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**Highlights**3<sup>rd</sup> Governing Body  
Meeting of NIDM**Contents**

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**Hospitals Safe from Disasters**

Hospitals are one of the first responders to disasters. Immediately after a disaster strikes, persons with injuries in their bodies and limbs are taken to hospitals for emergency treatment. If the magnitude of disasters are large, hospitals will be overwhelmed with mass casualties for which these may not be fully equipped, particularly if the disasters take place in remote areas. These are some of the challenging situations for any healthcare institution, but more often the hospitals and dispensaries become victims of disasters when their services are required the most.

The district hospital of Kutch collapsed completely during the earthquake of January 2001, killing or grievously injuring all the doctors and para-medical staff on duty. As many as 3812 health facilities in Gujarat were destroyed during the earthquake, which crippled the health care facilities. 7 district hospitals, 13 primary health centers and 80 sub-centers were damaged in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Pondicherry and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004. The Kashmir earthquake of October 2005 damaged 38 health facilities, including the Uri Hospital in district Baramulla, which serves a population of 130,000 in the remote border area.

Therefore, it is extremely important that every new hospital and dispensary is designed and built and all existing health care facilities are retrofitted and maintained in a manner that these are able to withstand any natural disaster and render services to the people round the clock round the year.

A health facility is much more than bricks and mortar. Those non-structural elements that keep it running such as power, water, medicines, equipments, and other supplies can be damaged or incapacitated during emergencies. Therefore, it is extremely important to have comprehensive hospital disaster management plan for total preparedness to face any natural or man made disaster. The National Disaster Management Authority has issued comprehensive guidelines for preparation of such plans for mass casualty and emergency health management at all levels - hospital, city, district and State.

On the occasion of the International Day of Disaster Reduction on October 8, which coincides with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Kashmir Earthquake, the UN/ISDR and the WHO has launched a World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009: Hospitals Safe from Disasters. Let us all join this campaign to make our hospitals safe from disasters.



P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Governing Body of National Institute of Disaster Management

New Delhi, November 2008

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Governing Body of National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi was held on 27 November 2008 in the Conference Room of the Institute under the Chairmanship of Gen. (Retd.) N. C. Vij, Hon'ble Vice Chairperson of the National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India and Chairman of the Governing Body of NIDM.

Initiating the discussions, the Chairman mentioned that NIDM has a huge mandate of training, capacity building, research and documentation in the field of disaster management. He applauded that the Institute is doing a commendable job with limited resources and the infrastructure. He argued that the faculty strength of the Institute must be augmented if it has to achieve its mission to become a Centre of Excellence on disaster management in India and in the region.



Gen. N. C. Vij (Retd.), Hon'ble Vice Chairperson of the National Disaster Management Authority, Chairing the GB Meeting

During the meeting, discussions were held on training programmes organized during the year 2008-09, progress of the Central Sector scheme and other projects like National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Programme, National Programme for Capacity Building of Engineers and Architects in Earthquake Risk Management; training and institutionalization of Incident Command System in India., India Disaster Knowledge Network (IDKN), India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) and Second India Disaster Management Congress (IDMC). The members have also discussed about the Strategic Plan for the Institute as well as the Strategic Framework for Training Programmes during the year 2009-10. In addition to this, Research and Consultancy Projects like Disaster Management Plan for Shri Mata Vishno Devi Shrine Board (Katra, J&K), Delhi Jal Board, Dedicated Freight Corridor Railway Board and Sewa Hydel Project, NHPC have also been considered.

After detailed discussions on the above-said issues, the meeting concluded with the following decisions / action points

(i) Since Nodal ministries are not in a position to support the NIDM with subject experts on various domains, the institute shall engage consultants to meet the requirement of professional staff (ii) The Governing Body reconsidered the decisions taken in the previous meeting and decided that selected Public Sector Undertakings may be requested to set-up Chairs on specific disciplines related to disaster management. (iii) Ministry of Home Affairs shall be requested to transfer the services of ministerial staff, who were dealing with these schemes in the Ministry, to NIDM for the progress of implementation of various schemes and projects transferred to the Institute. (iv) NIDM will request Ministry to provide necessary staff and budget for implementing the National Programme for the Capacity Building of Engineers and Architects in Earthquake Risk Management, which has been transferred to NIDM. (v) NIDM shall discuss the modalities for Institutionalization of ICS and preparation of revised operational manual. A detailed plan will be drawn up for ICS training and Institutionalization. (vi) NIDM jointly with NDMA shall develop a network similar to IDKN in the pattern of ADMATRIX, for tracking the movement of relief assistance to victims of natural disasters. (vii) The Institute may take up consultancies for preparation of Disaster Management Plan. (viii) Second India Disaster Management Congress to be postponed to November 2009.

