



First Session of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

13-14 May 2013, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

PROCEEDINGS



Organised by
Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of India

**DETAILED PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NATIONAL
PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION HELD ON 13-14TH MAY 2013 AT
VIGYAN BHAWAN, NEW DELHI**

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BACKGROUND

Government of India has constituted a multi-stakeholder National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction vide Government's Resolution No.47-31/2012- DM-III dated 26th February 2013. The NPDRR has been constituted with the Hon'ble Home Minister as Chairperson, Vice Chairman NDMA and Minister of State (Home) as Vice Chairpersons, 15 Cabinet ministers and Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Ministers from States and Union Territories responsible for disaster management representatives of local self government, Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, ex-officio members, heads of national institutions, representatives from Industry, media, civil society organisations and international organisations, with Secretary (Border Management) as the convener.

The Functions of the NPDRR are to review the progress made in the field of disaster management advice regarding coordination among DRR shareholders, appraise the extent and manner in which the disaster management policy has been implemented and share the knowledge and experiences of disaster managers. The output from the National Platform will offer a strategic direction and a road map for firm governance towards disaster mitigation.



Objectives of NPDRR

- To anchor the knowledge research technologies, innovations and best practices to provide greater interaction and interface amongst various disciplines of Disaster Management.
- To enlarge the perspectives and to provide a holistic framework for Disaster Management related research and education.
- To create a pool of resources of scientists, practitioners, technocrats and other professionals on DRR.
- To bring together organisations and individuals of diverse disciplines and sectors for synthesizing, managing and further disseminating knowledge on DRR.

- To provide a platform where all stakeholders shall meet, share their work, debate on the issues related to lessons learnt, challenges encountered, shortcomings opportunities and draw future action plans

The First Session of NPDRR was organised on the theme of “**Mainstreaming DRR in Development: from Risk to Resilience**” at the Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on 13 - 14 May 2013. It had *two plenary and six thematic* sessions.

Plenary Session (May 13, 2013)

1. Mainstreaming DRR in Development: Achievements & Way Ahead
2. Implementation Issues-Views from States/UTs

Thematic Sessions (May 14, 2013)

1. Harnessing Technology for DRR;
2. Making Our Cities Safe;
3. Risk Financing Mechanisms;
4. Long Term Recovery & Rehabilitation;
5. Public Policy and Governance; and
6. Multi-stakeholder Consultation.

In addition to the above, an Exhibition and four Pre-events had been organized on different themes and outcomes of these Pre-events became part of the main thematic session. The Pre-events were organized on the following themes:

1. Gender & Disaster (2nd April, 2013); venue: Delhi University Campus, New Delhi
2. Risk Transfer Mechanism (17th April, 2013); venue: India International Centre Annexe, New Delhi
3. Post HFA 2015 Framework (27th April, 2013); venue: India International Centre Annex, New Delhi
4. Child Centred DRR and Adaptation (May 11, 2013); venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

(Brief on each pre-event is annexed at Annexure-II)

INAGURAL SESSION

The first session of the NPDRR was inaugurated at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 13th May, 2013. The inaugural function started with the arrival of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and lighting of the ceremonial lamp.

Sh. M. Shashidhar Reddy, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NDMA welcomed Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Hon'ble Prime Minister and other dignitaries on the dais, including Sh. Sushil Kumar Shinde, the Hon'ble Home Minister, Sh.Mullapally Ramachandran, the Hon'ble Minister of State Home. He also extended warm welcome to all the dignitaries, distinguished participants and the media.



Sh. Reddy in his inaugural speech stated that the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India sent the right message to all stakeholders about the relevance and importance of the NPDRR. He prostrated that India is vulnerable to different disasters including floods, cyclones, earthquakes, droughts etc due to its unique geo -physical conditions. Along with it, the country is also vulnerable to human induced chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear exposures. Urbanisation, industrialisation and unplanned development in high risk zones seriously increase vulnerability to disaster risk. Climate Change adds a different dimension to the disaster risk.

Sh.Reddy shared the steps taken by the Government of India by enacting Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005, DM Policy, 2009 and setting up of NDMA and SDMAs. He highlighted that NDMA has been actively associated with the Planning Commission since the 10th Five Year Plan Period onwards to drive the path to mainstream DRR into development planning. To carry forward in the perceived direction, an Approach Paper to the 12th Five-Year plan titled “**Faster, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth**” was prepared, which emphasised that DRR must be mainstreamed in the planning process appropriately.



While concluding his speech, Sh. Reddy welcomed all the dignitaries, members of NPDRR and representatives of various stakeholders.

Sh. Sushil Kumar Shinde, Hon'ble Union Home Minister in his address paid his gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister, GoI for accepting the invitation for the inaugural session of the First Session of NPDRR. He expressed his delight to see the gathering of varied stakeholders and symbolized it as the commitment of all towards effective DM and substantive DRR in the Country. He expressed that the establishment of the NPDRR platform and organizing its first session at the most appropriate time, when the whole world is facing crucial challenges to deal with most uncertain and unpredictable risks of various disasters, would be a welcome step.



In view of the past disasters in the country, the Home Minister pointed out that the women, children, the aged and the physically challenged require more support in the aftermath of such unfortunate events. He stated that the MHA being the nodal ministry is responsible for DM in India. Since early 2000, the government has been focusing on developing capacities in the country for preparedness, prevention and mitigation along with developing capacities for response. Institutional setup has been put in place with the enactment of the DM Act in 2005 and release of DM Policy in 2009. Various schemes related to Earthquake Mitigation, School Safety, Cyclone Mitigation, Capacity Building, Strengthening of Fire & Emergency Services and Revamping of Civil Defence are being implemented in the country in wake of the DRR. The country has already implemented a number of reconstruction and recovery programmes that addressed the issues of reconstructing, repairing and strengthening traditional houses in rural and urban areas. The people have learnt a lot from these programmes and the lessons learnt need to be applied for wider practice of long-term recovery.

He further stated that it is inevitable to formulate concrete strategies to reduce vulnerability and losses, considering the loss of lives and scale of damages experienced in the recent past by the disasters in urban, semi-urban and rural areas. Further to it, the solution lies in having an informed community and to bring in strict adoption and enforcement of hazard resistant design, techniques, especially in the building codes for new constructions. The country needs to have financial and insurance solutions in place to financially protect the communities, critical infrastructure and development. It is necessary to take rapid strides in the area of application of science & technology, early warning systems and capacity development as well. Various stakeholders, whether governmental or non-governmental, have been involved in supporting the efforts of DRR during the last few decades. However, it is felt that the knowledge and experiences of disaster practitioners remain in a limited domain. There is a need to disseminate these lessons among the larger DM community. The GoI by constituting the National Platform has thus made a conscious effort towards knowledge sharing on a common platform so as to create a versatile interface among policy-makers in the Government and disaster managers at all administrative levels. He urged all the stakeholders to discuss together and work together for reducing the disaster risk to make India a safe country.

Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister, in his inaugural address complimented the Home Minister and his team for organising the first session of NPDRR for providing multi-stakeholder coordinated leadership in the very important area of DRR. He stated that India is now one of the eighty countries which have a national platform. The platform would emerge as a very useful forum for exchange of ideas and experiences and be of great help to the country in building systems for preventing disasters and dealing with their fall-out. He further impressed that such initiative will surely address fulfilment of India's commitments to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.



The Prime Minister stressed upon the increasing vulnerability of communities due to large-scale of natural and man-made disasters and also climate change which has increased frequency and intensity of certain disasters. He mentioned that the nation must therefore ensure that disaster preparedness and development of adequate disaster response mechanisms receive priority attention. He shared that India endeavoured towards a paradigm shift in DM, from the relief-centric classical approach of the past to a more holistic approach. The measures to deal with disaster situations in a more institutionalized manner, right from the local level up to the central level have been taken up.

The Prime Minister highlighted importance of theme of the NPDRR and mentioned that it is essential to make risk reduction an intrinsic part of the development processes by including prevention and mitigation strategies in it. It is indeed a very prudent course of action and would avoid possible losses that could be devastating in nature and could cause significant setbacks to the development of a state or a region. This is also an internationally accepted norm since it is much more cost-effective than simply responding to disasters after they have occurred. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals(MDGs) reflect a global commitment towards reducing risk for overall sustainable development. Hence, there is a need to consider disaster risk as a developmental issue, which was emphasised for the first time in the Tenth Five Year Plan and then Eleventh Plan also emphasize that the development processes could not be sustainable without risk mitigation efforts being inbuilt into them. This need has led to a number of Plan schemes in areas such as drought proofing, afforestation and sanitation, provision of drinking water. The Twelfth Plan carries this process further. It specifically focuses on the new developments that have taken place in the area of DRR, including those related to setting up of early warning systems and communications.

While concluding the speech, Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasised that managing disasters is necessarily a collaborative exercise, involving not only several departments of the Government at the Centre but also State and local governments, civil society organisations, communities at large. He mentioned that though the Country has made good progress in the recent years in putting

in place institutions and mechanisms for disaster prevention and mitigation; it has still a large distance to travel.

The session ended with the vote of thanks by Hon'ble Minister of State, Home, **Sh. Mullapally Ramachandran**. He thanked the Prime Minister who presided over the session and delivered the inaugural address. He stated that the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister is a testimony of Government's deep commitment towards DM in the Country. He thanked the Home Minister, the Vice Chairman, NDMA and other dignitaries on the dais for their presence, words of encouragement and guidance for having given a new impetus to DM initiatives in the Country. He also thanked all the Ministers, Senior Officers, Speakers and all Delegates from various Ministries, States and Union Territories for their presence during inaugural session.



The Minister informed the gathering that this is for the first time that international organisations, government functionaries, training institutions, NGO's, media representatives, representatives of urban local bodies and *Panchayati Raj* representatives have gathered at one platform and thanked one and all for their participation in the important event of first session of NPDRR. He encouraged all the dignitaries and the participants to fully utilize the forum to exchange vital knowledge on the subject so that the outcome of this session of National Platform can help in policy formulation cutting across ministries in favour of disaster mitigation.

PLENARY SESSION 1

MAINSTREAMING DRR IN DEVELOPMENT: ACHIEVEMENTS & WAY AHEAD

Chairperson:

Sh. M. Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman, NDMA

Co-Chairperson:

Dr. P. K. Mishra, Chairman, GERC

Speakers:

Ms. Lise Grande, UN Resident Coordinator

Dr. J. S. Samra, Chairman, Rainfed Authority, Govt. of India

Ms. Helena Molin-Valdes, UNISDR

Prof. V. K. Sharma, Vice Chairman, SDMA and Professor IIPA,

Shri Nagesh Kumar, UNESCAP

Rapporteur

Prof. Chandan Ghosh, NIDM

The Proceedings:

Welcoming all the delegates Prof. Chandan Ghosh, NIDM gave brief overview and objectives of the first plenary session.

Objectives of the First Plenary Session:

- To understand the developmental loss due to disasters.
- To envisage an all inclusive approach for DRR and evolve a unified national strategy on DRR.
- To create collective awareness about the DRR mechanism at the National, State and District levels.
- To institutionalize a mechanism for sustained collaboration and cooperation on DRR issues amongst all stakeholders.
- To provide opportunity to understand the process of integration of DRR in ongoing and new schemes.

1) Chairing the first plenary session of the NPDRR, **Sh. M Shashidhar Reddy**, Vice Chairman, NDMA in his opening remarks stressed the need to integrate DRR with developmental planning. He opined that mainstreaming DRR should be made a serious business in order to make India disaster resilient. He informed that NDMA has been engaged with the Planning Commission right from the 10th Five Year plan period onwards and the focus was laid mainly on DRR. Currently the Planning Commission is looking more than 1000 schemes and has promised to share

the relevant data with NDMA so that NDMA can prepare a check list of all the essential points that should be incorporated to ensure DRR as an integral part in all planning schemes. MGNREGA, *Indira Awas Yojana*, *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan* undertaken by the Central Government should also explore how these schemes can be used to reduce the risks of disasters. He opined that the change of the mindset of people is very essential to bring about a paradigm shift and this is extremely important in our country. There is an immense need to invest in mitigation. Though rescue and relief systems are in place, the same kind of focus and emphasis should be accorded to in the mitigation projects.



He concluded his address by stating that the country is witnessing a paradigm shift from relief centric to mitigation and preparedness centric approach. The need of the hour is to promote private investment as well in the field of DRR.

2) **Dr. P. K. Mishra**, Chairman, Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (GERC) in his key note address, informed the participants that the frequency and intensity of disasters have increased in recent times and accordingly there has been paradigm shift in the approach in managing disasters. He highlighted the need about clarity of the term “mainstreaming” to facilitate the development of a road map for future DRR practices.

