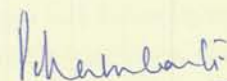


Disaster Management Centres in States

Close to the heel of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action on Safer World adopted at the first World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 1994, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, then the nodal Ministry of Government of India for disaster management, launched a Central Sector Plan Scheme on Natural Disaster Management Programme in March 1995, by which a National Centre for Disaster Management (NCDM) was set up in the Indian Institute of Public Administration and Disaster Management Centres (DMC) were set up at the Administrative Training Institutes of the States. NCDM eventually became NIDM in 2003 and further received statutory recognition under the DM Act of 2005, but the DMCs languished, as the rigid provisions of the scheme did not much facilitate their growth nor did the States come forward to own and nurture them. Although 28 States availed the benefit of the scheme, the financial and physical achievements fell much shorter than the expectations - hardly one fourth of the allocations could be utilized and minimum number and coverage of the programmes could be reached in only a few States.

The problems faced by the DMCs and the shortcomings of the Central scheme were discussed threadbare in the Annual Training Conference held at the NIDM in 2006 and 2007. Based on the recommendations of these two successive Conferences, the Government of India has scrapped the plan scheme and introduced a new scheme in the Non-plan sector to be implemented by the NIDM. Under the new scheme which was notified on 5th February 2008, the central assistance shall continue to be available to the existing and new Disaster Management Centres for a further period of five years on a higher scale not only to support the faculty and staff but also to conduct training and other programmes, setting up libraries and GIS labs, faculty development and other activities as per norms specified in the scheme. After five years, the State Governments shall be expected to own the Centres and assistance of Government of India shall be available only for programme based activities.

The scheme provides a new impetus to the growth of the DMCs and gives a central role to the NIDM to lead the process. The faculty and staff of the NIDM fully dedicate themselves to discharge this responsibility to the best of their abilities.



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Highlights

Annual Training Conference

Central Sector Scheme entrusted to NIDM

Contents

Annual Training Conference	- 2
Scheme for Financial Assistance to DMCs entrusted to NIDM	- 3
NDMA Guidelines on Management of Floods	- 3
Creation of Disaster Response Division	- 4
Stakeholder Workshop on Urban Flood Case Studies	- 4
Workshop on Landslide Management	- 4
Delegations	- 5
Meetings	- 6
Papers	- 6
International Forum	- 7
Appointments	- 7
Major Activities	- 7
Upcoming Events	- 8

Annual Training Conference

New Delhi, 28-29 January 2008

The Annual Training Conference of the NIDM was held on January 28-29, 2008 at the Conference Hall of the SAARC Disaster Management Centre, NIDM, New Delhi. Director Generals of State Administrative Training Institutes, Relief Commissioners, representatives of Central Ministries and Departments, Heads of Disaster Management Centers of the ATIs, and heads of the divisions and Faculty / Staff of the Training cell of NIDM attended this Conference.



Inaugural Session of Annual Training conference

The Conference was inaugurated by Dr. Mohan Kanda, Hon'ble Member, NDMA. In

his inaugural address, he outlined the various initiatives of National Disaster Management Authority for formulation of national level policies and guidelines for management of different types of natural and man-made disasters. He emphasized the need for a holistic, inclusive, participatory, gender sensitive and environment friendly disaster management in the country. He shared his experiences with disaster management at Central and State levels and emphasized the critical importance of training and capacity development for better preparedness.

Shri P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, ED NIDM gave a broad overview of the Conference, its objectives, structure and agenda. In a special address, Shri Rakesh Hooja, Director General, HCM Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration, Jaipur elaborated upon the role and expectation of Disaster Management Centres (DMCs) of State ATIs in terms of training and capacity building of various stake holders, sensitization of policy makers, public awareness, integration of disaster management in the developmental planning etc. Shri Hooja particularly emphasized on the meaningful role DMCs can play in reaching to all stakeholders including elected representatives at grassroot level.

On the first day, the Conference deliberated on Lessons Learnt in 2007-08 and Strategies for 2008-09 of NIDM; Training Needs of Central Government Ministries/ Departments; Experiences of State ATIs etc.