The strategic plan of NIDM recommends 3 distinct phases with major activities to be undertaken by the Institute to emerge as a Regional Centre of Excellence in the Asia and the Pacific. In the first phase (1-2 years), NIDM shall consolidate the foundation by curriculum planning, training needs assessment, development of courseware and learning programmes including web, satellite and video-conferencing based

programmes. In the second phase (3-7 years), it shall become a change agent by making major contribution to knowledge and skills for disaster management. It will develop partnerships to increase capacities and review its organizational development against expanded objectives for training education, research and policy formulation. In the last phase (8-10 years), NIDM will strive to reach out to international partners to assist them to expand their capacities. Strategic framework for training programmes during the year 2009-10 has been approved, which advocates for shift from lecture based programmes to simulation and exercise based training programmes and also promote web based self study courses.

## **1<sup>st</sup> World Congress on Disaster Management : WCDM-2008**

*Hyderabad, October 2008*

Disaster Management, Infrastructure and Control Society (DMICS) organized a 4-days World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM) in association with Government of Andhra Pradesh and National Disaster Management Authority during 21-24 October 2008 at the National Academy of Construction, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), JNT University, National Institute of Disaster Management and NAC were the prime associates and the congress was supported by UNISDR, UNICEF, SDC, UNFPA, INCOIS, Osmania University and Satyam Computers.



Hon'ble Shri A.P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India graced the inaugural function of the World Congress

An overwhelming response was received from all over the world for this event and it became a landmark in formulating disaster management policies. Professionals from all sectors i.e. scientists, researchers, environmentalists, engineers, policy makers, administrators, industrialists, media, Government and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), local government institutions, academic bodies and others dealing with disaster related activities attended the workshop. The themes of the Congress include disasters identified by the High Power Committee of the United Nations.

In spite of the rapid development in the arena of science and technology, human society is still vulnerable to natural as well as man-made disasters. Excessive exploitation of natural resources to meet the ever-increasing needs of the society is one principal cause of the disasters. Environmental degradation and concentration of population in a few urban segments also lead to enhanced impact of disasters. Understandably human society struggles to come to terms with such calamities. Disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, floods, landslides, droughts and many other hazards have been occurring with alarming frequency.

The super cyclone of 1999 killed over a 100,000 people in Orissa besides causing wide spread destruction. The December 2004 tsunami (Banda Aceh, Indonesia) killed more than 250,000 people spread over different countries, while the series of cyclones that devastated Coastal America, especially New Orleans (Dennis, Emilu, Katherina and Rita), rendered several people homeless. The disastrous earthquake of 7.6 magnitude that hit northwestern Himalaya on 8 October 2005 killed over 80,000 people, and forced many persons to live without shelter in harsh winter. The Kolkata fire of January 2008 remained uncontrolled for nearly 5 days in a commercial building, causing losses of billions of rupees.

Global reaction to such high intensity disasters has emphasized the need for concerted and coordinated policies and plans. Considerable infrastructure and control systems were mobilised to mitigate the sufferings of mankind after every disaster. Focus of the Congress was on the prevention and mitigation of disasters through international cooperation and local preparedness besides the development of infrastructure. Systems to detect, warn and initiate steps to contain undesirable events and to trigger personnel volition and mobilisation are as essential as the infrastructure, planning, management and intervention policies which also form the themes of the Congress.

