

Editorial Board

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HIGHLIGHTS eKDRM Conference

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Message

Global environment changes are aggravating disasters both directly and indirectly. Environmental concerns are important in managing disasters during both pre and post disaster phases. Understanding of current state of global environment and projection of global environmental changes in future are important in understanding the future risks associated with climate change. This will help in formulating and implementing effective disaster mitigation strategies and climate change adaptation. Environmental degradation including the destruction of forest cover, mangroves, decreasing soil moisture content, shrinking of water bodies and wetlands etc are leading to increasing risks of hydrometeorological and geological hazards like floods, droughts, storm surges, landslides and so on. Disasters lead to huge damage to both natural and human environment by damaging environmental assets in short term and decline in environmental services in long term. Major post disaster environmental concerns are debris management, waste disposal, industrial accidents, drinking water supply, saline water intrusion and loss of productivity of land, loss of coral reefs, seabed grass, mangroves and loss of local capacity. There is an increasing importance of maintenance, management and development of the sound mitigation practices that are inherent to nature. The key tools for integrating environment management in disaster risk reduction are Environmental Legislations and policies, Environmental Risk Assessment and developing DSS for Environmental Management and DRR, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Environmental Vulnerability/Hazard Mapping, Environmental Impact Assessment, Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) of the disaster damage, Cost benefit Analysis of Ecosystem based approaches, Spatial Planning i.e., the land use planning at various levels and so on. Establishing linkage between environmental concerns and disaster risk reduction is important for assuring sustainable development and well being. Unfortunately, environmental concerns are not incorporated adequately in disaster management practices and vice versa. The international conference on Environmental Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction organized by NIDM in collaboration with GIZ is aimed at establishing linkages between the environment management and disaster management sectors.

Santosh Kumar

International Conference Environmental Knowledge for Disaster Risk Management

(10-11 May 2011, Vigyan Bhavan)

The international conference on Environmental Knowledge for Disaster Risk Management (ekDRM-2011) was organised during 10-11 May 2011 at Vigyan Bhavan New Delhi as a part of the cooperation of the National Institute for Disaster Management and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH under the aegis of the Advisory Services in Environmental Management (ASEM) programme in India.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Ajit Tyagi, Dir. Gen. of India Meteorology Department. Maj. Gen. Dr. R. Sivakumar, Director National Natural Resources Database Management System, Department of Science and Technology, Dr. Parthasarathi Roy, Director Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun, Dr. Dieter Mutz, Director Advisory Services for Environmental Management-GIZ and Mr. Christian-Mathias Schlaga, Charge d'Affairs, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany were the key dignitaries of the inaugural function. The conference was attended by 120 experts, researchers and practitioners from India, Germany and other countries.

The international conference ekdrm2011 provided a forum for academicians, trainers, researchers, policy makers and scholars from a wide range of

disciplines and institutions, to deliberate upon and discuss various aspects of environmental knowledge application towards managing climate and water related disasters.

There were 5 thematic sessions in the conference.

- ◆ Environmental Statistics and Decision Support Systems (DSS) for Disaster Risk Management.



Dr. Ajit Tyagi, Director general, IMD releasing the preconference volume on Environmental Knowledge for Disaster Management during the inaugural session of the conference.



Delegates attending the conference on 10 May 2011



Honourable Member, National Disaster Management Authority, Maj.Gen. (Dr.) J.K. Bansal delivering the Valedictory address

- ◆ Spatial Planning/ Information System for Chemical Disaster Management
- ◆ Legal Framework and Regulations for Environment and Disaster Management
- ◆ Environmental Services & Impact Assessment in Disaster Management
- ◆ Natural Resource Management linkage to Disaster Management.

Forty two papers were presented under the various thematic Sessions. Besides there were 6 special talks by eminent resource persons

Valedictory session of the conference was presided over by Major. General (Dr.) J.K. Bansal, honorable member of the National Disaster Management Authority Dr. S.K. Das, Director General, Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation delivered special address during the valedictory function.

Training Programmes on Incident Response System

25-29 April, 2011.

New series of courses on Incident Response System has been launched at NIDM since April 2011. First Training of Trainers Course on Basic & Intermediate and Operation Section Chief Course under Incident Response System was conducted from 25-29 April, 2011. A total of 14 trainers from State ATIs/State Governments attended the Course.

