved.

Vision and Strategic Planning

It was decided that NIDM would be developed as a premier Institute of Excellence for training and research on disaster risk mitigation and management in India and be recognized as one of the leading institutions at the international level in this field.

The Institute shall forge a strong linkage with various national and international institutes working on various areas of disaster risk reduction and management. Other issues discussed in the meeting included infrastructure development plan, training programs, workshops and conferences, research and documentation, budget etc.

Workshop on National Disaster Statistics

New Delhi, 27 April 2007

A brain-storming workshop on the development of a National Disaster Statistical System was organized by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in collaboration with National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs on 27 April 2007 at NASC, Pusa Complex, New Delhi.

About 80 participants from various Central Ministries and Government organizations like Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Central Water Commission (CWC), Geological Survey of India (GSI), National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), State Government Departments of revenue and Disaster Management and Directorates of Economics and Statistics (DES) attended the workshop.

Dr. S.K. Nath, Director General, Central Statistical Organization (CSO) gave an overview of the current status of disaster statistics in India and explained the broad objectives, principles, scope and relevance of the proposed national statistical system on disasters in India.

The system shall be jointly developed by the Central Statistical Organization and NIDM in close collaboration with all the data collection agencies in the central and state governments.

Executive Director NIDM made a detailed presentation on the hazard and disaster statistical systems across the world and pointed out the critical gaps in the existing systems which need to be addressed while developing the National Statistical System on Hazards and Disasters.

Key issues were flagged for in-depth discussion. Representatives from various Central Government organizations and State Governments welcomed the CSO-NIDM initiative and agreed that every necessary support shall be provided for the development of the statistical system. A road map was also jointly agreed for the development of the system.



CSO-NIDM join Workshop on the Development of National Disaster Statistical System on 27 April 2007 at Pusa Complex, New Delhi.

- Constitution of two Technical Committees; one for Hazard related statistics headed by ED NIDM and other for disaster statistics headed by DG CSO
- Development of guidelines, protocol and formats
- Collection, compilation of data by Central and State Government Agencies and submission of the data to CSO
- An analysis of data by NIDM-CSO team

It was decided that the First Annual India Hazard and Disaster Report shall be published by November 2007.

International Symposium on Impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage

New Delhi, 22 May 2007

An International Symposium on Impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage was organized by NIDM in collaboration with International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), Paris and Institute of Archeology, Delhi on 22 May 2007. The Symposium was attended by 47 delegates from national and international organizations engaged in studies related to the impact of climate change and its implication on heritage sites.

Dr. B. Bhattacharya, Member NDMA inaugurated the symposium, while Mr. Dinu Bumbaru Secretary ICOMOS, delivered the Keynote Address. A number of presentations on impact of climate change on cultural heritage sites in India and different parts of the world were made.

At the conclusion of the symposium, a resolution was adopted which recommended that climate change adaptation strategies for cultural heritage should be mainstreamed into the existing methodologies for preservation and conservation of sites, buildings, settlements, landscape, movable objects and the living traditions with appropriate standards and protocols should be developed for the purpose.



Experts attending International Symposium on Impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage held at NIDM

The Resolution requested the national governments and international organisations to acknowledge the importance of cultural heritage for national economies, tourism, employment and community bonding and to involve the governmental and non-governmental organisations, academic institutions and individuals concerned with raising awareness, conservation and protection of cultural properties with the national and international protocols for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

The resolution further requested the national governments, inter-governmental, non governmental organisations and the private sector to engage and commit resources for the protection of specific heritage sites from the threats of damage and irretrievable loss.

The resolution appreciated the efforts made by the National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi and India-ICOMOS in collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology in organising the workshop, which for the first time brought together climate change specialists and cultural heritage experts on the same platform facilitating interaction, exchange of views and cross-fertilization of ideas.

The recommendations of the Symposium shall be discussed in the International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP) Workshop on Risk Management of Heritage Sites as means to promote further collaboration between professional, scientific and institutional networks.

National Workshop for Development of ToT Module for Community Based Disaster Preparedness

New Delhi, 4 April 2007

The National Institute of Disaster Management, in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority, organized one day brainstorming workshop on Development of ToT module on Community Based Disaster Preparedness on 4 April 2007, at Centaur Hotel, New Delhi. The workshop was inaugurated by Gen N. C. Vij, Hon'ble Vice Chairperson NDMA. Mrs. Jyoti Rao Hon'ble Member of NDMA delivered the Keynote Address. The Workshop was attended by more than fifty professionals and resource persons from State Departments of Disaster Management/Revenue/Relief, NIDM, ATIs and national and international NGOs engaged in capacity building of the community for disaster management. A number of presentations were made and the participants were grouped in separate groups to deliberate on different aspects of the issue.