According to Dr. Mishra, the country has been managing disasters such as droughts, floods, cyclones, earthquakes etc. since long. The problem is that the lessons learnt from disasters are not spread across the country and this is the crux of the problem. After Latur Earthquake in 1993, post disaster reconstruction programmes were undertaken with focus on mitigation & preparedness, but within a few years, when other earthquakes hit in other parts of the country, the lessons learnt were not utilized. The real problem is spreading of lessons in spatial and temporal context is missing. Dr. Mishra cited an example of best practices of DRR in Gujarat, where after 1956 Earthquake in Anjar, the state government had relocated the construction of city and a Disaster resilient construction was carried out. Again in 2001 Bhuj earthquake, half a century later, most of the houses in the town of Anjar had witnessed great devastation, except those, which were in the relocation site of 1956. This shows the best example of mainstreaming DRR in development sector which was forgotten over time. He stressed that we need to learn from our past experiences and focus on how to reduce those vulnerabilities at local level. At International and National level, mainstreaming DRR in development process has been an important agenda. Mainstreaming DRR requires risk emanating strategies, new projects and institutional structure in hazard prone regions. He said that DM



Strategy was firstly included in 10th Five Year Plan document, in which special funding for DRR was allocated for mainstreaming DRR. The 11th Plan and 12th Plan reiterated on Mainstreaming DRR in Development Process. He focused that at the state level, every plan should incorporate adoption disaster resilient building byelaws, land use zoning, resource planning, and establishment of early warning systems, technical competence and awareness generation.

3) **Ms. Lisa Grande**, UN Resident Coordinator congratulated Government of India for establishing the NPDRR and bringing different stakeholders together at one place. She expressed concern about the rising costs of disasters. In case of India, she informed that more than 1.2 million people have been killed as a result of disasters, 3 million have been adversely affected and more than 1.7 trillion US Dollar have been lost. In recent times the countries which are located in vulnerable areas, have focused more on developing a suitable mechanism to respond when disasters occur. The focus now is on preparedness to deal with the associated risks of disasters. In 2005, 168 countries adopted Hyogo Framework of Action, which has 5 main areas of interventions, the most impressive of which is about strengthening disaster preparedness. Unfortunately, progress on building a culture of resilience and on reducing underlying factors has been less than expected.



While highlighting achievements made by India in the field of DRR, Ms. Grande, outlined the following gaps which need to be addressed:

- lack of capacity to identify underlying risks, particularly at the state level,
- tools need to be developed and skill be strengthened through training,
- knowledge of best practices needs to be codified and shared among stakeholders,
- guidelines on how to mainstream DRR, particularly in the social aspects related to reducing vulnerabilities, and
- creation of data system for monitoring DRR,

4) **Ms. Helena Molin-Valdes** of UNISDR congratulated GoI for launching NPDRR. In her speech, she expressed hope that multi-stakeholder national platform can become a critical step to increase inclusive, well coordinated and efficient actions and outcomes to build resilience and reduce disaster risks at all levels of society in India. She also expressed concern about growing disasters and losses incurred by them and shared that reducing disaster risk requires actions from many disciplines and sectors, at different federal and sub national levels in the public domain, with civil society and academia as well as



private sectors and business community, which are often responsible for 70-85 % of overall investments. She informed that UNISDR is shortly launching a “Global Assessment Report” on the topic “From Shared Risk to Shared Values: The Business Case for DRR” wherein it is shown that direct disaster losses are approximately 50 percent higher than the internationally reported figure. The total direct losses in 40 low and middle income countries amount to US \$ 305 billion over the last 30 years. Of these, more than 30 percent were not internationally reported. The total expected annual global loss from earthquakes and cyclone wind damage alone now amounts to US \$ 180 billion per year. Small and medium enterprises are particularly at risk – a single disaster may wipe out all or large parts of business capital of small enterprises.

Highlighting the fact of growing disaster risks, she stated that there is a need to rethink the incentives and regulatory frameworks that would enable private investment to contribute to safety and resilience. She emphasised the need for National Platform to consider two main challenges i.e. first to design strategies on how to engage and reach out to the general citizens and vulnerable groups with resilience and risk reduction messages and the second how to make risk information and resilience activities mainstreamed as a part of line ministries responsibilities and sector investments through budget alignment and regulations. Showing concern about the next round of talk related to post HFA, she said that there is need to build on what we have and inject an inspiring vision to address the disaster risks in the 21st century, to look ahead and beyond what we know today. There is also need to muster more political will at the national level to integrate DRR into national and local policies and planning processes, to ensure local action and local ownership to implement ownership to implement strategies and plans. She reiterated that our motto is *Resilient People-Resilient Planet; Invest today for a Safer Tomorrow*”.

5. **Dr. J. S. Samra**, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority, Planning Commission, while highlighting the historical perspective of drought in India said that over a period of two centuries (between 1801 and 2012), India experienced 44 severe droughts. One of these, in 1979 reduced food grain production by 20 percent; another, in 1987, damaged 58.6 million hectares of cultivated land, affecting 285 million people. Analysing the data of EM DAT, he said that the frequency and intensity of drought have increased due to climate change, which is one of the important contributing factor of drought.



He mentioned that about 28% of the Country’s total area is vulnerable to drought and annually about 50 million people in the country are exposed to this crisis. Highlighting some of important measures on drought management, he mentioned that immediate measures could be on - supply of drinking water, supply of fodder, feed and food, livestock camps, employment

(MGNREGA), additional power / diesel supply and development of contingency crop production plan.

Components of drought management strategy were also discussed with facts and figures by Dr. Samra. Providing compensation through direct cash payment; loan waiver, gratuitous assistance; loss in animal fertility, and permanent loss in ground waters were other issues raised by him. While summing up his presentation he discussed institutional arrangements to handle disasters in the country and medium / long term strategies for disaster mitigation through:-

- a) Genetic improvement in the drought tolerance of microbes, crops, trees, animals etc.
- b) Exploring the potential of biotechnological tools to insulate new varieties of crops, breeds of animals for drought tolerance, and
- c) Harnessing latest technology of remote sensing, satellite, GPS, GIS, almost real time communication in forecasting, estimating losses and management of disasters.

6. Dr. Vinod Kumar Sharma, Vice Chairman, Sikkim Disaster Management Authority(SDMA) and Professor of IIPA, explained that mainstreaming of DRR is the process of incorporating DRR into humanitarian and development practices. He also referred to the end result that is where the fundamental elements of risk reduction are imbedded into normal development practice and fully institutionalized within government's development agenda. He said that the mainstreaming DRR in development sectors is new and still in nascent stage. In his presentation, he discussed some important DRR efforts made by UN agencies, international organisations and GoI between 1972 and 2005. Discussing the Global Processes and Frameworks for Mainstreaming DRR, he said that the HFA adopted in 2005 at UN World Conference on DRR offers a set of guiding principles for mainstreaming of DM through agreed frameworks, outlining the roles and responsibilities of states, regional and international organisations.



Referring to mainstreaming processes and tools, he highlighted various issues related to establishing and strengthening the regional DM system to reduce risks and to improve response and recovery management, identifying and elaborating national and regional priorities for action, sharing best practices and lessons learnt from DRR, establishing a regional system to develop and implement regional programmes and projects for early warning, establishing a regional information system on prevention, preparedness and management of natural disasters, creating a regional response mechanism dedicated to disaster preparedness, emergency relief and rehabilitation and creating a regional mechanism to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of achievements towards goals and strategies. Emphasizing the key areas crucial to mainstreaming

processes, he also explained some of the important areas through which it can be achieved, i.e. policy, strategy, geographical planning, project cycle management, cross sectoral linkages and institutional capacity.

Highlighting the issue of sustainable development, he mentioned that the importance of linkage between DRR and CCA is paramount. Vulnerability must be addressed in public policy strategies. It must enable and facilitate policy dialogues between CCA and HFA-related policy processes and it must support analysing and interpreting DRR issues in related government departments.

Concluding his presentation, Prof Sharma highlighted the concept of safe tomorrow and referred to number of other important issues i.e. preventing mushrooming of new development projects and settlements in environmentally sensitive areas, reducing socio-economic inequalities in the population and providing for safe & healthy living, and adopting conservation and development in an ECOSYSTEM SENSITIVE manner.

7. **Sh. Nagesh Kumar**, ESCAP, Director, New Delhi, explaining Mainstreaming DRR for achieving MDGs,. He discussed the case study of Cyclone *Nargis*, Myanmar which occurred in 2008. Citing the example of Myanmar he briefed that how disaster leads to poverty and its effects on community as well as on economy.



He also discussed that DRR needs to be integrated into broader development strategies. Describing in detail, he said that while many countries have made commendable efforts in developing policies and plans for DRR, the implementation is often weak. There is an urgent need to strengthen data collection across countries of the region. This is important step in building a strong case to justify sustained investments in DRR from fiscal budgets and long-term public investment plans. He emphasised on investing in DRR that reduces economic vulnerability and enhances resilience. He also emphasised investments to raise agricultural productivity in low lying areas, flood protection & drainage in urban areas, irrigation schemes to enable dry season crop, coastal greenbelt projects etc.

Regarding “setting targets” which will help in designing DRR investments, Sh. Kumar said that on an average disasters cost 2.38% of China’s GDP in the past 20 years. China’s Comprehensive Disaster Prevention and Reduction Plan (2011-2015) hope to reduce losses to less than 1.5% GDP/year. Investments in early warning, risk assessment, ICT for DRR, CBDRM, education and awareness seem to be more beneficial in this regard.

Focus on land use planning, supply chain management and post disaster recovery to “build back better” will reduce the exposure to disasters in the future. Government officials need to be

held accountable to the increasing vulnerability and exposure to disaster risks. Citizen empowerment through the use of social technologies is increasingly exerting accountability pressures on authorities and enhancing the citizen-centricity of government responses.

In his concluding remarks, he discussed the cycle of building resilience of the community i.e. regional cooperation, critical infrastructure, supply chains, financial cooperation, community resilience, and economics of resilience.

8. Summary of Recommendations of Plenary Session-1

- (i) *Lessons learnt from the past disasters to be shared to all stakeholders across the country.*
- (ii) *Massive awareness generation programmes up to local level should be carried out by way of publicity and mock drills for strengthening preparedness.*
- (iii) *There is a need to develop capacity to identify underlying risks through skill development and use of best practices.*
- (iv) *Integration of DRR with sustainable development goals is the need of the hour.*
- (v) *The critical life line infrastructure such as power, water supply and communication be strengthened by way of a comprehensive audit from the point of view of disaster mitigation.*

PLENARY SESSION 2

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES – VIEWS FROM THE STATES/UTs

Chairperson:

Sh. M. Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman, NDMA

Co-Chairperson:

Dr. P. K. Mishra, Chairman, GERC

Rapporteur

Dr. K. J. Anandha Kumar, NIDM

The Proceedings:

Dr. K. J. Anandha Kumar, Associate Professor, NIDM introduced the theme of the session and its objectives:

Objectives of the Session:

- To explore areas of mutual cooperation and collaboration.
- To examine policy and institutional imperatives for successful implementation of policies and programmes.
- To seek convergence of ideas, policies, programmes, expertise and resources at Central, State, District and *Panchayat* level of governance.
- To provide required financial, civil and technological support base to the State/UTs for policy implementation.
- To draw synergy in the policy formulation and implementation of the DRR at different levels of governance.

1) At the outset, **Sh. M. Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman, NDMA** and Chairperson for the session while welcoming the participants, mentioned a number of issues related to implementation of DRR activities by the States :-

- The States have been directed to prepare their State DM Plans and similarly their District DM Plans as well. So far only 14 States have prepared their plans and the rest are in different stages. This should be expedited and all Plans, at the State/UT and District level should be ready at the earliest. There is also a need to constantly review and update the plans at all levels.
- NDMA has issued guidelines for the preparation of Plans at different levels, however there is an urgent need for the revision of guidelines, especially to incorporate the three major

components prevailing at the international level i.e., the Response Plan, Mitigation Plan and Capacity Building Plan.

- The Act stipulated all Ministries at the Centre will have to prepare their plans that NDMA will approve and similarly at the State level all departments have to prepare their plans which SDMA will approve on the basis of NDMA issued guidelines. NDMA has so far developed 17 guidelines for natural, man-made disasters and cross-cutting themes which talks about preparing guidelines and plans.
- There are many action points identified in the NDMA guidelines, which do not need much investment. Plans necessarily don't mean huge investments rather there is a need to start thinking seriously on this matter. An example was given in this regard from the Chairperson's constituency Hyderabad on guidelines for urban flooding and the action regarding de-silting of storm water drains.
- States also need to identify officials who will exclusively look after Disaster Management issues.
- Although States have their own freedom of setting up systems for Disaster Management but it should be practical and effective.

After making the above opening remarks about States, the Chairperson invited the Ministers, VCs- SDMA, representatives from various States to present their views on the implementation of DM activities in the States.

