

## Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

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### Highlights

First Governing Body Meeting of NIDM

Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

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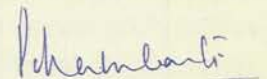
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The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR) was set up in 2000 as the focal point in the UN system to promote synergies and coordination in various socio-economic, humanitarian and development fields for disaster risk reduction by UN agencies, other international organizations, regional organizations and national governments. A twenty five member Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) of UN agencies, international, regional and civil society organizations headed by UN Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs is the main body which decides the policy and other issues for the functioning of the ISDR.

The ISDR took the initiative to organize the Second World Conference on Disaster Risk reduction in Kobe, Japan in January 2005 which adopted the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-15: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. The HFA, as this Framework is popularly called, provides overarching guidelines to various actors at national, regional and global levels for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development. Complying with the HFA guidelines, several national governments have set up National Platforms involving the representatives of various stakeholders including the national, provincial and local governments, scientific and technical institutions, media, corporate sector, community leaders etc to create awareness for disaster risk reduction.

During 2006, Mr. Jan Egeland, the former UN Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs launched a consultative process to consider practical ways to strengthen the ISDR system. The consensus that emerged was to restructure and broaden the ISDR into a Global Platform which would involve the national governments, UN agencies, international financial institutions, regional bodies, civil society organizations, private sector and the scientific and academic communities to raise awareness on reducing disaster risk, increase the profile of disaster risk reduction as part of development and climate change adaptation and reiterate the commitment of policy and decision-makers to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action.

The first session of the Global Platform was held at Geneva on 5-7 June 2007. 1150 participants from 124 Member States and 105 regional, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations attended the session, deliberated on a wide range of issues and reaffirmed their commitments for strengthening the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. The Global Platform has signaled the transformation of the ISDR into a Global Movement for Disaster Risk Reduction.



P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti

## Governing Body Meeting

New Delhi, 20 June 2007

The first meeting of the Governing Body of the National Institute of Disaster Management was held on 20 June 2007 at the Conference Hall of the NIDM under the Chairmanship of Gen. N.C. Vij, Hon'ble Vice Chairperson of the National Disaster Management Authority. The meeting started with the Executive Director NIDM welcoming the Members and giving a brief resume of the genesis, growth and achievements of the Institute and plans for future development.



First Governing Body Meeting of NIDM held at Conference Hall, NIDM on 20 June 2007



Gen. N.C. Vij, Hon'ble Vice-Chairperson NDMA chairing the First GB Meeting of NIDM

In his opening remarks, the Chairman recalled the broad vision and challenging role of the Institute. He said that NIDM has to work in accordance with the broad policies and guiding principles of the NDMA, prioritize its works according to the needs and demands of capacity building across sectors to reach out the multiple stakeholders and network with various training, academic and research organizations within and outside the country using information and communication technologies.

The Chairman emphasized that NIDM has to devote extra effort to training and capacity building in 241 multi-hazard prone districts and develop various training capsules for the specific needs of various stakeholders. NIDM should network with various State level ATIs, SIRDs and other premier institutions for the same. The capacities of the State ATIs have also to be developed on a fast track so that they will be able to cater the training needs of the state level officials. NIDM shall network with scientific, technical and research institutions of various Central Ministries.

The Governing Body approved the proposal of signing agreement with UNDP for developing a project on Climate Change Adaptation which will be jointly developed by TERI, ISET, NIDM and Winrock International India under the guidelines of Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF).

The Governing Body decided that a long term developmental plan for the expansion of the NIDM shall be formulated to meet the mandate laid down by the Disaster Management Act, 2005. This developmental plan shall include the organizational structure, infrastructure requirements, administrative and financial powers.

## NIDM and UNHCR Joint Workshop on Emergency and Disaster Management

New Delhi, 27-31 August 2007

NIDM and UNHCR share a close partnership in capacity building of professionals entrusted with disaster preparedness and response in the entire region. A joint workshop on Emergency and Disaster Management was held in Hotel Imperial, New Delhi from 27-31 August 2007. This was the second joint initiative after the resounding success of the first workshop held in November 2006 in New Delhi. The aim of the workshop was to bring together the expertise available within the UNHCR to enhance the capacities of the disaster management professionals at the regional level to work together for a disaster resilient community.

A total of 31 delegates from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka participated in the workshop. The participants were senior government officials holding nodal charges of disaster risk reduction and regional cooperation in the nodal ministries and agencies in disaster risk reduction across the SAARC region, humanitarian agencies, bilateral and multi-lateral organizations.

Professionals of e-Centre UNHCR Tokyo and Inter-Works USA conducted the workshop. The workshop, designed as an interesting mix of lecture demonstrations, discussions, group exercises, simulations and role plays covered various issues related to the regional dimensions of hazards, contingency planning, issues of shelter planning, water, sanitation and logistics issues, planning for needs of women and children, media management, planning for longer term reconstruction and recovery.