3rd Session of Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

(8-13 May 2011, Geneva)

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opened the Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), which was attended by approximately 3,000 participants, including representatives from over 170 governments, 20 ministers and 30 mayors, and 100 non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Throughout the day, participants met in high-level plenary sessions, roundtables on preparedness, nuclear emergencies, local action and wildfire risk, as well as a dialogue with parliamentarians and mayors and a briefing on the 2011 Global Assessment Report.

The Third Session of the Global Platform was organized around the overall theme: Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow – Increased Investment in Local Action. As the primary multi stake holder forum for all parties involved in DRR, the Global Platform is an opportunity for leaders, decision-makers, practitioners and experts to share their experiences, commit to action and further guide the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) system. The Session was preceded by two days of preparatory meetings. The key feature of Global Platform was the World Reconstruction Conference.

Three main topics were:

- ◆ Recovering and Reducing Risks after Disasters - World Reconstruction Conference;
- ◆ Understanding the Economics of Disaster Risk Reduction; and,

◆ Strengthening Alliances for Climate Change Adaptation and Development

During the opening ceremony, chaired by UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro, Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, called for accelerating efforts in building resilience and a “coalition for action” for DRR. In a video message, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who received UNISDR’s Global Champion for Disaster Award, emphasized the importance of having a culture of safety and risk preparedness, as well as the use of local knowledge. Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Managing Director, World Bank, noted the need for an adaptive framework for post-disaster recovery, improving access to financing and integrating risk mitigation and climate adaptation. Peter Maurer, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Swiss Confederation, highlighted Switzerland’s role in providing support for DRR. Gjorge Ivanov, President, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, noted the value of a coordinated approach to DRR and highlighted the South-East European Summit initiative to strengthen regional cooperation. Ajaratou Isatou Njie-Saidy, Vice-President, The Gambia, called for building capacity and resilience of local communities to enhance ownership and sustainability. Shozo Azuma, Senior Vice Minister for Disaster Management, Japan, provided an overview of the consequences of the earthquakes and tsunami in Japan and noted his country’s

intention to host a high-level DRR conference in 2012 to share experiences and lessons.

On Friday, 13 May, Margareta Wahlström, UN Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, introduced in plenary the Chair's Summary, which highlighted the consensus points from the discussions that had taken place over the course of the week. She said the next challenge is to assist countries and communities in implementing disaster risk reduction. Zoubida Allaoua, Director for Finance, Economics and Urban Development, World Bank, presented outcomes of the World Reconstruction Conference, which took place during the Third Session of the Global Platform, suggesting that one main challenge is to align short-term reconstruction efforts with long-term development. She said important steps forward are to ensure access to reliable reconstruction finance, establish a global reconstruction knowledge practice and provide access to data.



3rd Global Platform for Disaster Risk reduction

Indian delegation led by Shri A.E. Ahmed, Secretary, Border Management. Shri. R.K. Srivastava, Joint Secretary, Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Smt. Sujata Saunik, Joint Secretary, National Disaster

Management Authority and Prof. Santosh Kumar attended the third session of Global Platform. Mr. A.E. Ahmed, head of the Government of India delegation said that during the last one decade there has been paradigm shift in approach towards Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation. Disaster management now highlights the interdependence of economy, environment and inclusive development. Shri. Ahmed emphasized that India will continue its commitment to ex-ante disaster risk management initiatives within an integrated climate change framework and strengthen its activities towards DRR by making it an

integral part of the development process. He assured that India will continue its efforts to work as one global family for this cause and also facilitate regional cooperation, and would extend its support to any Government or institution or organization for promoting sustainable development, and to make the world as safe a place as is humanly possible.

SAARC Disaster Management Centre, launched the first version of two of its flagship portals, South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network (www.saarc-sadkn.org) and South Asia Disaster Vulnerability Atlas (www.saarc-dva.org) On 9th May 2011 in the preconference event of the Third

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Mr. Pema Dorji, Director, SAARC Secretariat delivered the welcome address and was followed by the presidential address by Mr. Minur Dorji, Home Minister of the Royal Government of Bhutan. Director SAARC Disaster Management Centre made a presentation on the technical capability of the portal to create an environment to encourage people to create, learn, organize, use and share knowledge on disaster management. Ms. Margareta Washlstorm, Special Representative congratulated the SDMC team for the launch of the portal and expressed her continuing support for the portal.