The Workshop ended with the announcement of constitution of a Task Force for the development of the ToT Module.

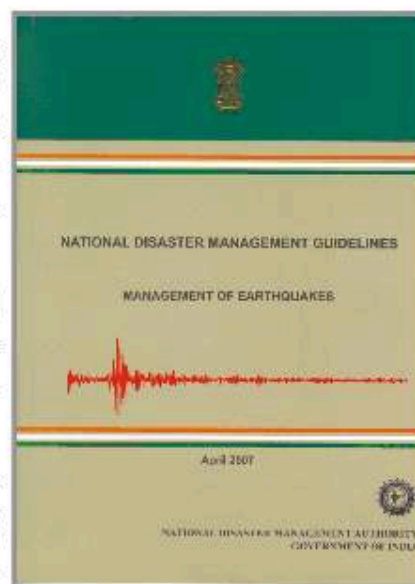
National Disaster Management Guidelines for Earthquakes Risk Management

New Delhi, 16 May 2007

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) released the guidelines on Earthquake Risk Management in a function held at Vigyan Bhavan New Delhi on 16 May 2007. The Guidelines were released by Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Shivraj V. Patil in the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Science, Technology and Earth Sciences Shri Kapil Sibal and Hon'ble Vice-Chairman NDMA, Gen. N.C. Vij.

These guidelines are an outcome of consultations with leading experts and various stakeholders including representatives of various central Ministries and Departments, scientific and technical institutions, academics, technocrats, architects and humanitarian organizations.

The guidelines rest on 6 pillars: earthquake resistant construction of new structures, selective seismic strengthening and retrofitting of existing priority structures and lifeline structures, regulation and enforcement, awareness and preparedness, capacity building in education & training, research and development and emergency response. The guidelines call for a participatory approach to involve all the stakeholders to strengthen the national vision of moving towards a more proactive preparedness and mitigation centric approach.



National Disaster Management Guidelines for Chemical Disasters

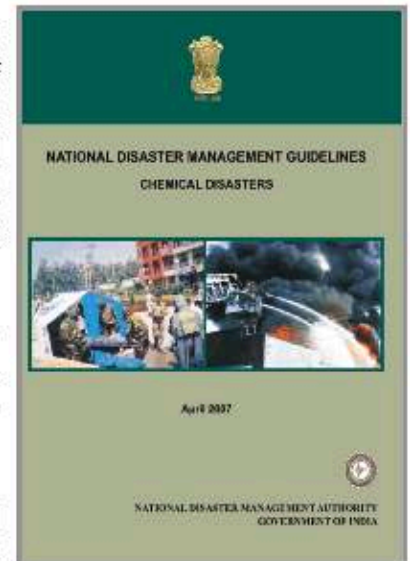
New Delhi, 28 May 2007

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) released the National Disaster Management Guidelines Chemical Disasters' in a function at India Habitat Centre on 28 May 2007. Mr. Oscar Fernandes Hon'ble Minister of State for Labour and Employment released the Guidelines.

Formulation of these guidelines has involved active participation and contributions of 275 experts, including stakeholders like representatives of central Ministries and Departments, regulatory agencies, research and development organisations, professionals from scientific and technical institutes/academies like the National Safety Council, Disaster Management institutes and apex industrial associations and consortia of the corporate sector.

The Guidelines call for a proactive, participatory, well-structured, fail-safe, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach involving all stakeholders, aimed at refining and strengthening the national mechanisms in this field from the planning stages to field operations.

These guidelines contain all the details that are required by the planners and implementers and will help in the preparation of plans by the central ministries/departments and the states.



Delegations and meetings

Secretary BM Visited NIDM on 21 March 2007

Shri Umesh Narayan Panjiar, Secretary Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs inspected the various facilities of NIDM and interacted with the Executive Director and faculty members of the NIDM. ED apprised him about the vision, mission, objectives and achievements of the institute.



President, Helmholtz Association, Germany visited NIDM on 13 April 2007

Prof. Dr. Jurgen Mlynek, President Helmholtz Association, Germany accompanied by Dr. Victor Smetecek, Biological Oceanographer, Alfred Wegner Institute of Polar & Marine Research Germany and Ms. Marian Schuegraf, Science Councilor at Embassy of FRG visited the Institute on 13 April 2007. Helmholtz Association is the apex body of scientific research in Germany with an annual turn over of nearly Euro 3 billion/year.