## **Capacity Development for Climate Change Adaptation : MoEF-GEF Climate Change Adaptation Project in India**

Several studies have indicated that the disaster scenario in India is likely to become adverse in the coming years and decades due to the effects of global warming and climate change. The receding glacial deposits in the Himalaya would increase the incidence of flash floods in the short run, and in the long run it would reduce the discharge from the river system, threatening some of the perennial rivers into seasonal drainages. Ground water level would deplete at many places, straining the already over stressed irrigation system. Increasing temperature would reduce the yield of cereals and other crops, recreating situations of food scarcity. Rising ocean surface temperature would increase the incidence of atmospheric depression, creating more frequent and intense cyclonic conditions, just as sea level rise would inundate large coastal areas. Epidemiology of diseases would alter creating new challenges to human, animal and plant health. It is apprehended that about 150 million people would become ecological refugees due to the combined impacts of climate change.

In order to meet this challenge, several initiatives have been started by various institutions with in and outside the government. One of such initiative is the proposed MoEF-GEF Collaborative project to address the climate change adaptation within disaster reduction in the country. The project aims at pilot studies in selected 6 sites (2 each for drought, flood and coastal hazards) in 5 states of India. TERI, ISET, NIDM and Winrock International shall be the partners in this project. NIDM shall be the nodal agency for capacity building components including curriculum development, training modules and awareness generation at various levels.

India has a large network of educational, research and training institutions, but there are few institutions dedicated to capacity development for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. At the apex level, the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) has been constituted to provide a lead in this regard. At the State level, Disaster Management Centres have been set up at the Administrative Training Institutes. NIDM is networking with various research, training and extension agencies to develop sector specific training modules. A number of such modules have been developed for disaster mitigation and management, but nothing much has been done for climate change adaptation at national level

Under this collaborative project, it is proposed to set up a National Centre for Climate Change Adaptation in NIDM to coordinate training, research, capacity development and documentation

at the national level. The Centre shall conduct Training Needs Assessment (TNA) at all levels and sectors, develop training designs and modules, curriculum, methodologies and develop training materials in local languages using various audio visual and folk media, develop a core group of trainers through ToTs and provide the leadership in developing capacities at the State, district and community levels.

## Hazard Statistics Meeting

New Delhi, 23 July 2007

In order to develop a comprehensive database on hazards and disasters based on the recommendations of the National Workshop on Disaster Statistics held on 27 April, 2007, two technical committees on Hazard and Disaster Statistics were constituted. The Terms of Reference of the Hazard Statistics Committee were the following:

- To define the threshold limit for every event which should qualify to be described as a hazard;
- To examine the range of hazard data that are collected at present by the various agencies on each of the natural and man made hazards and recommend the data sets to be captured;
- To discuss the various methodological issues involved in the aggregation and segregation of the data at the district level and to suggest the strategy to be adopted by different agencies;
- To recommend the format in which data specific to each natural and man made hazard shall be collected & compiled at the district level;
- To develop guidelines and protocols to be followed for collection, compilation and validation of data;
- To list the various sub-activities involved in the exercise and suggest the time frame for the same.

The First Meeting of the Hazard Statistics Committee was held on 23 July 2007 at the Conference Room of the NIDM. The Committee discussed various methodological issues related to data classification and disaggregation, data format and data compilation for publishing the hazard and disaster statistics.

## Workshop on Urban Flood Case Studies

New Delhi, 6 July 2007

A workshop on Urban Flood Case Study Project was organized on 6 July 2007 at NIDM, and attended by city-wise team members involved in the study, as well as invited experts from various organisations related with urban planning, drainage, flood control, pollution control, etc. The objective of the workshop was to discuss the initiatives, progress and roadmap for the city-wise case studies on urban flooding in eight Indian cities, viz. Bangalore, Bhopal, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Surat, Hyderabad and Delhi.



Multi-disciplinary teams of experts have been constituted for conducting the study in each of the cities. Team leaders/ their representatives made presentations on the approach and methodology of their studies. The presentations were followed by intense discussion on the methodology and template of the study, data requirements and gaps, expected time of completion and validation. A framework for conducting the case study was developed.