The presentations on local, national, regional and global issues led to fruitful discussions and thus, helped in information exchange and sharing of experiences on this topical issue. Distinguished delegates suggested that in continuation with the successful WCDM-2008, the discussions and action points may be circulated in the form of Hyderabad Declaration.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference**

*Malaysia, December 2008*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) was held on 2 – 4 December 2008 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badwi officially opened the Conference. "The Third Ministerial Conference was a main forum to make disaster risk reduction a priority at the local level and to mobilize more resources for implementing disaster risk reduction policies, which are vital to development and poverty reduction. This forum acted as a unique opportunity to identify gaps and bring governments and civil society together to fill them. The Asia-Pacific is one of the most populous regions in the world and is, by far, the most disaster affected in terms of human and economic impacts. According to the Center of Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), 2008 has been a particularly bad year for the region, with more than 230,000 people killed and over 47 million affected by two major events alone: the Sichuan earthquake in China and the Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar.



Concerned about the increasing vulnerability of Asian communities, high-level representatives from more than 80 Asian countries gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for a 3-days Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to discuss policies and measures that can reduce the impact of disasters in this part of the world. Governments have taken the opportunity provided by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Conference to re-affirm their commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action, which was adopted in Kobe, Hyogo Japan as a unique plan to reduce disaster losses by 2015 and increase the resilience of communities to disasters.

The theme of the Ministerial Conference was framed by the Malaysian government and the secretariat for the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and was on the "Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asia Pacific region". A particular focus was on public-private partnerships for disaster risk reduction and community-based disaster risk reduction activities.

The Conference was held in a number of high-level round table discussions and technical sessions to highlight the importance of empowering national and local governments to reduce the impacts of disasters. More than 600 participants attended the Ministerial Conference, among them were representatives from civil society, NGOs, academic institutions, the donor community, media organisations, UN agencies and regional organisations working in the field of disaster risk reduction. A final declaration urging governments to commit more resources to disaster risk reduction policies and to assure more public-private partnerships was the main outcome of the Conference.

Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction have been organized every two years since 2005 as an initiative of a national government. The Government of China organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Conference in Beijing in September 2005, which had a global focus. The 2<sup>nd</sup> AMCDRR was organized in November 2007 by the Indian government and focused on regional achievements and the third one was organized in Malaysia, advocated more action planning at the national and local levels. The proceedings of the second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction have been published and distributed to the delegates during this conference at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

### **Certificate of Advanced Studies in Disaster Risk Reduction – Vulnerabilities and Capacities in the context of Climate Change**

*Bangalore, November 2008*

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and Ecole Polytechnique Federale De Lausanne (EPFL),

Switzerland with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, India (SDC) organized a “Certificate of Advanced Studies Course in Disaster Risk Reduction: Vulnerabilities and Capacities in the context of Climate Change”. The course was conducted partly in Lausanne, Switzerland (1-12 September 2008) and partly in Bangalore, India (3-14 November 2008). The Bangalore part was in the premises of Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc).



The main objective of the course is to train researcher and practitioner from both South and North on natural disaster reduction, especially hydro-meteorological disasters related to climate change. The course has an integrated and interdisciplinary approach with a focus on the reduction of vulnerabilities and strengthening of the capacities of populations at risk. Participants were from Switzerland, Canada, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Italy.

During first week (3-7 Nov. 2008) focus was on different aspects of DRR and Climate Change (ie Disaster Management, Mega disaster and policy/ programmes in India; Early warning and disaster communication in India; Hydro meteorological risks; Impacts of Climate Change on glaciers, forest, sea level rise, biodiversity, health care, food security, water and sanitation, migration and conflict; Climate change mitigation & adaptation issues; Capacity development for climate change adaptation – gap, need and strategy; Enhancing resilience of coastal communities and key considerations for integrating climate change into development programs in India & developing countries) through presentations, group and panel discussions by resource persons.

Three days field visit to two villages in Chitambaram districts (Pichhavaram and T.S Pettai) was also organized from 9-11 November 2008. There were visible signs of the impact of climate change, salinity ingress into previously cultivable land, advancing over a period of 30 years and sea inundating these distributaries of the Cauvery. The communities of these villages have been affected by disasters like cyclones (1977), tsunami, 2004 and floods (2006). The group visited to Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) and Prof. Janakrajan made a presentation on their work on environment, urban and peri-urban issues, disaster management and livelihood resilience.