ED NIDM and President Helmholtz Association shared the mission, strategies and activities of their respective organizations and discussed about the common interests and possible areas of collaboration. The following areas of joint cooperation were identified for future collaboration:

- Flood Modeling
- Remote Sensing & GIS
- Climate Change
- Early Warning System
- Automated Safety System for Public Utilities



Meetings

Dr. Surya Parkash and Dr. Anil K. Gupta, Associate Professors, NIDM were invited to attend a brainstorming workshop on Development of Comprehensive Technology for Disaster Prevention and Management for Jharia Coalfields at IICM, Ranchi, organized by Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research, Dhanbad from 29 to 30 April 2007.

NIDM in International Forum

- Executive Director NIDM attended the workshop on Social Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction in the Himalayan Region-Sharing Knowledge and Bridging Gaps held on 9-11 May 2007 at Katmandu, Nepal
- Executive Director NIDM participated in the 3rd meeting of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) as a member of the Advisory Group at New York, USA on 23-25 May 2007.
- Prof. Chandan Ghosh attended the Regional Training Workshop on Earthquake Vulnerability and Multi Hazard Risk Assessment on 5-16 March 2007 at International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Major Activities of NIDM

NIDM has joined hands with Ministry of Environment & Forests, Winrock International, The Energy Research Institute, and Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET) as a part of Global Environmental Facility, United Nations Development Programme for capacity building in climate change adaptation.

Training Programs / Workshops / Online Training Program

- 3rd NIDM-WBI Online Training Programme on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Framework, 9 April to 18 May 2007.

On Campus

- Risk Financing and Risk Transfer, 1-2 March 2007
- Disaster Damage Assessment, 14-16 March 2007
- Drought Management and Mitigation, 19-23 March 2007
- National Workshop for Development of Training of Trainers (ToT) module for Community Based Disaster Preparedness on 4 April 2007 in collaboration with NDMA.
- National Workshop for Development of Training module on Disaster Management for teachers and School Administration, 24-25 April 2007
- Industrial and Chemical Disasters, 25-27 April 2007
- Workshop on Developing National Disaster Statistics organized by NIDM and CSO at NASC building, PUSA, New Delhi on 27 April 2007
- ToT on Comprehensive Landslide Risk Management, 7-12 May 2007
- ToT on Disaster Health Care Management, 14-18 May 2007
- ToT on Flood Risk Mitigation and Management, 28 May - 1 June 2007

Off-campus Training Programs

- Regional Training Program for Northeastern Himalayan States on Comprehensive Landslide Risk Management, 12-15 March 2007 at GBPIHED, Sikkim Unit, Gangtok
- Flood Risk Mitigation and Management, 24-27 April 2007 at BIPARD Bihar
- Role of Geo-information in Disaster Management, 7-11 May 2007 at ATI Nainital
- Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management, 21-25 May 2007 at ATI Guwahati
- Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, 28 May-1 June 2007 at Tripura

Upcoming Events at NIDM

- ToT on Urban Risk Mitigation & Management, 11-15 June 2007
- First Governing Body meeting of NIDM, 20 June 2007
- ToT on Disaster Psycho-Social Care, 18 - 22 June 2007
- ToT on Gender Issues in Disaster Management, 2-6 July 2007
- National Workshop on Urban Floods, 6 July 2007
- ToT on Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management, 9-13 July 2007
- Training on Nuclear Biological and Chemical Disasters, 6-10 August 2007
- ToT on Building Codes and Designs, 20-24 August 2007
- ToT on Cyclone Risk Mitigation and Management, 27-31 August 2007

NIDM - WBI Online Specialized Training Programs

- Community Based Disaster Risk Management, 4 June - 2 July 2007
- Safe Cities, 16 July - 13 August 2007
- Reconstruction and Damage Needs Assessment, 3 September - 1 October 2007
- Financial Strategies for Managing the Economic Impact of Disasters, 15 Oct - 12 November, 2007

*Too many innocents have lost their lives
For no fault of theirs
For no wrath of nature
Nor for anger of God
They thought out to be
Its our fault
All of us who have some role to play
Lets put all our head and heart together to make it happen
That thousands would not die again
Before we make them learn to live
And Live with the Risks*

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