## **First Meeting of Task Force on Development of ToT Modules for CBDP**

New Delhi, 1 June 2007

The first meeting of the Task Force on Development of ToT modules for CBDP was held on 1 June 2007 at the Conference Room of the National Institute of Disaster Management. In her opening remarks, Ms Jyoti Rao, Hon'ble Member, National Disaster Management Authority explained the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Task Force and highlighted the various issues to be considered in the preparation of the module. She stated that the module should look into the capacity building issues of the targeted community in a holistic manner. It should focus on local environment resources, hazards, risks and vulnerabilities, likely impact of hazards on life and livelihood, particularly on the vulnerable groups and the local knowledge and capacities that can be harnessed in pre disaster planning, preparedness and response as also mitigation. She advised the members to dwell upon the multidimensional aspects of the community as also multi-sectoral initiatives which need to be converged while developing the ToT module on CBDP.

Shri P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, ED, NIDM made a SWOT analysis of the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Programme which is currently being run in 169 vulnerable districts of India and reviewed the various ToT modules currently being practiced such as ToT Curriculum on Disaster Management of Indian Red Cross, Field Practitioners' Handbook of Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Local Level Risk management Framework of UNDP and Workbook on Community Based Disaster Management of Oxfam.

The meeting ended with the constitution of two subgroups. The first sub-group shall work on policy related issues of the ToT module like defining the context, approach and strategy of capacity building of the community for disaster management, preparing the institutional framework for integration of the programmes with PRIs, suggesting how the programme shall be converged with other community based programmes and how the programme shall be made sustainable in the long run. The second sub-group shall work on training related issues like reviewing the existing training modules, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the module, preparing the ToT design module and define the objectives, methodology, target groups etc., outlining the outcome indicators and multiplier effect, suggesting how to test the module and the criteria for testing and evaluation and finally developing a national framework and suggesting areas of regional adaptation. The Task Force will meet again to finalize the module by October 2007.

## **Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery**

Disaster reduction is a critical dimension of the global poverty reduction agenda as disasters impact poor the most. With this in view, the World Bank is developing various instruments to support its client governments to integrate risk reduction strategies in development processes at the country and local levels, especially in countries where risks are high. In consultation with different stakeholders, the World Bank Board has approved a new partnership, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). The facility will have three tracks in support of global, regional and country level deliverables:

**Track 1: Global and regional support to ISDR System:** This track will support global advocacy, knowledge sharing and information management tools through global and regional organizations under the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) System.

**Track 2: Support to countries for developing investment frameworks for disaster risk prevention and mitigation:** This track will operate through a multi-donor trust fund and support efforts by developing country governments to enhance investments in risk reduction.

**Track 3: Standby Recovery Financing Facility:** This track, to be operated through a multi-donor trust fund, is to support disaster-stricken countries' immediate recovery needs before medium and long term recovery programs are formulated and launched.

## Delegations and Meetings

### Secretary General SAARC visited NIDM

Secretary General SAARC, His Excellency Mr. Chenkyab Dorji Visited SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) and NIDM on 26 August 2007. He discussed the affairs of SDMC with ED NIDM (who is also the Director, SDMC) and inspected the various facilities developed at the NIDM.



Mr. P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, ED NIDM welcoming His Excellency Mr. Chenkyab Dorji in NIDM

### MoU Signed with ITC Netherlands

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the NIDM with the International Institute for GeoInformation Science and Earth Observation (ITC) Netherlands for international cooperation in the field of disaster management. The major areas identified for mutual cooperation are exchange of knowledge on Remote Sensing, GIS, IT, Geoinformation; development of research collaboration in areas of risk assessment; capacity building; organization of workshops and training programs. The MoU was signed by Prof. Dr. Ir. M. Molenaar, Rector ITC on 22 June 2007 at Enschede, Netherlands and Mr. P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, ED NIDM on 12 June 2007 at New Delhi.

### MoU signed with AIDMI

NIDM has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, Ahmedabad to work together in various areas of disaster management and support each other in such activities. Mr. P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, Executive Director NIDM and Mr. Mihir Bhatt, Director AIDMI signed the MoU on 29 August 2007 at New Delhi. The general areas of common interest are training and capacity building, workshops and seminars, policy research and application, publication and dissemination.



MoU signed between ED NIDM and Director AIDMI, Ahmedabad on 29 August 2007

## Meetings

- First Governing Body meeting of NIDM on 20 June 2007
- Dr. Surya Parkash participated in a Workshop on National Training Policy organized by Institute of Secretariat Training Management (ISTM), New Delhi from 30 to 31 August 2007
- Dr. Anil K Gupta, Associate Professor, NIDM delivered a lead talk on “Policy & Regulations on Chemical & Industrial Disaster Management in India and Implementation Status” in the National Workshop on Management of Chemical (Industrial) Disasters and Release of National Guidelines, on 9 August 2007, organized by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry and National Disaster Management Authority, at Vadodara.