2) Views from the **State of Himachal Pradesh** by **Sh. Kaul Singh Thakur**, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Revenue & Law

Sh. Kaul Singh Thakur stated that geographically and topographically every State or region has its own vulnerability like Tsunami in South, earthquakes in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, etc. Earthquakes are frequent in the Himalayan Region, e.g. on 16th April, 2013 an earthquake measuring 7.8 Richter scale happened in Iran and Pakistan causing loss of lives and property.

The State of Himachal Pradesh has its own problems. Earthquakes, cloud bursts, heavy snowfalls, snow storms, heavy rains, avalanches, landslides, etc. are hazards that the State is vulnerable to and cause heavy loss of lives and properties. Situations have been so bad that the State Government had to declare the affected area disaster prone through notification.



The following requests and suggestions were made by the Minister:-

- Adequate resources to be provided through National Disaster Response Funds(NDRF) for loss of lives and other damages caused due to disasters.

- Consider Himachal Pradesh in special category for higher allocation of funds for disaster relief.
- Better training facilities for government, non-Government and the community people.
- Strengthen the National Disaster Response Force and place its battalions at appropriate and strategic locations. One battalion of NDRF need to be positioned in Himachal Pradesh and the minister assured for allocating suitable land for stationing the battalion.
- Need to strengthen the NGOs, CBOs etc. through training and providing necessary equipment to capacitate local resources for timely response during disaster events.
- As the National Platform will be fruitful for DRR, a request to the chair was made that one such programme should be organized in Shimla too.

3) Views from **the State of Andhra Pradesh by Sh. Raghuvveera Reddy**, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue: The Minister mentioned about the steps state government is taking to reduce the disaster risk.

- The SDMP has been prepared and similar plans have also been prepared at the District, Panchayat and Ward level. By 2015 all the local bodies would have prepared their plans, both urban and rural, and the elected representatives would be able to act upon the DRR initiatives.
- Local community is the first responder to a disaster, as the government machineries take a longer time to reach the affected area. The state government is taking number of steps to increase the community knowledge and understanding of DRR, which are as follows:
 - DM has been made part of Social Studies subject in the School curriculum from VIII to XI Grade/Standard.
 - By 2016, elementary awareness on DM/DRR initiatives will be carried out in all the schools of the State.
 - All candidates appearing for entrance, competitive or recruitment exams will have to answer questions related to DM at all levels, including departmental tests in Andhra Pradesh Services.



The other issues raised by him are as follows:

- The challenge to capacitate the training facilities in public and private institutions.
 - Implementing the NDMA-DRR guidelines through capacity building and empowering community.
 - Need of a comprehensive insurance policy to combat losses incurred.
 - Increase in input subsidies keeping the production cost in mind.
- 4) Views from **the State of Assam by Sh. Prithibi Majhi**, Hon'ble Minister, (Revenue, DM, Labour & Employment and Tea Tribes Welfare)

The minister gave a detailed review of vulnerability profile of Assam and stated that due to its specific geo- physical and climatic conditions are one of the worst disaster prone states of the country. As the state lies in Seismic Zone V, one can feel a tremor at least once in every month. Flood is another cause of major concern in the state. The frequency of flood has increased recently and one of the major impacts is land erosion due to flood. There is a massive land erosion taking place every year, leaving thousands landless and even homeless. Giving this brief about the vulnerability of the State to various natural disasters, the Minister mentioned major DRR activities being carried out by the State:



- Status survey has been carried out in 84 hospitals and 770 schools and the rest is in progress, especially to identify the vulnerability of the structure.
- Flood early warning system is now being put in place, especially in collaboration with the Earth Institute of Colombia, who have lend all technical support.
- An emergency management exercise is now being regularly carried out at different locations. The first of its kind was conducted in Guwahati with almost 20 eminent resource persons attending. Similar exercise was conducted in Jorhat and one is in pipeline to be conducted in Dibrugarh. These are organized to promote public awareness on how to save lives and properties during a disaster.
- The State also developed and introduced integrated helpline number – 108.

Some of the requests the Minister are as given below:-

- NDMA to create the Mitigation Funds and provide it to the SDMA.
- River erosion to be considered as a serious issue and to be enlisted for relief funds.
- Lightning and thunder to be included in list of disasters, eligible for relief grant under SDR Fund.
- Training of Civil Defence volunteers is important and Civil Defence should have branches in all the districts.
- Training of local community to get sufficient help during disasters.

5) Views from **the State of Bihar by Shree Anil Sinha**, Vice-Chairman, Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA): Sh. Anil Sinha shared that BSDMA was established in 2010. So far six meetings have been held especially on earthquake safety and the seventh meeting is scheduled to be held on 24th May, 2013 on flood safety. In fact, every year Bihar observes disaster Safety Week. The other major issues that Sh. Sinha discussed are as follows:-



- In every District of Bihar, the ADM or CEO as per the DM Act 2005 is the in-charge of DM.
- The preparation of SDMP has been a long process as it is developed through a consultative approach and to be completed soon.
- Two tracks of activities which are being carried out in the State are promoting safe construction and public awareness and education on DM issues, reaching out to every home.
- Two important observation from the DM Act, 2005 was raised by Shree Sinha i.e.:-
 - The definition of 'Disaster' is too open and thus classifications should be made for each of the terms referred in the definition for clarity and effective response.
 - Creation of Authorities and their capacity to implement as per the guidelines. National level authority is created effectively, however the States do not have the capacity to implement the national guidelines nor do the district authorities have the capacity, which is the only mechanism to reach out to the lowest level.
- Educational institutes for DRR should be set-up in States as in Gujarat.
- There is no institution at the district level to train people at the local/sub-divisional level.
- Bylaws have all been amended but the question still remains is that whether the Municipalities have the capacity or trainings for its proper implementation?
- Some key suggestions made by Sh. Sinha are to promote knowledge networks, organize annual regional conferences, exchange programmes, promote and create volunteers and the concept of home delivery i.e. take the issue of DM to each home.

6) Views from **the State of Meghalaya by Prof. C. Laloo**, Hon'ble Dy. CM I/C of Revenue & DM:

The Hon'ble Minister discussed in brief about the State vulnerability profile and mentioned various steps being taken by the State Government for DM and few suggestions/ supports required to make the DRR system more effective-

- The SDMA was established in 2008 and the DM Authorities have been established in the districts as well.
- DM Cell and Training Institute have been set-up and a Central Training Institute is also functioning, especially for training on Search & Rescue techniques.
- A total of eight EOCs have been constructed, one at the Headquarter and seven in the districts.
- After receiving recommendations from expert committee the State bylaws were enforced.



- DM has been incorporated into the school curriculum, especially from 8th to 12th Standard/Grade.
- There is a six month course being offered on DM.
- The State Government promoting DRR by construction of better roads and earthquake resistant buildings. Safety of life-line buildings is also being assessed
- Equipments for specialized training are also being provided.
- Various schemes and programmes of GoI are very rigid and should be made flexible, e.g. *Indira Awas Yojna*, which benefits only for BPL, whereas, disaster impact is felt by all and during a relief or rehabilitation programme the real beneficiaries may be denied of their right, just because they are not under BPL.
- As disasters are frequent in the State, more support is solicited from the Central Government.

7) Views from **the State of Odisha by Sh. Surya Narayan Patro**, Hon'ble Minister, Revenue & DM: The Minister quoted number of examples of windstorms, floods and droughts that happened in the State and caused serious problem. Before the flood time, preparations are made to alert the community on the situation and help is rendered to people to move to a safer place. The Minister mentioned that officers and public need to be well prepared to face disasters. Capacity building of all stakeholders is important. Flood is the major issue in the State and adequate fund is required for relief. He also requested that Government of India to permit usage of NDR Fund and SDR Fund partially to support preparedness and mitigation activities. He also cautioned on the need to administer NDR Fund without any political consideration.



8) Views from **the State of Punjab by Sh. S.Bikram Singh Majithia**, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue & Rehabilitation and DM: The Hon'ble Minister mentioned that the SDMA have been setup in Punjab, however, adequate funds are needed for proper implementation of DRR activities. The State needs support, especially in terms of funds from the Centre for developing effective DRR system in the State.



Some of the suggestions made by the Minister include:-

- The implementing or the enforcement agencies should be made responsible.
- Exchanging ideas is key – learning from each others' experience adds value.
- Such platforms should be held in places that have already experienced disasters, like Bhuj or Odisha, to get the feel of the situation more practically.

- Educating children and women on DM issues is important.
- Appreciated the NDRF's response and informed that 50 acres of land has been made available in Ludhiana in order to set-up an NDRF battalion.
- The 5% bar of money in SDRF should be increased to 20 to 25% at the initial stage to ensure better infrastructure.
- Compensation under SDRF for relief victims must be realistic and based on market value of the assets lost during disasters.

9) Views from **the State of Uttar Pradesh by Sh. Ambika Chaudhary**, Hon'ble Minister, Relief and Rehabilitation: The Minister discussed vulnerability of the State to natural disasters and other problems in detail and mentioned various steps taken by the state government in order to reduce local risk. Few of the steps are as given below:

- Uttar Pradesh DM Act was formulated before the National DM Act.
- In 2005, the State Government had issued direction mandating all buildings to be earthquake resistant.
- About 2000 engineers and over 10000 masons were trained in earthquake resistant building construction techniques.
- Primary school designed and directed to be built with earthquake resistant technology.
- Disaster Cells also formed under Health Services.
- Fire Services to be managed by the State DM Department.
- Process of setting up SDRF is in progress in the State.
- Training institute has been formed and trainings are carried out every year for DM.



Some important suggestions made by the Minister are as follows:

- The State require substantial support from central government to improve upon the shortfalls.
- River erosion should also be considered as natural disaster and compensation be given to the victims from SDRF.
- Circulars should be made simple, clear, understandable and in local languages.
- Promote awareness especially among children and women.
- Incorporate DM in all institutional curriculums, especially from I to XII Standards/Grades, colleges, technical institutes, etc.
- Rehabilitation and Mitigation plan should be combined together.
- Amount for relief should be increased and guidelines to be made simple.

10) View from **the State of Sikkim by Prof. V. K. Sarma**, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, SDMA: Prof. Sharma stated that the State of Sikkim is vulnerable to various disasters like earthquake,

landslide, flood, etc. During the last two years lots of learning have taken place and number of things have also been put in place, such as:-

- The SDMP and the DDMPs have been finalized.
- Earthquake resistant technology is widely promoted, especially in constructing schools, high rise buildings and also the secretariat.
- Microzonation of the City of Gangtok is in progress.
- DM issue is promoted at the village level.
- Training Equipment to be used in search & rescue operation are being provided.
- Under the School Safety Programme, the target is to reach every school in the State.
- Capacity building is important and the help of NIDM to train on IRS for the engineers is appreciated.
- The Chief Minister of Sikkim has announced to set up the Himalayan Institute of DM and Climate Change in the State with an assurance of adequate support from the Prime Minister.
- SDRF personnel have been identified, however training is a constraint. Land has been identified for setting up of NDRF battalion and once positioned will be effectively utilized for SDRF training.
- Civil Defence volunteers are available in large numbers, however training is a constraint.
- The State was selected by NIDM for imparting training on IRS and in due course of time all district officials in the State will be fully acquainted with it.

11) **Views from other State Governments:**

- (i) Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh suggested to set-up technologies for handling landslides and to provide adequate mitigation fund. The State also needs a battalion of NDRF stationed.
- (ii) DG, ATI, State of Jharkhand suggested adopting suitable technology such as Satellite phone facility for continuous communication to maintain proper communication during disasters.
- (iii) Representative of State of Haryana stated that a National Legal Services Authority should be made responsible to solve the legal problems related to disasters.

12) While concluding the session, **Sh. M. Shashidhar Reddy, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NDMA** appreciated the responses from the States and their useful suggestions to look forward and to resolve various problems. In response to some of the requests and suggestions made by the speakers, he stated:-

- After reviewing the fund status it came to the notice that the States have not utilized the allocated funds as they were not aware of the availability of funds.
- Local bodies have funds for fire-fighting and capacity building funds are also available.

- The states need to make necessary legislative, institutional budgetary, project preparation, monitoring and evaluation arrangements.
- There should be strengthening of vertical and horizontal integration of DRR plans among various government departments, various line agencies and neighbouring states.
- The states were directed to identify one school per district for retrofitting under the “School Safety Programme”, which is being implemented in 22 states and 2 schools in each district. In response, only 8 states have identified the schools for retrofitting.
- Proposals were requested from 9 States and 4 Union Territories for the funds to be received from the World Bank. Only two States came up with suitable proposals.
- The Finance Commission has to look into the mitigation fund aspect and resolve the issues related to it.
- The states are encouraged to put forth a strong submission for allocation of funds with the Finance/Planning Commission when they visit the States for allocation of funds in the 14th Finance Commission.