Training Program on Flood Disaster Management

30 May – 3 June 2011, Pune

National Water Academy in collaboration with NIDM organized a 5 day training programme on flood disaster management at their campus in Pune during 25-29 May, 2011. Main topics covered during the programme were (i) guidelines of flood management (ii) Risk management of water related disasters (iii) Structural & non-structural measures for flood management (iv) Flood forecasting

(v) Impact of climate change on Flood events (vi) Flood proofing (vi) Urban inundation (vii) Flood Insurance (viii) Reservoir operation during floods (ix) Integrated operation of reservoirs (x) Role of community based organization in food management (xi) Water quality issues during the flood (xii) Medical preparedness (xiii) Flood Shelters and (xiv) Rescue & recovery etc. Apart from classroom lectures there were

presentations of case studies and visit to nearby water resources project. The course was attended by 42 participants from different states of India.



As many as 113 villages across the State had been hit by heavy rain and floods. Source: The Hindu, 4 June 2011.

Floods were reported in parts of the country in the month of June. The floods affected states were Assam, West Bengal, Orissa and Kerala. Floods were reported in Assam due to heavy rains during the last week of June, 2011. Heavy rains lashed the upper reaches of Brahmaputra and a rise in water level of Brahmaputra and its tributaries was observed during the last week of June 2011, inundating many low-lying areas.

NDMA Delegation Visit to NIDM

8 June 2011

Shri M. Shashidhar Reddy, Honorable Vice-Chairman and Members of National Disaster Management Authority, Secretary and other senior official from NDMA visited NIDM on 8th June 2011. An interactive session with the faculty members was organized during the visit. The session was focused on different ways to strengthen the Institute so as to play a bigger role in the capacity building efforts in the country as well as the region. Members, during the interaction discussed with

faculty members about the various ongoing training programmes and projects at NIDM and recommended that there is a need to constantly review and update the training modules to make it more focused and useful and to align with the various activities of NDMA.



Hon'ble VC & Members of NDMA interacting with NIDM faculty Members

Flood Scenario in India

June 2011

Floods were reported in Kamrup (R), Karimganj and Goalpara districts.

In West Bengal many parts of West and East Midnapore districts were reported to be affected due to intense depression over Bay of Bengal causing heavy torrential rains during fourth week of June, 2011. Release of water from Damodar Valley Corporation reservoirs in Durgapur, has led to inundation in the low lying areas of West and East Midnapore districts in West Bengal. Incessant rainfall since first week of August 2011 has caused major rivers to flow above the danger level. River Ganga at Malda were flowing above danger mark. Flooding was reported in several low lying areas. Due to the incessant rains and heavy water releases from reservoirs around 25 lakh people have been affected

in the West Bengal state. Eleven districts are reported to be affected by inundation.

Several areas of Balasore district were affected by flash flood in Jalaka River in northern parts of Orissa due to depression in Bay of Bengal during third week of June, 2011. Several rivers in Northern Orissa were in spate following the incessant rains. Areas of Balasore district were affected by flash flood in Jalaka River as its waterlevel crossed the danger level. Swollen Baitarani River affected many parts of Keonjhar, Jajpur and Dhenkanal districts while Subarnarekha and Budhabalanga posed a threat to Balasore, Bhadrak and Mayurbhanj districts.

Heavy rains lashed many parts of Kerala during the first week of June



2011, causing damage to crops and property. Alappuzha and Kottayam districts were reported to be affected. Major flood inundation is observed in the Kumarakom, Thiruvarpur, Changanassery, Kaipuzha and Vechoor villages in Kottayam district. Four teams of National Disaster Response Force, consisting of 132 personnel of NDRF have been deployed in Assam (1), Andhra Pradesh (2) and Kerala (1).

