

Editorial Board

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HIGHLIGHTS

South Asia Launch of Global Campaign for Making Cities Resilient

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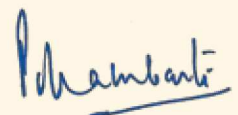
Urban Risk Management in South Asia

Although the level of urbanization in South Asia is lower than most of the regions of the world, it is currently passing through a phase of unprecedented urban growth due to a variety of factors. The most important is the changing structure of economy of the region from agrarian to manufacturing and services, which is both pushing and pulling people to migrate from villages to the cities. It is estimated that the total urban population of South Asia would swell from 449 million in 2007 to 913 million in 2025 and 1.32 billion in 2050.

65 cities in South Asia today have a population of more than 1 million each, of which 5 are 10 million plus cities, with another 4 cities closely following. Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Karachi are expected to reach the status of '20 million cities' in a few years. No other region of the world has concentration of so many mega cities.

Rapid and largely unplanned urban growth is stressing city infrastructure and services to breaking points in many cities. Disparities in the living conditions in slums and other areas are creating potential conditions of crime and social unrest in the large cities. Compounding these tensions are the natural hazards of floods, earthquakes, cyclones, landslides etc, and layers of physical, social and economic vulnerabilities that are exposing the people of many South Asian cities to increasing risks of disasters. Climate change and its impact on rainfall, water and atmosphere is further dragging the cities into new vortex of risks.

The Global Campaign of Making Cities Resilient that was launched in New Delhi on 8-9 June 2010 brought Mayors and officials of as many as 50 cities of South Asia and the national focal points/representatives on disaster management from all the eight countries of the region. The objective was to review the current strength and capacity of South Asian cities to manage the risks of natural and man-made hazards, particularly in the contexts of rapid urban growth and changing climate, assess the critical gaps in policy and implementation and identify opportunities for city-to-city cooperation. The participants of the Conference unanimously adopted a Road Map on Urban Risk Management on South Asia and pledged their commitment to implement it in their respective cities, countries and region. The road map has prescribed a ten point agenda of action that provide both policy guideline and action plan for Making the Cities Resilient.



P.G.Dhar Chakrabarti

South Asia Launch of Global Campaign for Making Cities Resilient

New Delhi, 8-9 June 2010

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), in collaboration with the Ministry of Urban Development, Govt of India partnered with UN-ISDR to launch the Global Campaign on Making Cities Resilient – My City is getting Ready. The Campaign was launched through an International Workshop on Making Cities Resilient organized by NIDM at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The Hon'ble Union Minister for Urban Development Shri S Jaipal Reddy inaugurated the programme. The Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Shri Mulappaly Ramachandran and Gen. N.C Viji, Vice-Chairman, Na-



The Hon'ble Minister released a compilation of Case Studies on Urban Risk Management in South Asia at this event

tional Disaster Management Authority were the Guests of Honour. Shri Prithviraj Sahni, the Hon'ble Mayor of Delhi was a special invitee. In his address, the Hon'ble Minister of Urban development spoke about the various facets of risk in urban areas and emphasized the need for a holistic approach to risk reduction. He also underlined the need for a regional effort to reduce the risk in urban centres. The Hon'ble Minister released a report prepared by NIDM and its partners on the Climate and Disaster Resilience of 12 Indian cities. In addition, a compilation of Case Studies on Urban Risk Management in South Asia was released at this event.

Ms Helena Molin-Valdes, representing UN-ISDR, gave an overview of the global campaign and the actions to be taken by the local governments in a 10 point agenda for resilient cities.