13) Summary of Recommendations of Plenary Session 2:

- (i) *The States may consider introducing DM in the school curriculum and also carried out regular mock exercises to create mass awareness. The NIDM may help the States in dissemination of knowledge and good practices through IDKN.*
- (ii) *The National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF), as envisaged in DM Act 2005, should be established on priority.*
- (iii) *The relief and response guidelines and compensation packages are required to be revised considering the practical difficulties faced by States during various disasters.*
- (iv) *The States may examine the options of Comprehensive Insurance Policy to cover losses suffered by public infrastructure and public assets due to disasters.*

THEMATIC SESSION 1:

HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY FOR DRR

Chairperson:

Dr. B. B. Bhattacharjee, Hon'ble Member, NDMA

Speakers:

Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, UNESCAP

Dr. M Mahapatra, IMD

Dr. Satendra, NIDM

Rapporteur

Dr. Anil K Gupta, NIDM

The Proceedings:

Dr. Anil K Gupta, Associate Professor, NIDM, welcomed the Chairperson, panelists and delegates and introduced the theme and objectives of the session.

Objectives of the session:

- To explore techniques and technologies relevant to DRR and create a possible technology resource base.
- To create awareness about the possible use of potential technology for DRR and its scalability.
- To train the disaster managers about the use of technology in DM systems.
- To use of technology in disaster mitigation and preparedness in collaboration with various government and private agencies and institutions.
- To translate various scientific tools and learning for the use of common persons.

1) The thematic session was chaired by **Dr. B. Bhattacharjee, Hon'ble Member of NDMA**. Dr. Bhattacharjee, in his opening remarks discussed the significance of the session as a crucial input to the platform. He expressed that though wide-range of hazard related studies, involving modelling and simulation are ongoing, it is important to appraise about the potentials, these technologies can offer to various stakeholders at the implementation level. He also spoke on climate change, impending new and aggravated risk of hydro-meteorological disasters and stressed on the role technologies can play in establishing hazard profile and risks. Planning is crucial and science and technology play a key role in it. In this connection it is important to deliberate on

“what is expected from S&T, in particular by disaster planners, and responders, where decisions and time effectiveness are crucial.” More efficient, fast, reliable and cost effective data and maps are key tools of effective response mechanism. Sh. Bhattacharjee said that prior and proper information and risk scenarios in case of chemical and industrial accidents can make the disasters preventable. Vulnerability reduction and mitigation of natural hazards, like in case of earthquake is very important and technological interventions at ground level can reduce the risk of natural disasters. It is also important that S&T promotion for DRR need support of effective implementation of knowledge and enforcement.



2) **Dr. Sanjay Srivastava**, Regional Advisor of UNESCAP, during his presentation shared three recent international experiences and the lessons learned about use of S&T for DRR. Indonesia is allocating 1% of its GDP on DRR, 80% of which is dedicated for prevention and mitigation and not on emergency response or relief. All the geographical units in Indonesia have been evaluated based on the Indonesia Disaster Risk Index, and from the results it is evident that S&T interventions aimed at prevention activities helped in reducing the risk level. 2nd experience he shared was from Japan, where there is a proper flow from DRR Law to DRR Planning and finally leading to DRR inclusive development. Japan’s strategy also emphasizes on ‘resilient recovery’ to reduce the exposure to future hazards. Sharing the example of Sendai city of Japan, he expressed concern on land-use planning and its foolproof enforcement for disaster reduction. 3rd example Dr. Srivastava shared was from Thailand floods 2011, which resulted in economic loss of 44 billion US dollars. However during 2011 Thailand floods, Early Warning, Resilient Land Use, Satellite imagery products saved good number of lives. Thailand’s management of this flood incidence was an excellent example, where social media information, collected through smart phones etc., was used by the government for disaster response and relief action. He also stressed on the need of accountability of DRR and introduction of social audit for DRR services. Geo-informatics and Space based information needs to be promoted for DRR as a basic service.



3) **Dr. M. Mahapatra**, Head of the Cyclone information system of India Meteorological Department(IMD) delivered a presentation on early warning systems and role of technology under the mandates of IMD, which mainly focuses on hydro-meteorological disasters like floods, drought, extreme weather events like cold wave, heat wave, etc. Meteorological Information is used in several ways for DRR in India. Key roles of IMD are - hazard monitoring and assessment; early warning and mitigation; technical support in vulnerability analysis, mapping and risk assessment; technical support in preparedness & planning and technical support in management of natural resources from disasters.



Dr. Mahapatra stated that IMD in the year 2012, IMD has modified its SOPs for more effective communication and sharing/distribution of data and forecasts, with the vast network of national, state and district level administration or agencies. Now IMD is focussing on improving the indigenous capacity of improved met data generation, effective cyclone warning using doppler radars, and improving disaster response by effective communication of the warning. Flood forecasts are issued by the Central Water Commission(CWC) using the rainfall forecasts given by IMD and putting in the flood forecast models along with the reservoirs levels and discharge data. He called for the need to promote indigenous technology research and industry's support in promoting this, for more self reliance in the area of effective weather forecasting. He stressed on the need of effective last mile connectivity for cyclone warning where All India Radio has been very useful and effective for saving fishermen communities from cyclone disasters. IMD is currently working on a Himalayan meteorology project with the support of Technology Development Board of the Ministry of S&T.

4) **Dr. Satendra**, Executive Director, NIDM, presented an overview of technology application in various activities related to various phases of DM with special emphasis on early warning, vulnerability reduction and capacity development. He called for improving technology application in promoting training and awareness for effective mitigation and response for disasters. Reviewing the S&T based approaches for capacity building and training activities in the country, he shared the strategies of NIDM in this direction. He discussed the use of technology in NIDM's ongoing programmes i.e., on-line training programmes, face to face training using video-conferencing application, web based self-study courses, satellite based programmes etc. NIDM is in process of developing a National Disaster Risk Reduction Portal (NDRRP), where disaster and its prevention/management related information at the national and state levels will be available for knowledge sharing and learning



from each other's experiences. He also mentioned about the satellite based courses for community based disaster risk management. NIDM is also working on promoting cooperation with Universities and institutions for promoting use of S&T and research activities in DM.

5) **Mr. Darshan Patel**, Scientist, Space Application Centre (ISRO), Ahmedabad made a presentation on application of satellite linked automatic weather station for weather forecasting and DRR in India. Local weather is affected not only by the local atmospheric conditions but also by regional and global systems. Forecasting in the tropics is more complex and difficult. WMO recommendation about observation network over tropics one Automatic Weather Station (AWS) is needed every 100 sq. Km". Installing more AWS, provides guidance for short term detailed forecasts which is useful for remote area like coastal, Himalayan region and North-East parts of India. He shared that the indigenous AWS consists of meteorological sensors, data logger and transmission of data. Its measure parameters at ground level are ambient temperature, atmospheric pressure, relative humidity, wind direction, wind speed, sun shine, rainfall, etc. These employ automatically records with updates at regular intervals and transmits data to the satellite.



In the concluding remarks Mr. Patel mentioned that AWS installed at appropriate places provides near real time observations at the surface level and helps in micro level analysis and forecasting; hence they are used world-wide for meteorological and climatologically monitoring. Further the acquired data provides information and alerts with its effective use to improve disaster preparedness and minimize damages caused by disasters. .

6) At the end, Dr. Bhattacharjee, Hon'ble Member of NDMA and Chairperson of the thematic session gave concluding remarks and called for regular dialogue on the updated technology applications in DRR. He emphasised that technology providers need to have a dialogue with technology user groups for the potentials that can serve various activities in different phases of DM.

7) **Summary of Recommendations of Thematic Session 1:**

- (i) *The technology must provide what is happening at disaster site and should be able to tell the damage and further help in Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA).*
- (ii) *The IMD should work closely with DM organisations at local levels and integrate modern weather forecasting with indigenous technology.*
- (iii) *Application of Science & Technology for better Preparedness and Response is required.*
- (iv) *GIS based data and Decision Support System for Emergency Management may be developed duly linking it with Advance Communication System.*
- (v) *The integration of DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) may be carried out with good simulation models.*

THEMATIC SESSION 2: MAKING OUR CITIES SAFE

Chairperson:

Dr Sudhir Krishna, Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development

Speakers:

Prof. Jamal Ansari, former Director, SPA

Prof. Ravi Sinha, IIT Mumbai

Prof. Kapil Gupta, IIT, Mumbai

Paper Presented By:

Smt. Nandita Das, Assam Government

Prof. S. K. Nath, IIT Kharagpur

Dr. Pawan Kumar, TCPO, Delhi

Rapporteurs:

Ms. Chandrani B. Neogi, NIDM

The Proceedings:

Ms. Chandrani Bandyopadhyay, Assistant Professor, NIDM, welcomed the Chairperson, speakers and all delegates and introduced the theme and objectives of the session.

Objectives of the session:

- To identify the emerging urban issues with respect to DRR and integrate them into urban planning.
- To evolve a holistic strategy for multi hazard DRR.
- To create public awareness about the possible hazard vulnerabilities and commensurate DRR practice.
- To inform stakeholders and general public about the disaster preparedness through community participation.
- To evolve mechanism for enhancing capacity building of local government for urban risk management.

1) **Dr Sudhir Krishna**, Secretary, Urban Development, in his Chairman's address mentioned the trend of rapid urbanisation in India, with the smaller cities showing maximum growth. There is a close correlation between urbanisation and per capita income. He emphasised the need for planned development of cities, including strategic densification, land use zoning, social infrastructure and inclusive planning. Building bye-laws have to be revisited and third party inspection mechanism has to be established. He raised the issue that many fast-growing towns, almost 40% are not notified



as towns; as a result regulation controls are not strictly implemented. He also emphasised the issue of better coordination between Planning Authorities and Municipalities. Integration of DM aspects in Master Plans and Local Area Plans along with awareness and publicity are other important requirements of a safe city.

2) **Prof. J. H. Ansari**, former Director, School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi in his presentation titled “**Increasing Flood Proneness of Cities - Can Land Use Planning Help?**” attempted to identify the causal relationship between unplanned growths of cities with increasing flood risks. Urban areas all over the world are subjected to increasing risks of natural disasters, of which floods are the most frequently occurring catastrophic events. The world's cities are also



faced with increasing risks in terms of disruptions caused to human population, built environment and natural ecosystems due to the increasing trend of concentration of population in large urban agglomerations. Cities are becoming increasingly flood prone, mainly due to faulty urban development policies. Physical planners thus need to adopt flood reduction and management as one of the guiding principles of land use planning. Rather than depending on engineering solutions, a holistic approach (inclusive of issues of poverty,

urbanisation, environment and land use zoning) would encourage DRR.

The main issues raised in the presentation include:

- Urbanisation pressure forces the growth of settlements into flood prone areas.
- Urban poor compelled to inhabit low-lying river basins in large numbers.
- Faulty urban development policies are often responsible for aggravating the intensity and impact of floods.
- Deforestation in hill areas leads to soil erosion and silting of riverbeds in the plains.
- Dumping of 'malba' to construct unauthorized settlement on raised river beds worsens problems, besides increasing risk.

- Construction across drainage channels and use of resultant dry land for real estate development leads to entrapment of floodwater and flooding for extended periods.

3) **Prof. Ravi Sinha**, IIT Mumbai in his presentation “**Managing Major Urban Disasters – A Need for Paradigm Change**” focused on the impact of relatively rare catastrophic events on



Indian cities. The rapidly growing Indian cities with one of the highest population densities in the world are highly vulnerable to catastrophic events. The rapid urban growth is more migration-based than natural which translated into poor economic resilience of a large section of people. However, infrastructure has not kept pace with increasing population. Large disasters expose vulnerabilities, while at the same time the societal acceptance of disasters is gradually reducing coupled with changes in economic structures.

Therefore the conventional approach of DM is not scalable beyond a point and catastrophic disasters will pose a scale challenge. A different approach is required for catastrophic disasters and a new paradigm is required.

4) **Prof. Kapil Gupta**, IIT, Mumbai in his presentation titled ‘**Making our Cities Safe from Flooding**’ pointed out that urban flooding is increasing due to various factors. While urban floods



are often aggravated by heat island effect and hydraulic effects of urbanisation, etc., what is needed is a city-specific approach for planning. Rapid urbanisation, uncontrolled developments, climate change, inadequate or no drainage is some of the contributing factors for increased trend of urban flooding.

He went on to underline various techniques such as source control, porous pavements, underground storage, rainwater harvesting, roof-top greening, river weirs, water collection points etc. for flood proofing cities. He mentioned the need for developing drainage manuals for cities and towns.