Papers

- ♦ Gupta, A.K., Tyagi, P., & Sehgal, V.K. (2011). Drought disaster challenges and mitigation in India: Strategic Appraisal . Current Science,100 (12), 1795-1806.
- ♦ Gupta, A.K., & Nair, S.S.(2011). Urban Floods in Bangalore and Chennai: Risk Management Challenges and lessons for Sustainable urban Ecology. Current Science,100 (11), 1638-1645.
- ♦ Nair, S.S., Goyal, R., & Gupta, A.K. (2011). Multi-component vulnerability analysis for hydro-meteorological disasters – A case study of Orissa. International Journal of Earth Sciences and Engineering 4 (3), 22-29.
- ♦ Gupta, A.K., Nair, S. S., Sharma, V.K. (2011). Environmental Knowledge for Management of Hydro-meteorological

Disasters. In Anil K. Gupta and Sreeja S. Nair (Eds.), Environmental Knowledge for Disaster Risk Management (106-117). New Delhi: National Institute of Disaster Management and GIZ Germany.

Proceedings/ Presentations

- ♦ Dr. K.J. Anandha Kumar attended the two days International Conference on Environmental Knowledge for Disaster Risk Management 10-11, May, 2011 at Vigyan Bhavan and presented a paper entitled ‘Groundwater Management during disasters in India’.
- ♦ Sreeja S. Nair presented a paper titled “Environmental Statistics for Disaster Management – Indian Scenario” during the two days

International Conference on Environmental Knowledge for Disaster Risk Management 10-11, May, 2011 at Vigyan Bhavan.

Meetings/ Workshops Attended

- ♦ Dr. K.J Anandha Kumar participated in the final workshop on “Support to the National Water Mission under National Action Plan for Climate Change” under the Asian Development Bank’s Technical Assistance Programme on 27th June, 2011 at New Delhi.
- ♦ Dr. K.J Anandha Kumar attended Working Group Meeting at Planning Commission for Capacity Development for 12th Five year Plan for Disaster Management on 29.7.2011.

Mr. P. G. Dhar Chakrabarti complete tenure as ED NIDM on 18 April 2011



Mr. P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, Executive Director, completed his tenure at NIDM on 18 April 2011.

He is an IAS officer of 1980 batch of the Jammu & Kashmir cadre where he served in various capacities for more than 20 years. He took over charge as Executive Director, National Institute of Disaster Management in August 2005 and as Director, SAARC Disaster Management

Centre since its inception in October 2006. He was nominated as a member of the Adviser Group of Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) of the United Nations and Member of the Advisory Group of UNOCHA to provide guidance for a SIPRI study on the Effectiveness of Foreign Military Assets in International Natural Disaster Response. During his tenure as Executive Director NIDM, Shri Chakrabarti led several national and regional initiatives. Key amongst them are South Asia Policy Dialogue, BIMSTEC Workshop on

Regional Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, India Disaster Management Congress, Resilient Cities- Global Campaign and so on. During his tenure at NIDM he authored and edited many books and articles. Notable among them are Disaster Risk Reduction for Safe Development: A Study of Corporate Practices in India, Women, Gender and Disaster: Global Issues and Initiatives (2010), Micro-finance and Disaster Risk Reduction and Indigenous Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia.

NIDM in International Forum

- ◆ Dr. Santosh Kumar, Professor and Head of Policy Planning and Cross cutting Issues division attended the third session of Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction at Geneva, Switzerland during 8-13 May 2011.
- ◆ Dr. Surya Parkash, Associate Professor, participated in ICL Secretarial meeting of the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) held at Koyoto, Japan during 28-29 January 2011.
- ◆ Dr. Anil K. Gupta participated in the Pilot training workshop on Ecosystem approach to Disaster Risk Reduction organized by Partnership on Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) as a resource person and attended the launch of Strategic Environmental Assessment report of North province held at Colombo, Sri Lanka during 23-26 May 2011.
- ◆ Ms. Sreeja S. Nair attended the Pilot training workshop on Ecosystem approach to Disaster Risk Reduction organized by Partnership on Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction and the launch of Strategic Environmental Assessment report of North province held at Colombo, Sri Lanka during 23-26 May 2011.