On the second day, Disaster Management Centres of the ATIs made presentations on activities during 2007-08 and submitted proposals for 2008-09. ED NIDM summed up the deliberations of the Conference with a draft Action Plan for 2008-09, which was unanimously adopted with some modifications. During the year 2008-09, NIDM may conduct about 61 training programmes of 5 day duration each, with one programme at each of the 29 DMCs at State capitals and 32 programmes at the NIDM campus. NIDM would also conduct 14 sensitization/ training programmes each of 1-3 days duration, 6 online programmes and some sector specific programmes as per the demand of the Central Ministries/ Departments. Each DMC shall be expected to conduct a minimum of 25 training programmes of total duration of 105 days involving 490 persons. These Centres shall network and forge partnerships with state level departments, scientific, technical, academic and training institutions, NGOs, corporate houses and individuals working in the field of disaster management and develop, maintain, and update the resource inventories of such institutions and individuals and share the same with NIDM.

Scheme for Financial Assistance to ATIs and other Training Institutes entrusted to NIDM

New Delhi, 5 February 2008

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has decided to transfer the Central Sector Scheme on Natural Disaster Management Programme under which the Disaster Management Centres (DMCs) were provided financial assistance from Plan to Non-plan from the financial year 2007-08. The guidelines for assistance have also been revised incorporating both establishment and programme support for the DMCs for the next five years period. As per the revised scheme, the central government assistance shall be available for the next five years and will cover establishment as well as programmes support. Thereafter, central assistance shall be available only for programme support and the State Governments shall be expected to bear the expenditure on establishment and other recurring costs for running the DMCs.

A total amount of Rs.25 Crores have been earmarked for five years (2007 – 2012) and an amount of Rs.1 Crore has already been released to the Disaster Management Centres of identified Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs) and other training institutes in States/Union Territories. A notification to this effect has been issued on 5 February 2008.

National Disaster Management Guidelines on Management of Floods

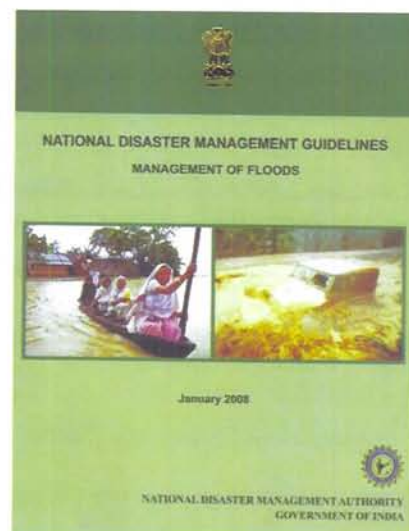
New Delhi, 17 January 2008

Prof. Saifuddin Soz, Union Minister for Water Resources released the "National Disaster Management Authority Guidelines for Management of Floods" developed by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at a function on 17 January 2008. Gen. N.C. Vij, Vice Chairman of the NDMA presided over the function, Dr. Mohan Kanda, Member, NDMA made a presentation of the guidelines and Smt. Gauri Chatterjee, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources highlighted the various initiatives of the Ministry for better management of floods in the country.

Addressing on the occasion, Prof. Soz said that the incidence of floods in India, as in many other parts of the world, are on the rise due to the impact of climatic changes.

The Minister informed that a centrally sponsored Flood Prone Area Programme with an estimated investment of Rs. 8,000 Crore during the 11th Plan to assist the states in execution of the flood mitigation works has already received in principle approval of the Union Cabinet. Another scheme costing Rs. 1,500 Crore to take up river management works in border areas of the country and critical flood management works in the Brahmaputra and Barak river basins are also in the process of approval. It is also proposed to provide adequate funds to the Central Water Commission to undertake improvements and expansion of its flood forecasting and warning network.

Congratulating NDMA for bringing out such valuable guidelines, Prof. Soz expressed satisfaction that the guidelines have been evolved in consultation with all the stakeholders viz. the central ministries and departments concerned, state governments, academic and scientific institutions, corporate sector, NGOs and eminent experts etc. The Minister assured that based on the guidelines, the Ministry of Water Resources would develop an effective Flood Management Plans in consultation with all stakeholders.



Creation of Disaster Response Division at NIDM

New Delhi, 19 February 2008

A Disaster Response Division has been created in the Institute from February 2008, in addition to the existing three academic divisions viz. Geohazards & Risk Management Division; Hydro-meteorology, IT & GIS Division; and Planning, Policy & Cross Cutting Issues Division. Shri Shaleen Kabra IAS, Joint Director NIDM will be heading the new division. He will be assisted by Lt. Col. P.K. Pathak, Shri Arun Sahdeo and Ms. Sushma Guleria.