5) **Ms. Nandita Hazarika**, Govt. of Assam, focused on the experiences of Assam on comprehensive DRR measures, including uniform building bye-laws, Non-Government Educational Institution Act, 2006, mandatory school plans and mock-drills, HRV exercise, safety audit of schools, multi-hazard assessment of Ground plus 4 storey buildings and city wide mock drills in the State. Single helpline numbers and publicity campaigns are other measures taken by the state.

6) **Sh. Sankar Kumar Nath**, IIT Kharagpur, in his presentation titled “Seismic Microzonation towards Earthquake Disaster Mitigation” presented a framework for seismic microzonation outlining the stages from regional to local. As seismic zonation at regional level does not incorporate local and secondary effects induced by the earthquakes leading to its infeasibility in applications for land use development and planning, a holistic seismic microzonation framework is advocated that outlines compilation of information related to seismicity, identification of potential seismic source zones, development of seismicity models, and maximum earthquake prognosis at the regional level supported by earthquake catalogues and other relevant data, such as fault database. The exposures of the vulnerability components such as human population, buildings, etc., add to the seismic hazard and characterize seismic risk of a region. Seismic microzonation has emerged as an important issue in high risk urban centers across the globe. The compilation of data pertaining to geological, geophysical, geotechnical and seismological aspects comprises a major part of the venture, which necessitates a consortium of several public and private organisations engaged in diversified but related domains. It is expected that seismic microzonation may enable updating building codes as well as formulate actions for hazard mitigation at sub-regional and local levels. Active programmes related to infrastructural improvements and response planning can lead to reduction of seismic risk.

7) **Dr Pawan Kumar**, TCPO, Delhi spoke on transportation issues in urban areas. Sometimes failure of transport system leads to disasters and sometimes natural disasters also leads to failure of the transport system. Failure of transport systems can aggravate the impact of disasters. There is a need for focused Emergency Transport Plan with multi-modal public transport plan and transport infrastructure plan for dealing with transport disasters as well as transportation issues during other disasters.

7) The interaction that followed focused on the need for involving the community, linkage to health emergency preparedness and enhancing the capacity of the people and regular conduct of mock-drills.

8) **Summary of Recommendations of Thematic Session 2:**

- (i) *The Building Byelaws must be suitably incorporated by States and Cities and implemented vigorously.*
- (ii) *Adequate number of trained personnel should be engaged by urban local bodies to work as structural safety auditors in seismic zone IV and V areas.*
- (iii) *There is a need to foster strategic densification of the towns/cities instead of promoting haphazard development.*
- (iv) *Multi - Modal Public Transportation Network System needs to be created to provide a variety of options and multiple links to each destination.*
- (v) *Tools of Probabilistic Risk Assessment should be used for Urban Planning and Land Use Zoning.*
- (vi) *Flood management should be integral part of Land Use Planning which shall focus on providing sufficient embankments/safeguards for flood plains, engineered structured and afforestation in hill catchment of rivers.*

THEMATIC SESSION 3:

RISK FINANCING MECHANISM

Chairperson:

Sh. T. S. Vijayan, Chairman, IRDA

Speakers:

Sh. Saurabh Dani, The World Bank

Sh. R. Chandrasekran, Secretary General, GI Council

Ms. Archana Gulati, Financial Advisor, NDMA

Paper Presented By:

Sh. Vishal Pathak, AIDMI, Ahmedabad

Dr. P. K. Singh, NDMA

Rapporteurs:

Mr. Arun Sahdeo, NIDM

The Proceedings:

Mr. Arun Sahdeo, Rapporteur of the session welcomed the participants and introduced the Chairperson and Speakers of the Session. He also highlighted the objectives of the Session.

Objectives of the session:

- To draw commitment for developing financial tools for risk transfer.
- To assess the existing risk transfer mechanisms in different countries and build consensus for the need of risk insurance.
- To try to develop a possible and practical risk financing mechanism for India during disasters.
- To explore possibilities for protecting poor and vulnerable groups and draw road map.
- To facilitate access to disaster insurance products to protect the livelihood of the poor against extreme weather events.

1) The Session began with the introductory remarks by **Sh. T. S. Vijayan, Chairman, IRDA** who gave an overview of non-life insurance in India, which of late has acquired acceptance and has been gaining ground. He focused on the importance of insurance as a risk transfer mechanism which could play an important role in mitigation and management of natural hazards. He emphasised the need for developing user friendly policies so as to attract the common man. He also spoke about a range of risk transfer mechanism such as catastrophe bonds, catastrophe pools, index

based insurance, micro insurance etc, which are practiced in various countries. He spoke about the needs of social protection programmes and measures such as safety nets and calamity relief fund which could be effective for disaster risk. He also referred to the vulnerabilities of people and public as well as private assets to various natural hazards, the incidence of large state poverty and impact of natural calamities. He spoke about the initiatives of NDMA and IRDA towards developing appropriate risk financing mechanism. He emphasised that policy level interventions are required for introducing effective risk finance mechanism in the country.



2) **Sh. Saurabh Dani, Disaster Risk Management Specialist from the World Bank** in his

presentation titled “Disaster Risk Financing & Insurance: An essential element of effective disaster risk management”, gave an overview of the rising disaster risks in South Asia. He spoke about massive gap between economic losses insured and losses, non-insured and the global trend and also discussed about cascading impact of disasters and need for cost benefit analysis of different financial instruments. He also discussed about high impact low frequency disasters which are often forgotten. He recommended ex-post and ex-ante funding arrangements, market interventions and insurance of public assets in



which huge investments are made. He emphasised on risk identification, risk reduction, finance protection, preparedness and post disaster reconstruction as essential components of disaster risk management framework. He further dwelt upon disaster risk financing and insurance programmes in various countries and the disaster risk financial strategies and policies both for ex-post and ex-ante financing. He discussed about three tiered risk layering approach in terms of frequency and severity of impact resulting in high risk, medium risk and low risk layers and disaster risk financing instruments available for the corresponding layers. He further, presented global best practices of risk transfer and insurance tools from Columbia (CAT Swaps), Mexico (FONDEN), Philippines (Cat DDO), Caribbean (CCRIF), Turkey (TCIP). Mr. Dani further emphasised on need for developing data sets and modeling based on which innovative risk finance and insurance tools relevant to Indian conditions could be developed, particularly taking into account vulnerability of the country to natural hazards and socio-economic conditions of people. Mr. Dani mentioned that importance should be given for disaster risk financing instruments which could be based on global based practices. While developing such tools, access to immediate financial support, in the aftermath of disasters such as reserve funds, contingent funds, parametric instruments etc. should be considered. He also talked about reducing Government’s contingent liability against natural disasters in terms of protecting public asset and promoting private

insurance market. He recommended intensification of agricultural insurance, introduction of mandatory property insurance and various financial tools parametric for the country such as contingent credit, and parametric risk insurance.

3) **Sh. R. Chandrasekaran, Secretary General, General Insurance Council** cited examples of natural calamities like Mumbai floods 2005 resulting in huge losses. He discussed about non-penetration of non-life insurance in India as a result of which huge economic losses occur, which are not claimed as a part of insurance. Mr. Chandrasekaran spoke about various non-life insurance products in India. He further discussed Lloyd’s “Global Under Insurance Report 2012” highlighting that India has only 15.7% of insured proportion of losses for the period 2004 to 2011. He discussed about natural catastrophe insurance in Thailand, which covers 92% of households. He was of the opinion that developing of modeling may take long time and efforts should be made to introduce some sort of standard product which is neither a saving product nor an investment but would take care of losses resulting from disasters. He also talked about making it mandatory to have insurance of property in high risk areas. He further discussed about recovery and reconstruction and indexation of relief expenditure and insured losses in some of the major disasters. He also discussed about funding gaps for disasters. He specifically referred to the observations made by the 13th Finance Commission which stated that *“for low frequency and high impact disasters, financing through insurance mechanism is certainly a feasible option however; low level insurance protection in India, Insurance Products covering disasters penetration events may only mechanism some time in future”*. He further talked about public liability insurance at 1991 and various products offered by insurance companies. At the end, he presented insurance mechanism/solution for consideration.



4) **Ms. Archana Gulati, Financial Advisor, NDMA**, in her presentation discussed about financial impacts of disasters which are debilitating and cascading. She talked about financial resilience, which is a critical component of effective DM. The primary aim should be to ensure availability of resources for response, recovery and reconstruction. She focused on having combination of risk financing and risk transfer financial tools. Further, she dwelt upon the present scenario of disaster relief expenditure which is met out of by CRF/SDRF, NCCF/NDRF. She talked about the gaps in funding arrangement



resulting in diverting of funds from developing activities. She also talked about the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission with reference to role of insurance. She further discussed international best practices such as compulsory earthquake insurance of residential buildings in Turkey, New Zealand, Taiwan, Mexico and Caribbean. She mentioned about the initiatives taken by NDMA in collaboration with IRDA for developing appropriate risk transfer and insurance tools. She talked about catastrophic risk layering in terms of risk retention, risk transfer for low frequency high impact and high frequency low impact disasters. In her concluding remarks, she emphasised on developing comprehensive risk financing strategy and bringing innovative and affordable products, bring legislative regulations, incentives and subsidies and not for exploring use of insurance for recovery and reconstruction.

5) Mr. Vishal Pathak spoke in his Paper on “Investing in Insurance-Reducing Vulnerability and Risk” by AIDMI about urgent need for wider natural disaster insurance coverage as well as ex-ante risk financing mechanism as a part of comprehensive disaster risk management study. He dwelt upon lack of insurance culture in the country and non-availability of micro-insurance options resulting in financial exclusion for the poor and marginalized people. Mr.Pathak presented a case of micro insurance intervention made by AIDMI in the post Bhuj Earthquake which has been found as a successful model for poor and low income people. He described about the micro-insurance scheme designed by AIDMI with initial support from two regulated public sector insurance companies and called “*Afat Vimo*”, which means ‘disaster insurance’ in Gujarati. *Afat Vimo* covers five risks: losses of life, trade stock, livelihood assets, house and house contents of policyholders, with an annual premium of around \$4.50 and a total potential benefit of \$1,560 (not necessarily the maximum payout) across the various components of the coverage. The scheme covers damage or loss through 19 kinds of disaster including earthquake, flood, fire, cyclone, lightning strike and landslides.

Mr. Pathak informed that the product was first sold in April 2004 to 3,700 policyholders from at least 900,000 families who lost shelter after the 2001 Gujarat earthquake, and was later extended to another 3,500 people from among the 2004 tsunami victims in Tamil Nadu, the 2005 Jammu & Kashmir earthquake victims, and 2007-08 flood victims of Bihar. As part of the relief and recovery activities, the communities were informed of the possible ways to pool risk, and transfer it through insurance. *Afat Vimo* is a financial tool for risk sharing, reducing the policyholder’s underlying risks and offering financial protection. In addition to the policy itself, policyholders are supported with micro-mitigation measures such as fire safety, seismic-safe construction practices and business development support. This recovers life and non-life insurance and has been quite successful.

6) Mr. P. K. Singh SRO, NDMA presenting his Paper on “Changing Dimension in Disaster Risk Transfer” discussed about global and Indian disaster scenario, current risk transfer mechanism in the country, recommendations of the successive Finance Commissions, best international practices etc. He dwelt upon and status of current risk transfer mechanism in India. He also talked about recommendations of successive 13th Finance Commission and how insurance

could be an important tool for DRR. He also presented some of the international practices from Caribbean, Mexico, Turkey, Columbia and Philippines. He further discussed about insurance options for relief and reconstruction and risk transfer mechanism. In his concluding remarks, he stated that the bottom of the pyramid approach may be adopted and puts people wants (not needs) as a centre and design and implementation and collaborative approach to build common grounds among players involved in DRR.

7) **Summary of Recommendations of Thematic Session 3:**

- (i) *There is a need to develop Risk Financing and Insurance Instruments in the country for dedicated funding towards disaster affected areas.*
- (ii) *The scope of Public Insurance Liability should be expanded to cover public places and establishments.*
- (iii) *The States should be encouraged to purchase/promote insurance policies for meeting various response and re-construction activities.*
- (iv) *Micro insurance should be encouraged as a safeguard for poor and marginalized and for small businesses.*
- (v) *The possibility of greater risk pooling over large geographical area may be explored.*

THEMATIC SESSION 4:

LONG TERM RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION

Chairperson:

Sh. P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, Additional Secretary, Inter State Council, GoI

Co-Chairperson:

Dr. P.K. Mishra, Chairman, GERC

Speaker:

Prof. Santosh Kumar, NIDM

Rapporteur:

Dr. Surya Parkash-NIDM,

The Proceedings:

Dr. Surya Prakash, Associate Professor, NIDM, welcomed the Chairman, speakers and all delegates and introduced the theme and objectives of the session.