## NIDM in International Forum

- Shri P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, ED NIDM was nominated as a Member of the Advisory Group of UNOCHA for a study on the Effectiveness of Military Assets in the International Disaster Response which has been entrusted to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). In this connection, he was invited to attend a panel discussion of the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment in Geneva (Switzerland) from 16-18 July 2007.
- UNISDR invited ED, NIDM to attend the First Meeting of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction at Geneva from 4-7 June 2007 and make presentations in several sessions. He chaired a session on National Framework to Local Action and co-chaired the session on Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia. He was the Key Speaker in the session on Mainstreaming Gender in Disaster Risk Reduction and one of the two key speakers in the side event organized by the International Recovery Platform on Global Catalyst for Better Recovery.
- Prof. V.K. Sehgal, Mr. B. Dash and Ms. Sushma Guleria, faculty NIDM attended a Certificate Program in Tsunami Science and Preparedness (International Tsunami Training Institute) organized at University of Washington, Seattle, USA from 21 July to 2 August 2007. The faculty were sponsored by USAID for participating in this program.
- Dr. Anil K Gupta, Associate Professor, NIDM was invited as a delegate to the Asia-Pacific Consultation on Climate Regime Beyond 2012, on 29-30 August 2007, organized by Institute of Global Environmental Strategy, Japan, and TERI, New Delhi. Delegates from sectors including Industry, NGOs, Government, Academia, from Asian and Pacific nations participated in the workshop.

## Major Activities of NIDM

### Training Programs/Workshops

#### Online Training Program

- Community Based Disaster Risk Management, 4 June – 2 July 2007
- Safe Cities, 16 July – 13 August 2007

#### On Campus

- Urban Risk Mitigation & Management, 11-15 June 2007
- Disaster Psycho-Social Care, 18-22 June 2007
- Gender Issues in Disaster Management, 3-6 July 2007
- Earthquake Risk Mitigation & Management, 9-13 July 2007
- Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Disasters, 6-10 August 2007
- Building Codes & Designs, 20-24 August 2007
- Cyclone Risk Mitigation & Management, 27-31 August 2007

#### Off-campus

- Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, ATI Agartala, 28 May-1 June 2007
- Comprehensive Landslide Risk Management, ATI Aizawl, 4-8 June 2007
- Comprehensive Natural Disaster Risk Management, ATI Nagaland, 25-29 June 2007
- Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, HIPA Gurgaon, 23-27 July 2007
- Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, ATI Karnataka, 20-24 August 2007
- Climate Change & Disaster Management, HCM RIPA, Jaipur, 20-24 August 2007
- Formulation of DDMP and Landslide Risk Management, SAT Imphal, 21-25 August 07
- NIDM and UNHCR Joint Workshop on Emergency and Disaster Management, Imperial Hotel, New Delhi, 27-31 August 2007

## Upcoming Events at NIDM

### Workshops

- Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction at New Delhi on 7-8 November 2007
- SAARC Workshop on Application of Science & Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, at Hotel The Ashok, New Delhi on 27-28 November 2007

### Training Programs

- Management of Risk to Cultural Property, NIDM, 5-7 September 2007
- Disaster Management Program for PIOs in collaboration with FEMA, at NIDM, 10-12 September 2007
- Formulation of DDMP, Madhya Pradesh, 10-14 September 2007
- Cyclone Risk Mitigation & Management, Andhra Pradesh, 10-14 September 2007
- ToT on Flood Risk Mitigation & Management, NIDM, 10-14 September 2007
- Disaster Health Care and Management, West Bengal, 17-21 September 2007
- Cyclone Risk Mitigation & Management, Gujarat, 17-21 September 2007
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Training on Master Exercise Practitioner Programme with FEMA-EMI, at NIDM, 21-24 September 2007
- ToT on GIS in Disaster Management, NIDM, 8-12 October 2007
- Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, Punjab, 15-19 October 2007
- Paradigm Shift in Disaster Management in India for APPPA Participants, at NIDM, 22-23 October 2007
- Earthquake Risk Mitigation & Management, Meghalaya, 22-26 October 2007
- Comprehensive Landslide Risk Management, Arunachal Pradesh, 29 Oct.-2 Nov. 2007
- Flood Risk Mitigation & Management, Tezpur University, Assam, 29 Oct.-2 Nov. 2007
- Damage Assessment, Maharashtra, 6-10 November 2007
- Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, Uttar Pradesh, 12-16 November 2007
- Risk Financing and Risk Insurance, NIDM, 12-16 November 2007
- Mining Hazard, Jharkhand, 19-23 November 2007
- ToT on Disaster Psycho-Social Care, NIDM, 19-23 November 2007
- Climate Change & Disaster Management, NIDM, 26-30 November 2007

### NIDM – WBI Online Specialized Training Programs

- Reconstruction and Damage Needs Assessment, 3 September – 1 October 2007
- Financial Strategies for Managing the Economic Impact of Disasters, 15 October – 12 November 2007

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