The division shall be responsible for conducting courses on Incident Command System (ICS), developing new course modules on disaster response and integration of disaster response into courses conducted by other divisions. Apart from this, the division shall also be responsible for coordinating the training programmes and planning & management of online trainings.

Stakeholder Workshop on Urban Flood Case Studies Project

Kolkata, 8 March 2008

A research project based on case studies of recent flooding in eight Indian cities, viz. Bangalore, Bhopal, Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Surat, has been undertaken by the NIDM, involving city-wise teams of environmental scientists, planners and hydrologists from various institutions like IITs, IISc, CPR Environmental Education Centre, Lake Authority, etc. The city-study report for Kolkata was discussed in a brain storming workshop organized at the Administrative Training Institute at Kolkata on 8 March 2008. The workshop was attended by experts and professionals from Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Metropolitan Development Authority, Public Health Engineering and Public Works Department, Jadavpur University, Bengal Engineering and Science University, Wetland Authority, heads of prominent NGOs etc. Prof Mohit Bhattacharya, who coordinated the study, presented his report which was appreciated by the participants who made a number of suggestions and comments based on which the report shall be finalized.

Workshop on Landslide Management: Present Scenario and Future Directions

Roorkee, 10-12 February 2008

The Diamond Jubilee Conference on “Landslide Management – Present Scenario & Future Directions” was organized at Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee from 10-12 February 2008. The conference was inaugurated by Dr. T. Ramasamy, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology.

There were 50 technical papers and seven key note lectures in the conference. The themes like Hazard & Risk Mapping, Remote Sensing & GIS Application, Geotechnical Studies, Instrumentation, Monitoring & Warning, Control Measures, Mathematical Modeling and Case Histories were covered under seven thematic sessions. The conference was supported by National Institute of Disaster Management and Department of Science & Technology, New Delhi along with few private corporate sector partners. NIDM faculty presented two papers, one on Geotextile and the other on Development of National Disaster Statistical System for Landslides during the conference.



Delegations Visited

Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre Delegation

New Delhi, 24 January 2008

Three cyclone forecasters from Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Thailand, under attachment with Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre of the India Meteorological Department under World Meteorological Organization exchange programme, visited NIDM on 24 January 2008 to familiarize with the activities of the Institute. The visitors were given a presentation about NIDM and the institutional framework of Disaster Management in India. A demonstration on the role of geo-information in storm surge hazard mapping and risk assessment was given in RS&GIS lab. They have visited the VPN facility of the Institute.

Delegation from Geological Survey of Canada

New Delhi, 28 January 2008

A three member delegation comprised of Prof. Peter T. Bobrowsky, Secretary General, International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) accompanied by Denis Hache, Deputy Director International Affairs, Earth Science Sector and Dr. Andrew Rencz, Programme Manager, Environment and Health visited National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) on 28 January 2008. Dr. Surya Parkash made a presentation on the genesis, vision, mission, strategies and activities of the NIDM. He explained about the networking of NIDM with a large number of scientific, research and academic institutions at the national and international level for integrating knowledge on various aspects of disaster risk reduction and management. Institute is currently involved in developing training designs, modules and conducting various training programmes across the country. Prof. Peter T. Bobrowsky, Secretary General appreciated NIDM's initiatives in national level training and capacity building. He mentioned that GSC's target regions are India, China, Africa and few Latin American Countries. The possible areas of collaboration between the two organizations were jointly identified. These included Geoinformatics Applications in Disaster Management and Public Private Partnership.

Delegation from German Advisory council for Global Change

New Delhi, 4 December 2007

A ten member delegation from German Advisory council for Global Change (WBGU) visited National Institute of Disaster Management on 8th February 2008. Dr. Dirk Messner, Director of German Development Institute, Bonn headed the delegation. Prof V.K. Sehgal welcomed the delegates on behalf of Institute and made a presentation about NIDM – its genesis, mandates, structure and activities.

Dr Dirk Messner, leader of the delegation gave a brief overview of WBGU and explained the purpose of the mission. He apprised that the team is on a study tour to visit various institutions in India working on issues of Global Change to know their priorities and programmes of action for dealing with the issues.