## High Level Panel Discussion on Hospitals Safe for Disasters

*International Day on Disaster Risk Reduction Day 2008*

On the occasion of International Day on Disaster Reduction, a High Level Panel Discussion on Hospitals Safe for Disasters was organized at the UN Millennium Plaza in New York on October 8, 2009 by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Experts from India, China and Virgin Islands presented country experiences in making hospitals safe for disasters.



Initiating the discussion, UN Secretary General Sir John Homs emphasized the links between safe hospital facilities and protecting development. He called for strong political commitment to the issue and underlined the Hyogo Framework for Action requirement that all new hospitals be designed and built safely. Professor Zahng Xiulan from the Wenchuan Earthquake Task Force, China gave concrete examples on the lessons learnt by China from the massive earthquake earlier this year. Mr. P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, Executive Director, National Institute of Disaster Management outlined India's comprehensive approach for building back better after the Gujarat Earthquake of 2001, ranging from seismic risk assessment to training of masons and local communities. Mr. Elton Georges, former Governor of British Virgin Islands highlighted important approaches for small countries or Islands with limited resources.

The presentations were followed by lively discussion in which representative from diplomatic missions, international organizations and health sector academics participated. The global website for the World Campaign for Hospitals Safe for Disaster 2008-09 [www.safehospitals.info](http://www.safehospitals.info) was also launched on this occasion.

## **Training Programme on Mass Casualty Management**

*November 2008, New Delhi*

A five-day full time training programme on mass casualty management was organized at NIDM from 17th to 21st November 2008. Aim of the programme was to provide an overall knowledge and skills regarding mass casualty management. 36 doctors from various states attended the programme.

Training is an integral component of hospital preparedness for mass casualty management. Since, hospitals are essential/life line service providers, this training programme on mass casualty management is aimed to provide an in-depth knowledge and basic skills about issues such as basic concepts of mass casualty management, triage principles and methods, pre-hospital emergency care, emergency room management, hospital mass casualty plan, dealing with special mass casualty issues, etc. This training programme is not only an attempt towards understanding and analyzing the issues in mass casualty management, this will also provide basic knowledge, guidance and training skills regarding the pertinent issues need to be handled and monitored during the management of mass casualty incidents.



## **NIDM supports 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of IACMAG**

*1-6 October 2008*

The 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the International Association for Computer Methods and Advances in Geomechanics (IACMAG) was organized at Marriot Resort, Goa by Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay during 1 - 6 October 2008. The Conference focussed mainly on the role of Geomechanics in the Emerging Social & Technological Age. One of the important themes covered in this conference was "Geohazard mitigation and management". Prof. Chandan Ghosh, Head, Geohazards Division, NIDM was one of the penalisists in this session. Approximately 700 delegates from more than 40 countries participated in this conference. The delegates discussed about the problems raised by the present day society due to rapid industrialization and globalization with special focus on geohazard and risk management.

Dignitaries present during the inaugural function of the conference of IACMAG

## **Papers**

- Ghosh C. (2008), "Earthquake risk mitigation strategies in India", CD Proceedings of 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the International Association for Computer Methods and Advances in Geomechanics (IACMAG), organized at Marriot Resort, Goa by Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay between 1 and 6 October 2008, pp.2985-2991.
- Parkash S. and Nair S.S. (2008), "Status of Monitoring Studies for Slope Movements – Indian Perspective", Proceedings of the International Conference on Management of Landslide Hazard in the Asia-Pacific Region, Tohoku Gakuin University, Sendai, Japan, 11-15 November 2008, pp.748-758
- Parkash S. and Nair S.S. (2008), "Landslide Risk Management Framework in India", Proceedings of the International Conference on Management of Landslide Hazard in the Asia-Pacific Region, Tohoku Gakuin University, Sendai, Japan, 11-15 November 2008, pp.792-801.