The event was attended by Mayors and senior officials from selected cities of South Asia like Colombo, Dhaka, Delhi, Kabul, Karachi, Kathmandu, Mumbai, Male and Thimpu. Many other Indian cities like Pune, Meerut, Thane etc was represented by mayors and senior officials of city administration. In order to facilitate comprehensive discussion and deliberation on various facets of urban risks, urban development practitioners, policy makers, disaster management professionals, officials from various ministries, UN organizations, World Bank were invited to bring together diverse ideas on a single platform. The South Asia leg of the Global Campaign "Making Cities Resilient – My City is getting Ready" was launched by the Mayor of Delhi. He signed up for the campaign and committed to making Delhi resilient from risks. He was followed by Mayors or senior officials from Dhaka, Male, Colombo, Thimpu, Kabul, Karachi, Mumbai, Muzaffarabad and Vilifushi in Maldives, Pune, Meerut, Nagpur in voicing their commitment to make their cities resilient. A total of 28 cities formally signed the campaign document and made a commitment to make their cities resilient by following the 10-point agenda given by UN-ISDR. During the technical session on the day one, the Mayors and officials of the individual cities made presentations on the risk mitigation initiatives taken in each city. The presentations were followed by vibrant discussions and exchange of ideas on promoting urban resilience to disasters. The second day began with a field visit, arranged for the participants to Delhi Metro Rail and Commonwealth games site to see the safety arrangements in each of these projects. When the session resumed, a panel discussion began on risk reduction issues based on urban structures and housing, infrastructure, community based urban risk mitigation that highlighted the urban issues and concerns and possible mitigation

measures. The last session was devoted to a discussion on a Roadmap for South Asia discussed at the end of the Workshop. It was decided that the draft roadmap would be disseminated broadly to elicit opinions in all South Asian nations before finalizing the document.

The Valedictory Session was presided by Shri G.K. Pillai, Union Home Secretary and Dr. M Ramachandran, Union Urban Development Secretary. In his address, Dr. Ramachandran spoke of the urban divide that creates and aggravates the risks. Shri Pillai, in his address reiterated the need to look at urban issues in a comprehensive manner including all the stakeholders. The programme came to a close with a vote of thanks by the host institute.

Workshop on Mid Term Review of Hyogo Framework of Action

June 10, 2010

Workshop on mid term review of the Hyogo Framework of Action was held at Vigyan Bhawan on 10 June 2010. The workshop was opened by Sh. P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, Executive Director National Institute of Disaster Management. The opening session was followed by a presentation on the results of Biennial HFA review by the ED NIDM. The review over 2007-2009 indicated that significant progress on HFA Priority actions 1 and 5 but the action 2 3 and 4 showed weak progress.



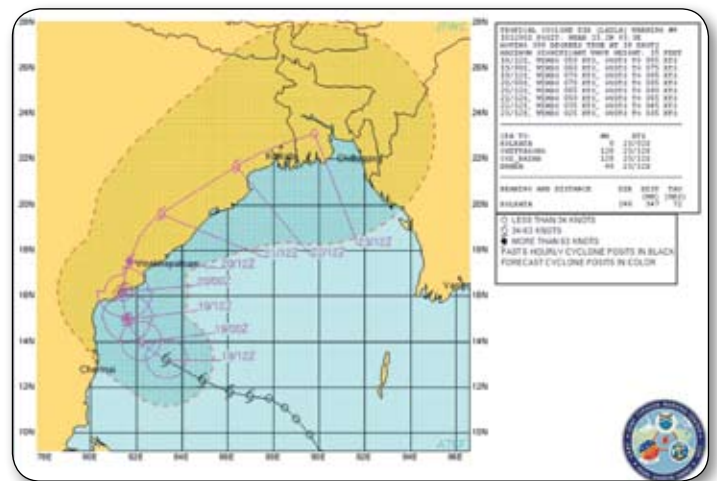
Executive Director NIDM Chairing the Mid Term Review meeting of Hyogo Framework of Action

Senior Coordinator Ms Leitzia in her presentation underlined the rationale to be followed in the review. Country presentations on midterm review were made by the SAARC countries i.e. Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The Workshop recommended a set of measures for a more structured and participatory and analytical review of the HFA. It was opined that there is an urgent need for specialized funding for DRR not only from the developed to developing countries but also from national to the local level where the actions needs to be taken.

Tropical Storm Laila

May 2010

Tropical Storm Laila developed on May 17, 2010 in the Bay of Bengal from a persistent area of convection. Strengthening as it tracked northwestward, it became a severe cyclonic storm on May 19. On 20th



May Laila resulted in heavy landfall in Andhra Pradesh, and it later dissipated over land. It caused flooding and damage along its path.