The areas identified for future collaboration between WBGU and NIDM included (1) Hazard / Vulnerability mapping at sub regional level based on frequency and magnitude of hydro-meteorological hazards under climate change scenarios, (2) Modification of disaster mitigation schemes in the light of new threats from climate change and climate variability, (3) Dovetailing disaster risk reduction with climate change adaptation; and (4) Capacity

building / training of field level functionaries / administrators on issues of climate change related disaster risk reduction.

Delegation from Government of Namibia

New Delhi, 11 January 2008

A three member delegation from Prime Minister's office, Namibia - Ms. Loini Nyanyukweni, Permanent Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat; Ms. Sabine Kownatzki-Pell, Director DHRD, Office of Prime Minister (OPM) and Mr. Nangula Mbako, Permanent Secretary OPM accompanied by Mr. Brij Mohan Harbola, ITEC Expert and NIPAM Coordinator visited NIDM on 11 January 2008 to discuss possible areas of collaboration between NIDM and Government of Namibia. The discussions focused on training and capacity building in the field of disaster management, with particular emphasis on Training of Trainers and Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Division (ITEC) programmes.

Meetings

- Prof. Chandan Ghosh attended and chaired a session in the conference on "Rehabilitation Measures for Tsunami affected Coasts", 4-5 February 2008 at IIT-Madras.
- Prof V.K. Sehgal was invited to chair the technical session on "Disaster Management" at 11th Annual International Conference and Exhibition on Geospatial Information, Technology and Application Map India -2008 held from 6-8 Feb 2008 at Greater Noida.
- Dr. R.K Mall and Ms. Sreeja S. Nair participated the Round Table on "ICT & Climate Change" organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) at India Habitat Centre on 6 February 2008
- Mr. Bishwanath Dash attended a two day National Workshop on "Last Mile Connectivity" at HRD Institute from 6-7 Feb 2008 at Hyderabad.
- Dr. Anil K Gupta attended a Workshop on "Real-time Monitoring and Early-warning System for Forest Fire Using Satellite Technology" organized at Uttarakhand Space Application Centre, Dehradun on 15 February, 2008.
- Dr. Sujata Satapathy participated in the "National Conference on Minimum Standards of Relief for Food, Drinking Water, Medical Cover & Sanitation during Disaster" held on 26-27th February 2008 at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Dr. Surya Parkash and Dr. Anil K. Gupta participated in Consultative Workshops of International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) held at Shimla on 3 March for western region, and at North Eastern Council, Shillong on 10 March for Eastern region respectively.
- Shri Shaleen Kabra and Shri Biswanath Dash attended a meeting in World Bank on 5th March 2008 to discuss the "Capacity Development component of National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project" in 13 coastal States/UT.
- Dr. Surya Parkash, Associate Professor attended the Core Group Meeting on the draft National Guidelines for Landslides Management on 13-14 March 2008 at National Disaster Management Authority, New Delhi.

Papers

- Prof. Chandan Ghosh presented a paper at the International Conference on Construction – "Managing Earthquake Risk" titled "SPT based liquefaction evaluation of Delhi sub-soil" (18 page), 30-31 January 2008, New Delhi, India, organized by CIDC and NDMA.
- Dr. R.K. Mall published a paper on "Water Resources in India and Impact of Climate Change" in Journal – Jalvigyan Sameeksha (Hydrology Review), Volume 22 on theme "Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources for the year 2007".
- Prof. Chandan Ghosh presented a paper on "Drainage efficiency of Geotextile Layer Embedded in Fine-grained Soil Backfill" at National Conference on Landslide Management: Present Scenario and Future Directions, 10-12 February 2008 at Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee

- Ms. Sreeja S. Nair presented a paper on “National Disaster Statistical System - An Initiative for Disaster Information Management with particular reference to Landslides” jointly authored with Dr. Surya Parkash at National Conference on Landslide Management: Present Scenario and Future Directions, 10–12 February 2008 at Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee
- Dr. R. K. Mall presented a paper on “Rainfall Changes and Drought Assessment over Arid Western Rajasthan” at International Symposium on Agro-meteorology and Food Security, 18-21 February 2008 at Hyderabad, India
- Dr. Sujata Satapathy presented a paper on “Mental Health of Women in Disasters – A Retrospective Study” during the 3rd World Conference on Women's Mental Health from 17 to 20 March at Melbourne, Australia