- Parkash S. (2008), "A Methodology for Community Based Disaster Risk Management", Proceedings of the First World Landslide Forum, Parallel Sessions Volume, United Nations University, Tokyo Japan, 18-21 November 2008, pp.473-476

## **NIDM in International Forum**

- Shri P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, ED NIDM participated in the ASEM Seminar on Adaptation to Climate Change in Tokyo, Japan during 2-3 October 2008
- ED NIDM participated in the international workshop on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Development at Colombo, Sri Lanka organized by SDMC and Disaster Management Centre, Government of Srilanka during 14-15 November 2008
- ED NIDM participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during 2-4 December 2008
- Sreeja S. Nair attended the Second United Nations International UN-SPIDER Bonn Workshop: "Disaster Management and Space Technology - Bridging the Gap" in Bonn, Germany from 13 to 15 October 2008
- Dr. Surya Parkash was sponsored by Japanese Society of Landslides to attend the International Conference & Field Workshop on Management of Landslide Hazard in the Asia-Pacific Region, Tohoku Gakuin University, Sendai, Japan, 11-15 November 2008. He was also sponsored by the Japanese Landslides Society to participate in the First World Landslide Forum, United Nations University, Tokyo Japan, 18-21 November 2008.

## **Major Activities of NIDM (October - December 2008)**

### **Training Programmes**

- Certificate of Advanced Studies Course in Disaster Risk Reduction: Vulnerabilities and Capacities in the context of Climate Change". Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore, India, 3-14 November 2008.
- Earthquake Risk Mitigation & Management, IMPA, Srinagar, J & K, 13-17 October
- Community Based Disaster Management, ATI –UP, Lucknow, 20-24 October
- Pre-Hospital Emergency Care in collaboration with Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 22-23 October
- Disaster Management for NDRF Commanders, NIDM New Delhi, 20-24 October
- Pre-Hospital Emergency Care in collaboration with Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 30-31 October
- Mass Casualty Management, NIDM, New Delhi, 17-21 November
- Industrial & Chemical Disasters, HCM RIPA, Rajasthan, 17-21 November
- Disaster Management for NDRF Commanders, 24-28 November
- Earthquake Risk Mitigation & Management, ATI- Assam, 1-5 December
- Post Disaster Reconstruction Practices, NIDM, New Delhi, 11-12 December
- Damage, Loss and Needs Assessment, ATI- Maharashtra, Pune, 15-19 December
- Role of Geo-information in Disaster Management, NIDM, New Delhi, 15-19 December

### **Online Training Programme with WBI**

- Community Based Disaster Risk Management, 22 September - 17 October
- Financial Strategies on Disaster Management, 1–26 December 2008

## Upcoming Events (January - March 2009)

### Workshops

- Training Cum Field Workshop on Comprehensive Landslide Risk Management using Geoinformatics, 12-23 January 2009, NIDM, New Delhi
- International Workshop on RISK TO RESILIENCE - Strategic Tools for Disaster Risk Management, 3-4 February 2009, SCOPE Complex, New Delhi

### Training Programmes

- Urban Risk Mitigation & Management, NIDM, 12-16 January
- Environment & Disasters, NIDM, 12-16 January
- Chemical, Biological Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Disasters, NIDM, 19-23 January
- Basics of Disaster Management for Civil Defence Officers, NIDM, 28-30 January
- Psycho-social Issues in Disaster Management, NIDM, 2-6 February
- Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, 9-13 February
- ToT on Disaster Management for Rural Development Sector, NIDM, 16-20 February
- Forest Fire Mitigation & Management, FRI, Dehradun, 16-20 February
- Role of Geoinformation in Disaster Management, DMI Bhopal, 16-20 February
- Retrofitting of Lifeline Structures: Technical and Managerial issues, NIDM, 16-20 February
- Transportation of Hazardous Chemicals, NIDM, 24-25 February
- Mitigation and Management of Coastal Erosion, ILM, Kerala, 23-27 February
- Flood Risk Mitigation & Management, NIDM, 2-6 March
- Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, HIPA, Shimla, 2-6 March
- Road Accidents, NIDM, 9-10 March
- Comprehensive Landslide Risk Management, UAA, Nainital, 16-20 March
- Climate Change & Disaster Management, ATI Patna, 16-20 March
- Mainstreaming for Disaster Risk Reduction (for Joint Secretaries), NIDM, 18-19 March
- ToT on Disaster Management for Police Officers, NIDM, 23-27 March
- Drought Mitigation and Management, NIDM, 23-27 March

### Online Training Programme with WBI

- Damage and Reconstruction Needs Assessment, 12 January – 6 February
- Safe Cities, 16 February – 13 March

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