On May 20, 2010, Tropical Cyclone Laila had maximum sustained winds of 50 knots (90 kilometers per hour) and gusts up to 65 knots (120 kilometers per hour). Roughly 230 nautical miles (430 kilometers) southwest of the coastal city of Visakhapatnam, the storm had moved slowly northward over the previous six hours.

Cyclone Laila weakened ahead of landfall about 30 km



from Bapatla in Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh on 20th May and left 16 people dead, flooded thousands of homes, snapped power supply in many areas and threw rail and road traffic out of gear in the coastal region of the state. Prakasam district recorded rainfall of 55cm, followed by Kothapatnam (35cm), Naguluppalapadu (34.2cm) and Ongole (32.3cm). Several regions of the district were completely submerged and went without electricity even before the cyclone hit the coast. The other coastal districts too recorded heavy rainfall. In all, about 45,000 people were evacuated to relief camps, and 11 towns and 1,492 villages affected by the cyclone in form of snapping of electricity and inundation. Though Laila's intensity reduced considerably on 20th the winds at speed of 90-95 kmph continued to leave behind a trail of destruction.

Rail and road services completely collapsed and South Central Railway and Southern Railway were forced to cancel several trains, curtail some and divert others while the few that did manage to stay on the tracks were running behind schedule due to slow movement. Road services too were paralysed with many stretches of national and state highways inundated in four to five feet of flood water. Both rail and road services continued to remain disrupted for a few days as several damaged links have to be repaired. It took several weeks to restore several small bridges and tanks that were washed away by Laila. Of the 16 deaths, four were from East Godavari, three from Nellore, two each from Guntur, Krishna, Prakasam and Visakhapatnam and one from West Godavari. Many others were reported missing in various coastal districts.

120 Killed in Storm in West Bengal, Bihar and Assam

April 2010

Kishanganj, Apr 15: A severe storm ripped through 11 districts of Bihar, West Bengal and Assam at 125 km per hour, killing at least 120 people, injuring hundreds and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless. Bihar accounted for the highest number of 77 deaths in five districts in the storm that struck at midnight on Apr 12. The fatalities in Bihar occurred in Purnia (33), Araria (33), Katihar (7), Supaul (2) and Kishanganj (2) districts. In West Bengal, all 39 deaths were reported from in North Dinajpur district while in Assam 4 died in Dhubri district.



Picture showing damages houses in Jaipauri, West Bengal

The storm, with wind speed of 120 km per hour, broke out at about 10.30 p.m. and swept four blocks of North Dinajpur district. Eighteen people died in the worst affected Karandighi block. Jalpaiguri was also hit hard.

Floods in Assam, West Bengal and Kerala

June 2010

Floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains have killed more than 50 people and displaced almost half a million more in India's south and northeast States in June 2010. Overflowing rivers and reservoirs have inundated

Name of States/UTs	Population affected	No. of human lives lost	No. of districts affected	No. of villages affected	No. of cattle/ Live-stock lost	Croppe area affected (in ha)	No. of houses damaged		Estimated value of damage (Rs. In Lakh)
							Fully	par-tially	
Assam	9,34,127	05	11	1206	3615	56224.59	Nil	666	50.86 (damaged crop area) 53.92 (partially damaged houses)
Kerala	24363	37	10	42	14	2836.67	142	3125	62.09 (fully damaged houses) 218.97 (Partially damaged houses) 1662.425 (damaged crop area) 257.0106 (damaged public property)



Flood in Guwahati

West Bengal Train Accident

May 2010

The Gyaneshwari Express derailment occurred on 28 May 2010 in the West Midnapore district of West Bengal, India. The Howrah – Kurla Lokmanya Tilak Gyaneshwari Super Deluxe Express was travelling from Howrah to Mumbai.

The train with 13 carriages passing over the missing track derailed and then struck by a goods train travelling in the opposite direction. At least 141 people died and more than 180 people were injured. The missing track was between Khemasoli and Sardiha stations. It was disputed as to whether sabotage or a bomb caused damage on the railway track, which in turn led to a train's derailment. A section of the rail track was found to be missing and fishplates were loosened, suggesting sabotage.

low-lying villages mainly in the oil and tea-rich state of Assam and in the southwestern coastal state of Kerala. According to the ministry of home affairs, almost one million people have been hit by the floods, forcing almost half a million to leave their water-logged villages and seek shelter in government relief camps.