Objectives of the session:

- To develop tools and techniques for capturing direct and indirect losses in post disasters scenario.
- To explore possibilities of developing funding mechanism for long term disaster recovery.
- To assess the possibility for insurance for repair/ reconstruction of public utilities/critical infrastructure
- To participatory and capacity building approach should be strengthened for speedy recovery and rehabilitation process to build forward better and accessible.
- To explore ways and means to hasten recovery and rehabilitation efforts for empowering people.

1) The session started with the presentation on “Long Term Recovery and Rehabilitation – Issues for Discussion” by **Sh. P. G. Dhar Chakrabarti**. He informed that UN ISDR has defined Recovery as the restoration, and improvement where appropriate facilities, livelihoods and living conditions of disaster-affected communities, including efforts to reduce disaster risk factors. Thereafter, he highlighted that Priority Action 5 under HFA emphasised on strengthening disaster preparedness for effective response and

recovery at all levels. He mentioned about the six key activities proposed under the HFA for implementing effective recovery operations.

Mr. Chakrabarti raised four major issues related to recovery i.e.

- (i) Should disaster recovery figure more prominently in Post-Hyogo Framework?
- (ii) What are the current gaps in our knowledge and understanding of disaster recovery and how such gaps should be met?
- (iii) How to develop mechanism for long term recovery and rehabilitation from every type of disaster – mega, medium & small?
- (iv) What should be done to institutionalize disaster recovery in the DM system of India?



He also discussed on the five principles for recovery including a holistic, long term, build back better, sustainable and inclusive approach. He told that although there is a mention of recovery approach in the DM Policy of 2009, but there is a strong need to have a clear cut policy on recovery and rehabilitation based on damage, loss and need assessment through a well developed recovery framework.

2) **Dr. P.K. Mishra** made a presentation on case study on Lessons Learnt from Kutch



Earthquake 2001. He discussed about the devastation caused by the earthquake in Gujarat during 2001 and highlighted the activities undertaken in various sectors for recovery. He told that 80% of the houses were constructed under Owner Driven Scheme (ODS) and 20% under the Public-Private Partnership programme (PPP). Livelihood Restoration Programme was managed for about 2.5 lakh people in the farming and industrial sectors. Social Rehabilitation

Programme was undertaken, particularly for the disabled, old, women, orphaned, paraplegic and other such vulnerable groups of the society. He mentioned key factors in the success of recovery operation in Gujarat include creation of a new institutional structure in the form of the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA), a lean and efficient structure, extremely dedicated and committed personnel, professional approach and operational flexibility, organizational inter-linkages and optimal use of existing structures, involvement of expertise and specialized knowledge of institutions

and individuals from other States and countries, effective coordination mechanism for participation of NGOs, donors and international organisations , and commitment of the government at the highest level.

He recommended that a strong foundation for national-level initiatives is required for undertaking activities related to mitigation projects, changes in syllabus and training of teachers of technical institutions, capacity building in search and rescue as well as community-based disaster preparedness initiatives.

3) **Prof. Santosh Kumar** from NIDM spoke on the theme “Long Term Recovery – Unfolding Challenges”. He clarified that recovery is not just restricted to physical



construction but also extends beyond to life and livelihood recovery, immediate restoration, recovery of housing, financial recovery, and infrastructure recovery. He suggested that one should think of building future better rather than just build back better. He informed that long term recovery required assessment of damages, losses and needs but funds are often not available for this task. He also discussed about ex ante tools like MGNREGA for recovery and dedicated budgetary allocation for recovery. He

proposed innovative thinking for long term recovery. He also suggested having a policy for addressing international trade deficit, especially in case of economic inter dependence.

4) At the end of session, questions were invited from the audience by the Chairperson of the session. Brig B.K. Khanna asked the chairperson about a specific case of affected tenant where compensation is paid to the owner of the house but the real sufferer is a tenant. He cited cases from Leh Floods. Dr. P.K. Mishra replied that such problem had come during the Gujarat Earthquake as well and there were some additional problems like encroachment and unauthorized construction too. Mr. Saket Mani highlighted the issues of migrated population in disaster affected areas. An example was cited related to migration of people from Bangladesh to India during floods in Bangladesh. A suggestion was made from the audience that the NGOs should also act holistically in recovery operation but Mr. P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, the Chairman, told that there are some operations which need to be done by the Government only and cannot be taken up by any NGO. Sh. Sampurnanand Mahapatra from NDMA spoke about establishment of a National Centre for Calamity Management; an Institute proposed for damage, loss and needs assessment in a scientific manner for long term recovery as proposed by the 10th Finance Commission. Mr. P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti told that the Finance Commission has not clearly defined the term

national calamity. Long term recovery is still done in ad-hoc manner. Dr. Mishra told that Finance Commission focuses more on relief aspects.

5) Summary of Recommendations of Thematic Session 4:

- (i) Presently, there is no comprehensive recovery framework exists in the country. The 14th Finance Commission may be sensitized in this regard. The government may setup NDMG at an early date.*
- (ii) The current gaps in our knowledge and understanding of recovery may be identified.*
- (iii) There is a need to encourage third party quality assurance in case of Reconstruction.*
- (iv) Local level long-term recovery framework may be encouraged as one model cannot be made applicable for all types of disasters.*
- (v) Long-term financing needs for recovery and reconstruction may be explored.*

THEMATIC SESSION 5:

PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Chairperson:

Sh. A. K. Mangotra, Secretary (Border Management), MHA

Speakers:

Sh. R. K. Srivastava, JS, MHA

Dr. P. M. Nair, DG, NDRF

Ms. Amita Prasad, DG, ATI, Karnataka

Ms. Caitlin Wiesen, Country Director, UNDP

Papers Presented By:

Dr. A. K. Sinha, NDMA

Sh. Prashant Khattri, New Delhi

Rapporteur:

Dr Ajinder Walia

The Proceedings

Dr. Ajinder Walia, Assistant Professor, NIDM, welcomed the Chairman, speakers and all the delegates and introduced the theme and objectives of the session. The session was then presided over by the chairperson Sh. A. K. Mangotra, Secretary (Border Management).

The objectives of the session

- To explore policy and governance imperatives for DRR and identify issues and priorities for policy inclusions.
- To establish policy inter-linkages within ministries and departments of both central and state agencies.
- To assess possible role of local government in DRR and evolve system for enhancing the local capabilities.
- To provide strategic direction and guidelines to planning agencies for optimal utilization of resources.
- To strengthening institutions for capacity building in DRR.

1) **Sh. A. K. Mangotra**, Secretary- Border Management, MHA, initiated the session mentioning about the XIIth Plan document which stresses the need for clubbing the area of DM into governance as the subject of DM was covered under the chapter on Governance. He was of the opinion that the National Platform can become instrumental in assessing the policies in the field of DRR and can also provide directions to pursue the same. In his opening remarks, he reiterated the fact that the main sufferers during any disaster event are people at the grass root level and there still exists certain gaps in Governance to handle such issues effectively at the local level.



Prominent issues in governance can be attributed to some extent to lack of political commitment, which calls for the need to sensitize the leaders, keep them in loop about development in this field and, since local leaders are the most active, their potentials can be tapped to drill down the political will to the grass root level. For this, PRIs can act as legal, ethical and a responsible group for DRR in reaching the community and making them aware, which can then be achieved by expanding the reach to critical masses by focusing on training.

Sh. Mangotra emphasised on the need to break barriers amongst various states in governance with respect to DM and risk reduction. He felt that states need to share each other's experience and learn lessons from it. He also felt that there does exist a huge void in tapping the Insurance sector in DRR but also admitted that the governance issue in finance sector seemed fairly visible. He raised issue of whether there was a need for having a separate budget head for DM?

Finally, he stated that there exists huge wealth of data resources which unfortunately seemed to be underutilized and also emphasised the need to have networking of all the data banks which can be achieved by forming separate working groups or task forces.

2) **Ms. Caitlin Weisen**, Country Director, UNDP, began her speech by referring to the issue of Governance and Public Policy issue under Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Priority-1 of HFA is on Governance and Institutional Arrangements, where India stands in a good position with respect to DM. To have good governance, Ms. Caitlin felt that the following areas need to be addressed:

- Strengthen Institutional structure which is the most critical component.
- Building Capacity at all levels through disseminating information, knowledge, tools and techniques and skills.
- Appropriate Allocation of human resource, funds and equipments.
- Effective Monitoring mechanisms for all the above.

Ms. Caitlin, reinforced the fact about lack of knowledge and skill gaps at grass root levels, especially at block and village levels and absence of a systematic approach to capacity building and training. As also mentioned by Sh. Mangotra, Ms.Caitlin also reiterated the need for organizing disaster data and its efficient dissemination. She presented the following challenges and recommendations pertaining to Indian scenario which were based on consultations organized by UNDP and MHA:

- Inadequate community level vulnerability analysis, micro planning, enforcement of building codes and efforts to reduce urban risk.
- Strengthen Early Warning Communication and Last Mile Connectivity.
- Develop Regional DM plans to address interstate hazards and address technology gaps.
- Strengthen enforcement of regulatory frameworks.
- Promote risk informed decision-making by empowered communities.



3) Sh. **R. K. Srivastava**, Joint Secretary, MHA, gave an overview about the current status of DM in India. He stated that all risk reduction measures must be blended into public policy and planning. He was of the opinion that institutionalization must go hand in hand with financial set up and legal frameworks. In the backdrop of the DM Act 2005, a task force was set up in 2011 for amendments in the DM Act and suggestions have been provided for strengthening institutional mechanisms. Sh. Srivastava said that all SDMAs should make it mandatory to implement pre as well as post DM steps which require the Government to expand its scope of work, logistics and resource allocations. He highlighted the need to ponder over whether the governance has evolved under the realm of DM Act or not.



Sh. Srivastava stressed that new adaptation strategies are required for tackling different disasters for which the DM Act emphasizes the need for formulation of plans at state and district levels. Another important issue in governance which seemed to emerge is the neglect by local authorities of regulations and enforcement which then become a serious challenge. The speaker highlighted the need to strengthen the capacities of National level institutes like NIDM. Capacity development of responding agencies like Civil Defence and Fire Department needs to be undertaken. They must also enhance their scope of work which is the need of the hour.

4) Dr. **Amita Prasad**, DG, ATI, Mysore, started her presentation by referring to the DM Policy, 2009 and said that a holistic and integrated approach adopted in DM policy emphasizes on building strategic partnerships at various levels. According to her, themes in policy include capacity development, past initiatives and best practices, cooperation with agencies and multi-sectoral synergy.

Dr. Amita Prasad gave an insight into the activities of Administrative Training Institute (ATI), Mysore. The ATI is dedicated towards capacity building via class room and Satellite based training programmes. About 30,000 people have been trained in the last 5 years. E-learning modules have been developed, which are available over the net and are accessible to all. ATI Mysore is trying to utilize Information Technology (IT) and IT based district disaster management plans are being prepared and up scaled. They are trying to involve community and local bodies in the planning process.



With respect to policy directions and changes, Dr. Amita gave an insight regarding the Xth Five Year Plan whereby the National Planning Commission introduced DM with a development prospective. She mentioned that the DM Act 2005 also stresses on the need to move from a relief centric response to a proactive prevention, mitigation and preparedness driven approach to reduce the losses. She also informed that the XIth Plan focused on convergence of policies and plans to reduce disaster risks. She was of the opinion that Public Policy must emphasize involvement of community in DM along with the more vulnerable group like poor, women, children and elderly persons.

In her discussion following issues were highlighted:

- DM policy & Governance has set the road map for streamlining specific action which needs to be taken at all levels.
- Extensive training & capacity building needs to be undertaken to reach the community with minimum time to provide the knowledge in reducing the disaster risks at all levels.
- Institutional mechanism in DM needs to be established at all levels & strengthening of DM authorities/committee to adopt systematic approach in development of DM plans & its implementation at different levels.
- Community level awareness & participation is the key factor in successful management of disaster situations & disaster risks.
- Need to adopt systematic approach of DM cyclic process as per the requirement of local community.
- Empowerment of newly created DM structure to work in cohesion multi-sectoral approach in disaster intelligent & resilient community in order to achieve the national vision.

- Policy will have served its purpose, if those are charged with responsibility of carrying the task forward, find that their hands have received from it, the strength & direction that they need.

Dr. Amita strongly emphasised that good governance calls for having collaboration, innovation and execution in unison.

5) **Dr. P. M. Nair**, DG, NDRF, began his presentation by highlighting the fact that National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is the only force across globe dedicated towards disaster response. They currently run in 10 battalions spread across the country and are active in conducting Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability analysis in the field. Highlighting as to what makes NDRF an apt example of good governance is the fact that after every field visit they conduct de-briefing sessions and share experiences gathered from the field.