NIDM in International Forum

- Shri P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, ED NIDM along with Mr. Prabhanshu Kamal Joint Secretary MHA and Mr. N.M.Prusty Chief of Party, India Disaster Management Support Project USAID visited EMI, Maryland, FEMA Headquarters Washington DC, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana and New Orleans Recovery Operations during a study tour of disaster management system of USA from 2-10 February 2008.
- Prof. Santosh Kumar attended the International Workshop for Development of Policy Guidelines on Mainstreaming Gender into Disaster Reduction from 28 to 30 January 2008 at the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Geneva
- Shri Arun Sahdeo and Lt. Col. P.K Pathak participated in a study tour on Incident Command System at EMI, Maryland, FEMA Headquarters, USA during 14–31 March 2008
- Dr. Sujata Satapathy participated at 3rd World Conference on Women's Mental Health from 17 to 20 March 2008 at Melbourne, Australia
- Shri Amir Ali Khan attended the First Certificate Program in Asia on Tsunami Science and Preparedness (TSP) from 10 to 26 March 2008 at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Pathumthani, Thailand.

Appointments

- Dr. Rajesh Kumar Mall, joined as Associate Professor on 1 February 2008
- Shri Shaleen Kabra, IAS, joined as Joint Director, NIDM on 19 February 2008
- Shri Santosh Kumar Tiwari joined as Librarian on 19 February 2008. (Mr. Hemant Khare has been relieved from the post of Librarian at NIDM on 29 February 2008)

Major Activities of NIDM

Workshop

- Two day training workshop on Paradigm Shift in Disaster Management in India for the participants of 33rd Advanced Professional Programme in Public Administration, NIDM, 7-8 January 2008
- International Conference on Re-examining Disaster, Recovery and Reconstruction:: Social Science Perspective on Tsunami 2004, Delhi, 14-15 January 2008
- ToT Workshop on Online Delivery of Natural Disaster Risk Management Course using Moodle Platform at NIDM on 19-20 March 2008. The workshop was conducted by the World Bank Institute Washington.

Training Programmes

- ToT Programme on the Role of Geo-information in Disaster Management, Anna Institute of Management, Chennai, 7-11 January 2008
- ToT on Gender Issues in Disaster Management, NIDM, 14-18 January 2008

- Mining Hazard Management, SKIPA, Ranchi, Jharkhand, 15-18 January 2008
- Risk Financing and Risk Insurance, NIDM, 15-18 January 2008
- ToT on Cyclone Management and Mitigation, NIDM, 21-25 January 2008
- Drought Mitigation & Management, ATI Orissa, 4-8 February 2008
- Children & School Safety, NIDM, 11-15 February 2008
- Training of Trainers on Disaster Management, Chhattisgarh Administrative Academy, Raipur, 11-15 February 2008
- ToT on Building Codes & Designs, NIDM, 18-22 February 2008
- ToT on Disaster Health Care Management, NIDM, 3-7 March 2008
- ToT on Drought Mitigation & Management, NIDM, 10-14 March 2008
- ToT on Geo Information in Disaster Management, NIDM, 24-28 March 2008

NIDM – World Bank Institute Online Training Programs

- 4th online programme on “Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Framework” from 7 January to 22 February 2008.
- 5th online programme on “Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Framework” from 4 March to 12 April 2008.
- Training of Trainers on Natural Disaster Risk Management Course Delivery from 3 -24 March 2008.

Upcoming Events (April – May 2008)

- Flood Risk Mitigation & Management, Andhra Pradesh, 7-11 April
- Disaster Psycho-Social Care, NIDM, 7-11 April
- Climate Change & Disaster Management, NIDM, 28 April -2 May
- Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, Arunachal Pradesh, 28 April -2 May
- Gender & Psycho-social Issues in Disaster Management, Nagaland, 5-9 May
- Community Based Disaster Management, Madhya Pradesh, 7-9 May
- Comprehensive Landslide Risk Management, Meghalaya, 12-16 May
- Flood Risk Mitigation & Management, NIDM, 12-16 May
- Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Developmental Planning, NIDM, 21-23 May
- Building Codes & Designs for Disaster Safe Built Environment, Tripura, 26-30 May
- Urban Risk Mitigation & Management, ATI West Bengal, 26-30 May

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