In Assam, five people have drowned, has been the worst-affected with 11 out of 27 districts hit by flooding, including Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Baksa and Bongaigaon. Troops from the country's National Disaster Response Force have also been deployed to the area where they ferried stranded villagers along with their belongings, on hundreds of rubber and wooden boats to safer areas. 521 relief camps were opened in the affected areas in which about 4,36,800 people are accommodated.

In Kerala, where more than 24,363 people, 10 districts and 42 villages have been affected and 37 people lost life as on 30 June 2010. (source: ndmindia.nic.in situation report dated 30.06.2010)



The Howrah-Mumbai Gyaneshwari Express derailed and hit goods train

Source: www.ibnlive.com

Incident of Radiation in Mayapuri area, New Delhi

Delhi, April 2010

There have been incidents of discovery of radioactive Cobalt-60 sources in the scrap metal shops at Mayapuri, New Delhi. The first incident came to light on April 7, 2010 from report of a patient with suspected radiation symptoms being admitted to a hospital in New Delhi. A total of 7 patients with radiation induced symptoms have so far been sent to various hospitals with one of them assessed to have received high dose. One individual, a 35-year-old male scrap metal worker, was transferred to AIIMS hospital on 13 April where he died on 26 April from multiple organ failure. Six individuals, including the owner of the first scrap dealer shop, remained hospitalized on 28 April at three hospitals; two



individuals were in critical condition. Authorities recovered eight sources at the original shop, two at a nearby shop, and one from the dealer's wallet. Many of these were fragments of the original cobalt-60 source. A survey by a team of officials from the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) had identified the location of these sources. Following this, detailed search operations in the identified shops resulted in recovery of eight sources which were safely removed in shielded containers thereby returning the radiation levels in the affected areas to normal safe background levels by April 9, 2010.

As a follow up to the above incident, radiation survey of scrap metal shops in neighboring areas was taken up by officers of DAE on 13 April 2010. Elevated radiation level in one of the scrap metal shops located around 500 m. away from the earlier ones was detected. Subsequent search operation involving experts from Units of DAE and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was successful in recovery of two additional radioactive Cobalt-60 sources. India's Atomic Energy Regulatory Board announced on 28 April having traced the origin of the source to the University of Delhi and additionally ordered the University to suspend use of radioactive sources, and by early May had launched an audit of Gamma cell units in use at Indian universities. Further cleanup of the scrap metal site in Mayapuri was conducted on 15-16 May and several other hotspots at nearby sites are reportedly not hazardous.

NIDM in International Forum

- ♦ Mr. P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, Executive Director NIDM, Participated as resource person for the working group session on Sustainable Institutions and Infrastructure safe Communities during the 8th Core Group meeting of Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction in Kobe Japan from 17-18 May 2010
- ♦ Dr. Amir Ali Khan, Assistant Professor deputed to Centre for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Technology (CEDIM), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) for participation in research and training on urban Risk reduction and Social Vulnerability from April to June, 2010.

A Delegation of Women Journalists from the SAARC Countries visited NIDM

April 2010

A delegation of Women Journalists from the SAARC countries visited NIDM on 20 April 2010. The delegation included senior women journalists from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and

Sri Lanka. Mr. P. G. Dhar Chakrabarti, Director NIDM welcomed the delegation and explained the role and functions of SDMC and the burning issues of regional cooperation. The important role played by the media in reporting of natural disasters was discussed at length. This was followed by an interesting interaction session with NIDM Faculty members and SDMC experts, which encompassed a wide ranging array of issues including disaster response, planning, relief and rehabilitation work and constraints of disaster reporting.