He mentioned that Hazards become disasters when it impacts the vulnerable population and causes damage, casualties and disruption. Disasters occur when there is high vulnerability, inadequate access to resources and lack of awareness. Dr. Nair also informed that factors which will help to reduce risk during disasters can be attributed to establishment of Disaster Preparedness and Management institutions at national and local government levels to plan, coordinate and monitor disaster related issues. These institutes must be adequately equipped and personnel must be trained and empowered. Further, there is a need to integrate disaster preparedness and management into development planning and programming mechanisms at all levels.

He highlighted the Principles of Good Governance such as effective and efficient administration, improvement in quality of life of citizens, legitimacy and credibility of institutions, responsive administration by becoming citizen friendly and citizen caring, ensured accountability, freedom of information and expression, reduced cost of governance, every department result-oriented, improved quality of public services, improved productivity of employees, corruption free institutions and individual, lesser scope of discretion and authority/power to oblige and finally integrating technology to de-mystify procedures and improve the citizen-government interface.

Dr. Nair also gave an insight into the various initiatives taken by NDRF which include adopting villages, empowering youth, large scale capacity building, gender sensitization, integration of technology in DRR and promoting ingenuity in response.

6) Paper on “Strategy for DRR through Livestock Disaster Management” by Dr. A. K. Sinha, SRO, NDMA

The speaker informed the audience that India ranks first in cattle and buffalo population, second in goat, third in sheep and seventh in Poultry. About 80% of the land holders belong to the category of small and marginal farmers, for whom livestock is the main source of livelihood.

Dr. Sinha stated that natural disasters have negative economic consequences in the livestock sector, particularly in developing countries like India. Flood, cyclone, droughts, earthquakes and epidemics have adverse impact on livestock wealth which leads to a negative impact on country's economy by reducing an important source of income and employment in rural areas. He highlighted that animal Disasters due to infectious diseases or epidemic have serious public health ramifications. The emergence of Zoonotic diseases such as SARS, Ebola and recent global outbreak of Bird Flu (H5N1 & H7N9) etc may have disastrous consequences on human health, economy and national security. India with very high animal density and mixed agricultural farming practices is one of the most vulnerable countries of the world.

The speaker elaborated that Animal DM is an integral part of Strategy of Livelihood based DRR practices. These practices provide a sustainable DRR strategy through protection and mitigation of disaster risks on the livelihood of millions of small and marginal farmers. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fishery (DAHDF) under the Ministry of Agriculture is the nodal agency to formulate national plans and policies with respect to management of animal disasters / emergencies. Based on national plans prepared by DAHDF, central ministries, departments, states & union territories will prepare their own plan commensurating to their local specificities.

7) Paper on “People’s Perception and States Response during Floods: Evidence from Bahraich District of Uttar Pradesh” by Prashant Khatri, P.C. Joshi and Debarati Guha-Sapir

Sh. Khatri presented his research study conducted in flood prone Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh during 2007-2010 about problem being faced in relief distribution after a major disaster. The study provides following suggestions for better DM:

- Governance and relief must be collective.
- Flow of information has to be multi-directional.
- Two-way communication channel on what state thinks and what people want should be incorporated in Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP).
- Role of different stakeholders is important.
- Bureaucratic norms should become part of milling process.
- Relief should cater to differential needs of people.

6) Summary o Recommendation of Thematic Session 5:

- (i) There is a need for greater political commitment at panchayat level by building strong institutional and legal foundation.*
- (ii) The State Relief Commissioners should also look after the work of rehabilitation, re-construction and mitigation to maintain synergy.*
- (iii) The issue of scale needs to be addressed with due administrative and technological intervention.*
- (iv) The Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipalities lack sustainability. The chain of command and funding mechanism should be clearly elaborated.*
- (v) There is a need to collaborate with International, National and Local level agencies for innovative strategies as per local requirement and execute DM plans with the available resources.*

THEMATIC SESSIONS 6:

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Chairperson:

Dr. S.P. Aggarwal, Red Cross Society

Speakers:

Dr. Nirankar Saxena, Sr. Director FICCI

Sh. O.P. Singh – ADG Police, UP

Sh. Manu Gupta, Director, SEEDS.

Rapporteur:

Ms. Sreeja S. Nair /Ms. Chandrani B. Neogi

The Proceedings:

1) **Dr. S.P Aggarwal, Red Cross Society** opened the session and shared the role of Red Cross Society in Disaster Preparedness and response. The objectives of the sessions were detailed out. He discussed in detail about the momentous World Disaster Report published by IRCTC since 1993 and major source of knowledge repository in the field of DM. He mentioned that the Red Cross Society has been immensely involved in a range of activities related to DRR including training, education, capacity building, preparedness, etc.



The objectives of the session:

- To draw a possible roadmap and provide platform for multi-stakeholder consultations.
- To promote a collaborative approach for DRR while engaging multiple stakeholders from government, civil society, private sector and communities.
- To integrate and coordinate multi-stake holders for successful application of DRR action plan.
- To initiate a multi stakeholder dialogue at the local level that contributes to the national level dialogue.
- To review the consultations and coordination between the Central and State Governments/UTs and other public and private agencies working in DRR.

2) **Dr. Nirankar Saxena**, Senior director, FICCI, discussed and elaborated with examples of successful public private partnership in DRR and its benefits. He mentioned that such collaboration can give results in government-business relationships that include service contracts, supply chains, ad-hoc partnerships, channel partnerships, information dissemination partnerships, and civic switchboard partnerships. Success stories from Malaysia and United states were shared by Dr. Saxena. Government and businesses' roles in homeland security can be traced back to America's founding. US Homeland Security is working extensively with private sector. In all the recent disasters, the private sector worked closely with local, state, federal, and non-profit entities to respond to community needs in the US. There are successful examples from India also.



FICCI is organizing CIDM every year since 2008 for Chemical Industrial DM in collaboration with NDMA, MoEF, P&G and several other private partners, which is a very successful example from India. FICCI is also involved in areas of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) with NDMA. Since XIIIth finance commission has huge allocation for DM capacity building and it is time that the Government should involve more private partners in DRR.

3) **Sh. O.P. Singh**, ADG Police, UP, emphasised the role of Media in DRR and during emergencies. Although media has always been active during disasters, it is the time to involve media more actively in risk reduction as well. He highlighted that DRR is a shared responsibility. Media play both positive and negative roles. There are incidences where media played positive role, e.g. Kashmir earthquake 2005 and Avian flu 2006. During 2011, Japanese Media was praised internationally for their active and constructive role and disaster communication in the aftermath of Fukushima event. DM organisations like NIDM should provide media training with emphasis on empathy, accurate and reliable information communication along with developing a robust mechanism on providing vital information to media agencies in the aftermath of a disaster. Also it is to be kept in mind that all types of media should be involved and one need to be more cautious since there is very limited media regulation in India.



4) **Dr. Manu Gupta**, Director, SEEDS shared the role of multi-stakeholder partnership with the perspective of Non Governmental Organization. He mentioned that, national policies, laws, institutions are in place however, people



continued to be at risk. Some focus is always there on major disasters, however the minor and chronic problems are continuing. Statistics of deaths due to disasters shows that 94% are due to accidents (MHA Report: DM in India) and other events which can be prevented. House collapse, malnutrition, fires, road accidents, short circuits, spurious liquor, gas cylinders explosion and factory collapse, animal and snake bites, intake of insecticides, drowning, malaria & diarrhea, boat capsizes, stampede, fall into bore wells/manholes etc. are day to day events in India.

It is important to involve children and community and also revive the indigenous technology and integrate them with modern technologies. Dr. Gupta concluded the presentation with the following action points:

- (i) Work from the ground up: starting from schools and community organisations in villages and towns – platforms for DRR at local and State level – NGOs can take lead at local level, state governments at State Level
- (ii) Find common grounds for mainstreaming – start by jointly addressing everyday disasters.
- (iii) Invest in this national platform by ensuring people's voices on DRR is heard across all sectors.

5) Presentations from experts were followed by experience sharing by some children, who were volunteers from disaster prone areas of Bihar, Odisha, Delhi and West Bengal. The children namely, Annu, Gidarmari, Supaul district, Bihar, Aniket Anuj, Amni Village & Panchayat, Khagaria District, Bihar, Satyajit Mohanty from Odisha, Vikas, Janta Colony, Shahadra, North East Delhi, Harsh Lata, Janta Colony, North East Delhi, Karishma, Kailash Nagar,



East Delhi, Naseha, Balha Village, Madhubani District, Bihar, Deepak Sharma, Shahadra, Delhi, Soumya Kumari, umaul Village, Darbhanga, Krishna, Amni Village, Bihar and Pushpendu Das, Mahendranagar, Sunderban, West Bengal shared their experiences on local DRR activities held in their schools and localities. They highlighted the local issues faced by the community everyday and requested Government to support their activities. They also mentioned that the trainings in schools are helping them to understand risk and in preparing them to meet the challenges.

6) **Col. N. M. Verma**, Director General of the *Sarista* foundation- an NGO made a presentation on conceptual frameworks relating to DRR initiatives and integrating it with development plans and strategies, where people are the nucleus of the process. He reiterated that the DRR process requires a community driven sustainable system. It needs igniting the minds of

people to develop enthusiasm to develop mechanisms to check losses of lives and property with emphasis on knowledge sharing and capacity building of the community.

He mentioned that *Saritsa* Foundation is a Mobile University for DRR and CCA. The teams of experts of NGO reach to rural and urban areas to raise awareness and impart education and sensitize about use of local resources for minimizing losses. As per Col. Verma, the foundation has educated and trained 2, 15, 000 people, including 9, 500 persons with disability in 18 States of India. The mission continues and it is replicable nationally and internationally to integrate disasters risk reduction and development.

The session ended with the concluding remarks from Dr. S. P. Aggarwal. He reiterated the role of PPP and decentralization and active involvement of all stakeholders in DRR, since DRR requires multi-stakeholder participation.

7) **Summary of Recommendations of Thematic Session 6:**

- (i) *The media needs to be sensible while reporting the disaster stories. They should be able to report in a balanced manner without spreading rumours or panic.*
- (ii) *Emphasis is required in involving school children, women, civil society organisations, private sector and local administration in DRR planning and implementation.*
- (iii) *Indigenous knowledge should be captured, codified, managed and used with always a scope for doing better. If required, the definition of Disaster may be re-visited.*
- (iv) *Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Plans need to be developed and executed for better preparedness.*
- (v) *School DM Programmes must be implemented in all schools in the country so that every child could be prepared to face and manage disasters.*

VALEDICTORY FUNCTION

Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhavan

After two days of effective deliberations on various themes, the valedictory session took place in the Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhavan. Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NDMA chaired the session. Sh. G. V. V. Sharma, Joint Secretary (DM), gave welcome address followed by detailed coverage of the



NPDRR goals and objectives in line with extensive interactions held throughout the platform by Dr. Shyam S. Agarwal, Secretary, NDMA. About 1200 distinguished guests/delegates, including seven Ministers from States and two Vice-Chairmen of SDMAs, participants from various government and non-government organisations, academia, science and technology, and many UN organisations attended the session. Presence of all

stakeholders across the country in one common platform was itself a great effort on the part of Indian Government for the first time in the country.

Based on the useful discussion held and taking note of all plenary and thematic sessions, Sh. A. K. Mangotra, Secretary, Border Management, MHA, highlighted the presence of children in the multi-stake holder session, which was unique. He encouraged them to be integral part of the nation's effort to make India disaster resilient. In his speech, special mention was made about the keen interests taken by some of the ministers from states, who gave valuable inputs on the Government policies and its implementation. He also thanked representatives of UN organisations, Ramakrishna Mission and many other volunteer organisations from India, especially FICCI, who has been acclaimed for efficient organization of mega-exhibition event, media and many others. He also mentioned about the major outcomes of the First Session of the NPDRR and emphasised the follow up actions on its recommendations.

Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NDMA, gave appreciation awards on behalf of FICCI, the exhibition in-charge, to ASKA, NIDM, DRDO and NDRF. In the beginning of his valedictory speech that the NDMA has itself set an agenda to bring out a paradigm shift in DM – from a rescue-relief centric approach to a holistic approach covering all aspects of DM—including prevention, preparedness and mitigation; besides rehabilitation and reconstruction. The change in mindset, which is so important for this shift, is slowly but surely becoming evident at all levels of political leadership and administrative hierarchy. Last year a Parliamentary Forum on DM has been set for the first time. This also has to permeate into the community for which greater efforts would be required to generate public awareness in a big way. This will, in turn, further crystallize political and administrative will.

Finally he flagged some points in favour of comprehensive DRR strategy such as vulnerability and risk assessment; effective early warning systems; information sharing and public awareness; political commitment at international, regional, national, local and community levels; creation of multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral partnerships; improved scientific knowledge about the causes of natural disasters as well as the effects that natural hazards and related technological and environmental factors have on society; international cooperation and partnerships.

At the end Dr. Satendra, Executive Director, NIDM, gave formal Vote of Thanks.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Lessons from the past disasters are required to be communicated to all the Disaster Managers.