Major Activities of NIDM (April- June 2011)

Training Programmes

- ◆ Comprehensive Landslide Risk Management , 4-8 April at NIDM
- ◆ Flash Flood Risk Mitigation & Management, 25-29 April at HIPA, Himachal Pradesh
- ◆ Disaster Mass Casualty Management, 25-29 April , BIPARD, Bihar
- ◆ IRS: Basic & Intermediate , 25-27 April at NIDM
- ◆ IRS: Operations Section Chief, 28-29 April at NIDM
- ◆ Basic Course on Disaster Management, 9-13 May at NIDM
- ◆ Basic Course on Disaster Management for Civil Defence officers , 9-13 May at NIDM
- ◆ Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, 9-13 May at SIRD Maharashtra
- ◆ Forestry Sector Disaster Management Forest Research Institute Dehradun 16-20 May,
- ◆ Mainstreaming Disaster Management 19-20 May, NIDM
- ◆ Community Based Disaster Risk Management, 23-27 May at DDUSIRD, Uttar Pradesh
- ◆ Flood Disaster Management, 30 May- 3 June, National Water Academy, Pune
- ◆ Gender & Disaster Management, 6-10 June , SIPARD, Tripura
- ◆ Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Disaster affected Areas, 13-17 June, JKIMPA, Jammu and Kashmir
- ◆ Industrial & Chemical Disasters, 13-17 June, ATI-Mysore, Karnataka
- ◆ Basic Course on Disaster Management for NDRF Commanders, 20-24 June, NIDM
- ◆ Damage and Loss Assessment, DMMC –Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- ◆ Comprehensive Landslide Risk Management, 27 June -1 July, NIDM

Online Training Programme with WBI

- ◆ Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Framework, April 25, 2011-May 27
- ◆ Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Framework, May 31, 2011- 9 July
- ◆ Community Based Disaster Risk Management, 15 May – 10 June
- ◆ Climate Change and Disaster Management, 19 June – 15 July

Upcoming Events (July – September 2011)

DRR Day

NIDM will be observing the Day for Disaster Reduction on 12 October, 2011. This day offers an opportunity to focus national attention on this important issue and to create awareness about disasters and their management. Further, to enhance awareness among the students and to sensitize them towards disasters and their management a number of activities will be organized at School and college levels.

Training Programmes

- ♦ Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, MGSIPA, Punjab, 11-15 July.
- ♦ Application of Geoinformatics in Disaster Management, NIDM, 12-14 July
- ♦ IRS: Integrated Planning -Section Chief, NIDM, 18-22, July
- ♦ Disaster & Disabilities NIDM, 18-22 July
- ♦ Earthquake Risk Mitigation & Management, NIDM, 25-29 July
- ♦ Building Codes and Design for Disaster Safe Built Environment, CGAA, Chhattisgarh, 25-29, July
- ♦ Disaster Management for Police Officials, Police Training College, Kishangarh, Ajmer, 25-30 July
- ♦ Cyclone Risk Mitigation & Management, MCRHRDI, AP, 1-5 August
- ♦ IRS: Incident Commander Course, NIDM, 1-3 August
- ♦ Climate-change & Flood Disaster Management, NIDM, 8-12 August
- ♦ Retrofitting of structures – technical and managerial issues, HIPA, Haryana, 8-12 August
- ♦ Comprehensive Landslide Risk Management, UAOA, Uttarakhand, 23-26 August.
- ♦ Urban Risk Management, NIDM, 5-9 September
- ♦ Earthquake Risk mitigation and management, GBPIHED, Sikkim, 5-9 September
- ♦ Drought Mitigation & Management, SKIPA, Jharkhand, 5-9 September
- ♦ Integrated Drought Risk Mitigation Management, NIDM, 12-16 September
- ♦ Coastal Risk Management GIDM, Gujarat, 12-16 September
- ♦ Disaster Safety in Schools, NIDM, 19-23 September
- ♦ Flood Risk Mitigation & Management, ATI, West Bengal, 19-23 September
- ♦ Programme on Role of Police in DM, NIDM, 19-23 September
- ♦ Training of Trainers Programme on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management for officials of African Countries, NIDM, 19-30 September
- ♦ Disaster Database Management, National Academy of Statistical Administration, Noida, 21-23 September
- ♦ Cyclone Risk Mitigation & Management (National Course), MCRHRD Institute, AP, 26-30 September
- ♦ Gender & Disaster Management, NIDM 26-30 September

Online Training Programme with WBI

- ♦ Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management: 24th July-19th August, 2011
- ♦ Risk Analysis, 29th August-23rd September, 2011

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



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