Major Activities of NIDM

Training Programmes

(April - June 2010)

- ◆ Flood Risk Mitigation & Management, NIDM, 5-9 April
- ◆ Climate Change & Disasters, NIDM, 5-9 April
- ◆ Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Recovery Process, NIDM, 12-16 April
- ◆ Community Based Disaster Risk Management, UPAAM, ATI UP, 12-16 April
- ◆ ToT on Environment & Disasters, NIDM, 19-23 April
- ◆ Cyclone Risk Mitigation & Management, NIDM 26-30 April
- ◆ Retrofitting of Lifeline Structures, GIDM, 26-30 April
- ◆ Disaster Psychosocial Care, NIDM, 3-7 May
- ◆ Disaster Database Management, NIDM, 10-14 May
- ◆ Risk Resistant Building Codes, NIDM, 17-21 May
- ◆ Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, ATI, Arunachal Pradesh, 17-21 May
- ◆ Flood Risk Mitigation & Management, SIRD, UP, 17-21 May
- ◆ Risk Assessment and Vulnerability Analysis, NIDM, 24-26 May
- ◆ Basic Course on Disaster Management for Civil Defence Officers, NIDM, 7-11 June
- ◆ Drought Mitigation & Management, NIDM, 14-18 June
- ◆ Applications of Remote Sensing and GIS in Disaster Management, NIDM, June 21-25
- ◆ Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management, ATI-

Meghalaya, Shillong, 21-25 June

- ◆ Cyclone Risk Mitigation and Management, NIDM, June 28- July 2, 2010
- ◆ Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, Assam, 28 June – 4 July

Online Training Programme with WBI

- ◆ Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Framework Course, May 3 - June 12
- ◆ Safe Cities, May 24 to June 19
- ◆ Climate Change & Disaster Management, Jun 14 to July 10
- ◆ Community Based Disaster Risk Management, June 21 to July 17

Upcoming Events of NIDM

Workshops

Training Programmes (July – Sep 2010)

- ◆ Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, Assam, 28 June – 4 July,
- ◆ Urban Community Based Disaster Risk Management, NIDM, 5-9 July
- ◆ Role of Police in Disaster Management (for IPS Officers), NIDM, 12-16 July
- ◆ Earthquake Risk Mitigation & Management, ATI –Sikkim, Gangtok, 13- 17 July
- ◆ Training Programme on Role of Media in Disaster Management, NIDM, 19-20 July
- ◆ Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management, ATI-West Bengal, Kolkata, 19-23 July
- ◆ Disaster Safe Hill Area Development, ATI Manipur, 19-23 July
- ◆ Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Course, SIRD-MP, 19-23 July
- ◆ Transportation of Hazardous Chemicals, NIDM, 22-23 July
- ◆ Gender and Disaster Management, NIDM, 26-30 July
- ◆ Climate Change and Disasters, ATI-Nagaland, Kohima, 2-6 August
- ◆ Training for Members of SDMAs and DDMA's, NIDM, 2-6 August

- ◆ Role of GIS and Remote Sensing in Disaster Management, Mizoram, 2-6 August
- ◆ Minimum Standards of Relief, NIDM, 9-13 August
- ◆ Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Course, SIRD, Rajasthan 9-13 August
- ◆ Management of Industrial and Chemical Disasters, NIDM, 16-20 August
- ◆ Cyclone Risk Mitigation and Management, Orissa, 16-20 August
- ◆ Drought Mitigation and Management, Karnataka, 23-27 August
- ◆ ToT on Urban Risk Mitigation and Management, NIDM, 23-27 August
- ◆ Mass Casualty Management, NIDM, 30 August to 3 September
- ◆ Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, BIPARD, Bihar, 6-10 September
- ◆ Urban Risk Mitigation, DMI Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, 6-10 September
- ◆ Flood Risk Mitigation & Management, NIDM, 6-10 September
- ◆ Management of Road Accidents NIDM 8-10 September
- ◆ Comprehensive Landslide Risk Mitigation and Management, Uttarakhand, 13-17 September.
- ◆ Environment and Disasters NIDM, 13-17 September
- ◆ Health Information Systems and Disaster Management, 20-24 September
- ◆ Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management, Haryana, 20-24 September
- ◆ Damage, Loss and Needs Assessment, Gujarat, September 27-October 1

Online Training Programme with WBI

- ◆ Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Framework Course, July 26 - September 4, 2010
- ◆ Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Framework Course, September 13 - October 23, 2010

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