(NDMA may take a lead by making repository of such lessons learnt in consultation with the concerned State and central authorities and circulate to all States/UTs and Central Ministries especially in the area of Response and Recovery)

2. Though the political commitment is forthcoming at the top, there is a need to drill down to sensitise local community about DRR efforts.

(Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Women and Child Development may take the lead)

3. Public perception of DRR implementation is poor.

(NDMA and NIDM may organize awareness generation programmes, workshops and make publicity through print and audio visual media)

4. There is a need to develop tools for Probabilistic Risk Assessment which could be effectively used for Allocation of Resources and Development Planning including Risk Insurance.

(Planning Commission, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance (DEA))

5. Risk Financing and Insurance Instruments and dedicated funding for mitigation like establishment of National Disaster Mitigation Fund are to be given priority.

(Ministry of Finance – Department of Financial Services and Department of Expenditure)

6. Priorities of Hyogo Framework for Action 2, Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Development Goals are required to be linked for achieving quality of public life.

(Planning Commission, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs)

7. Application of Science & Technology for better preparedness, forecasting and response is needed.

(Concerned Ministries/Departments like Ministry of Earth Sciences, Department of Space, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Indian Metrological Department and Ministry of Health)

8. Knowledge network for vital dissemination of good practices is required to be created and sustained.

(NIDM through IDKN)

9. Optimum utilization of volunteer force and capacitating them to cater better disaster response are to be encouraged.

(DG, NDRF & CD, Ministry of Defence)

10. The critical lifeline infrastructure such as power, water supply and communication should be strengthened by way of a comprehensive audit from the point of view of disaster mitigation.

(Ministry of Power, Ministry of water Supply & Sanitation, Ministry of Communication and ministry of Urban development)

11. Relief & Response guidelines and compensation packages are required to be revised considering the practical difficulties faced by the states during various disasters.

(MHA and the State Governments)

12. GIS based data and Decision Support System for Emergency Management may be developed duly linking it with the advanced communication systems.

(NRSA, IMD and Department of Science & Technology)

13. Integration of DRR and CCA may be carried out with good simulation models.

(NIDM in consultation with Ministry of Environment & Forest)

14. The building byelaws may be amended and incorporated so as to promote disaster resilient construction practices in the states, cities and rural areas.

(Ministry of Urban Development, State Governments)

15. The government personnel may be trained and employed to conduct seismic structural auditing of the buildings in Zone IV and V.

(Ministry of Urban Development & State Government)

16. There is a need to collaborate with international, national and local level agencies for innovative strategies as per local requirements and execute DM plan with the available resources.

(State Governments)

17. School Disaster Management Programmes must be implemented in all the schools in the country.

(State Governments, Ministry of Human Resource & Development)

18. The Secretariat of NPDRR should continue to function to work as repository of information as well as to follow up on the recommendations of NPDRR and the action taken thereof.

(NIDM)

**EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
MAY 13 – 14, 2013 AT VIGYAN BHAWAN, NEW DELHI**

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), GoI along with NIDM and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organized an Exhibition under the aegis of first session of NPDRR on May 13-14, 2013 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



There were over 36 stalls exhibiting technologies and various DRR products from SDMAs, NDRF, NIDM, DRDO, Department of Science and Technology(DST), various private industries ranging Rescue and Safety & Fire Fighting Equipments, Medical Electronic Equipment, Relief Material Suppliers, Publications, Communication/IT equipments, etc.

The exhibition was inaugurated by **Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde**, Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, Government of India, in the presence of **Shri Mullappally Ramachandran**, Hon'ble Minister of State for the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, **Shri M Shashidhar Reddy**, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NDMA and **Dr. A Didar Singh**, Secretary General, FICCI.





FICCI also awarded prizes for the best stalls in the Exhibition. **NDRF** was awarded with the first prize. The Second prize was awarded to the **DRDO**, while the third prize was jointly awarded to the **NIDM** and **ASKA Equipments Ltd.**

SUMMARY OF PRE-EVENT CONFERENCES

1. National Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Disaster Management

Venue: Conference Centre, University of Delhi, 2nd April, 2013

NIDM in collaboration with Women Development Cell, Shivaji College, University of Delhi & Women's Study and Development Centre, University of Delhi organized first pre-event on first session for NPDRR at Conference Centre of University of Delhi on 2nd April 2013.

The occasion was graced by Dr. Satendra, Executive Director, NIDM, Dr. P.M. Nair, Director General, NDRF, Prof. Santosh Kumar, NIDM, Dr. Sushma Sagar, AIIMS, Dr. Ajinder Walia, NIDM, Ms. Alexandra Solovieva, DCD, UNDP, Mr. Sarbjit Singh Sahota, UNICEF and Dr. Sunita Reddy, JNU.

The pre-event provided a platform where researchers, academicians, practitioners and faculty could meet, present their research papers, debate on the issue and discuss the prospects and the problems in assembling, synthesizing, managing and further disseminating knowledge on DM in diverse sectors with an emphasis on gender sensitive DM. Panel discussions on “Gender & Disaster Response” and “Gender Framework with Disaster Risk Management” were the highlight of the event.

The following are some of the recommendations that emerged as a result of the interaction between the panellists and the participants among the audience.

1. The youth of the nation must be made aware of the gendered impact of disasters including the differential treatment and violence that women are vulnerable to post disaster.
2. The chain of communications between what occurred in the disaster struck areas and the offices dispensing aid and resources need to be improved because often there existed a communication gap between them and this led to mismanagement of precious resources.
3. There must be substantial academic coverage and research to understand how gender issues play within the intricacies of caste, ethnicity and diverse culture to impact the vulnerability of both men/women and transgender.
4. Relief Management and distribution of resources need to be gender sensitive and it must focus on the issues of accessibility.
5. Emphasis must be laid in capacitating the disaster struck communities to deal with gender related issues efficiently at grass-root level in time of crisis.
6. There must be proper and precise mapping of responsibilities that re thrust upon individuals and resources vested with them to fulfil those responsibilities.
7. Informal ways of livelihood increase the vulnerability of women during disaster. Formalization of jobs and ways of livelihood taken up by women may reduce their sufferings.

8. The outlook and attitude of society with which gender related issues are addressed must change and become more sensitive.
9. There is an immediate need to address issues related to sexual and reproductive health and rights of women privacy in DM policies and programmes.
10. Violence against women, both in public and private spheres need to be addressed seriously.
11. Society must deeply acknowledge innate skills of women in maintaining the emotional balance during the time of crisis.
12. There is need to capitalize on the prudence of women in managing finances in crunch situations.
13. It is important to make sure that economic recovery and livelihood support schemes are designed in a more gender sensitive way by allowing enough benefits to the women.
14. There is an urgent need to improvise on the data collection techniques so as to enable collection of Gender Specific and Disaggregated data from disaster struck areas.
15. Camps should also be regularly organized to directly involve the people both male and female and young and old that could play a significant role during the rescue. They could be taught certain life-saving skills such as swimming or basic first aid so that the number of casualties is restricted to the minimum.
16. The chain of communication between the disaster sites and the offices and centres dispensing aid in whatever form be it financial or in terms of labour or material and medical supplies be enhanced so that there does not exist a gap between the two.

2. National Workshop on Risk Transfer Mechanism in Disaster Management

Venue: India International Centre, New Delhi

Date: 17th April, 2013

Disaster risk financial and insurance solutions provide efficient means to financially protect the communities from natural disasters as well as foster disaster risk management efforts. These options can increase our financial response capacity in the aftermath of disasters and to reduce the economic and fiscal burden on natural disasters by transferring excess losses to the private capital and to insurance markets. To deliberately move forward, a national seminar, with technical sessions, for arriving at a time-bound strategy with a clear action plan by different stakeholders in order to take concrete steps towards risk transfer in DM was organized with the following objectives:-

- a. To review the existing levels of risk financing across different sectors.
- b. To consolidate the outcomes of workshops/seminars/deliberations conducted on the subject in India.
- c. To understand the experience of other countries in this field.
- d. To evidently identify the bottlenecks and policy impediments.
- e. To effectively look forward in this aspect.



The following were the major action points came out in the seminar for consideration:

1. Awareness Generation - The public should be made aware about the importance of risk insurance mechanism in the field of DM.
2. Training and Capacity Building - There is a need to create capacity by way of training etc., in the State Governments, Municipalities and Insurance Companies for implementation of Risk Insurance mechanism.
3. Public Private Partnership - Public Private Partnership needs to be encouraged. The private companies is to take the matter further provided the Govt. makes insurance cover mandatory in the field of DM.
4. Plan and Policy - There is a need to have a contingency plan and a policy at the micro level in the matter.
5. Mandatory Insurance - Compulsory insurance of Private and Public houses in the cities located in seismic Zone IV and V including Kachha houses. One option could be to charge additional amount at the time of collection of House Tax so that compulsory insurance cover could be provided by the concerned municipalities.
6. Insurance for critical infrastructure/Public utilities - Insurance cover for critical infrastructure vis-à-vis Airports, National Highways, Railways, Bridges and Dams so that

after a disaster, the reconstruction work of the damaged part of these critical infrastructure could be started immediately through the above insurance cover.

7. Agriculture Insurance - Agriculture Insurance to operate on crop basis needs to be done as there are no data available about the crop damages.
8. Encouragement of states- Encouraging States to purchase insurance for meeting relief / repair/ reconstruction expenditure following a disaster; possible use of SDRF to partly offset expenditure on premium.
9. Parametric based solutions- Parametric based insurance solutions for low frequency, high impact, earthquake and cyclone perils for NDRF.
10. Options for non-BPL Population- Optional simple Natural Catastrophe Insurance Policies for non-BPL population with standard coverage and terms and conditions.
11. Revision of Public Liability Insurance Act- The Public Liability Insurance Act shall be revised so as to enhance limits of compensation and scope of coverage of public places.

3. National Workshop on Post – 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Venue: India International Centre, New Delhi

Date: 27th April, 2013

UNDP, in consultation with the MHA, organized a one-day National Workshop on Post-2015 Framework for DRR on 27th April, 2013 in New Delhi. This workshop was organized as one of the pre-events of the first session of NPDRR to discuss Post HFA DRR framework, looking beyond 2015 and the way ahead for India.

The conference was inaugurated by Sh. Mullappally Ramachandran, Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Mr. A. K. Mangotra, Secretary (Border Management), Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ms. Caitlin Wiesen, Country Director, UNDP also participated in the inaugural function. The workshop attracted participation of many professional from various locations in India. Mr. G. Padmanabhan, Emergency Analyst, UNDP, welcomed the guests, speakers and all the participants.



The following recommendations that emerged from the national conference discussions:

At National level:

- Need to address gaps that emerged from the MHA report
- Need to capture good work that is currently happening in isolated pockets and need to disseminate the same
- Establish an IT supported database system which captures & monitors parameters useful for DRR, provide early warning, address issues related to last mile connectivity, and supports local level planning and decision support
- Capacity building framework for effective utilization
- People centered approach, especially addressing needs of vulnerable population, children, etc.
- Bottom up approach or macro-micro shift
- Promote risk informed decision making by empowered communities

At Global level:

- Looking at DRR related issues combining with other emerging issues such as Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Resilience approach
- Risk Insurance
- Urban Risk Reduction
- Formulate regional and national frameworks to facilitate formulation and implementation of national action plans to achieve specific goals
- Focus on social vulnerabilities and evolve indicators that would also promote quality of life

4. National Workshop on Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation

Venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi,

Date: 11th May, 2013

The Pre- event on Child Centred DRR prior to the first session of NPDRR was organized to illustrate how Children, Government, NGOs and Communities can support child-centered DRR through a variety of actions that include specific policies, risk assessments, field level actions and children participation. Therefore, the pr-event was used to collectively transform thoughts into key action points to be presented to the key stakeholders at the National platform to promote the importance of children as stakeholders in reducing disaster risks.

The event received an excellent array of speakers from NDMA, NIDM, UNDP, other Governmental and non-governmental agencies, academicians, practitioners as well as strong group of children from various States.

After detailed deliberations by the key speakers and discussions with the participants following key action points were emerged:

- Children should be a part of village education/management committee
- Avoid environmental degradation, pollution and say no to plastic consumption
- Provision of health centres with a child specialist
- Ensure safe access to school
- Strengthen embankments
- Child-Centric DRR should reach every village
- Every child should be given a platform to speak
- Children should be equal partners in the decision making process, especially in matters concerning their welfare
- Availability of potable drinking water in schools
- Ensure safety of the child; both inside and outside the school campus
- NSSP should take into account risks outside school campuses
- The school safety program should encompass all schools- public and private



Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of India



National Disaster Management Authority
Government of India

First Session of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

13 - 14 May 2013, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi



National Institute of Disaster Management



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Towards a disaster free India.....

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