Lessons from Haiti and Chile

Earthquakes do not kill people - buildings do is the famous saying which was proved correct once again in Haiti, where more than 230,000 people got killed, with an additional 300,000 injured, in an Mw 7.0 earthquake on January 12, 2010. The impact of the earthquake was so severe that out of nearly 5 million people living in the earthquake affected area, about 1.2 millions were rendered homeless. The earthquake resulted in non-functioning of the government and other institutions due to losses of personnel, records and facilities. Numerous clinics, hospitals, police stations, ministries, schools, universities, palaces, and churches were destroyed making recovery process very difficult.

The built environment of Port-au-Prince, the capital city of Haiti, was a typical example of construction of buildings using non-engineered construction practices without appropriate development controls and proper land use planning. The built environment so emerged was destroyed like a pack of cards in the January 12, 2010 earthquake.

In contrast to Haiti’s situation, there was an earthquake in Chile on February 27, 2010. The Chile earthquake (Mw 8.8) was felt all along 600 km of the central Chile coast. The earthquake tested numerous modern structures and facilities. Majority of Chilean built environment performed well during this earthquake with few exceptions. As a result less than 500 people were killed during this earthquake.

Lessons learnt from these two events indicate that the most important thing that matters in disaster safety is the good governance practices. Chile is having very high rankings in development indices - in comparison to Haiti, like Human Development Index, Corruption Perceptions Index, and Failed State Index. Due to very high standards of development Chile enjoyed not only economic development in recent times, but also a noticeable adherence to strict seismic building codes. In contrast, the Haiti was having no effective building codes, no planning regulations, no development controls making the overall vulnerability of the Port-au-Prince very high to face hazards like earthquake of January 12, 2010.

Here is the catch for making our built environment safe from earthquakes: ensure good governance leading to implementation of proper planning norms and development control and adherence to building codes and byelaws.
5th Meeting of Governing Body of NIDM

New Delhi, 18 March 2010

The 5th meeting of the Governing Body (GB) of the National Institute of Disaster Management was held on 18 March 2010 in the Conference Room of the Institute under the Chairmanship of General (Retd.) N. C. Vij, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, Hon’ble Vice Chairperson of the National Disaster Management Authority. It was attended by Shri G. K. Pillai (Home Secretary), Shri A. E. Ahmed (Secretary BM), Shri A. B. Prasad (Secretary, NDMA), Shri R. K. Magoo, AFA, representing Additional Secretary and FA, Major General Shiv Kumar, Head (NRDMS) Division representing Secretary Science and Technology, Dr. R. K. Chadha, Scientist G, representing Director NGRI, Dr. Amarjeet Kaur, Dean, representing Vice Chancellor, GGSIP University and Shri P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, ED NIDM.

During the meeting, the Governing Body appreciated the good work done by the Institute and decided that NIDM must network with other expert bodies to outsource off campus training. The Governing Body approved the NIDM training calendar for the year 2010-11 which included class room based, web based and SATCOM based training programmes. While examining the calendar for Disaster Management Centres at the State ATls, the Governing Body reviewed the progress of these centers. It was noted that progress in 7 states was poor, while in 6 states it was just satisfactory. The Governing Body decided to take this issue seriously at the highest level in the state governments.

The Governing Body endorsed the revised Recruitment Rule of the Institute and approved that a reputed agency be engaged to evaluate the overall impact of the training programmes so far conducted by the Institute. The Governing Body felt that the post-disaster studies of the Institute should focus more on the post-disaster management aspects so that the main lessons learnt can be used for necessary corrective measures for improvement. These reports should be given wide circulation to the State Governments and district administration.

5th Annual Training Conference

New Delhi, 15-16 February 2010

NIDM has been supporting the Disaster Management Centres (DMCs) in the Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs) of the States under a Central Sector Scheme. The Institute has also been conducting training programmes in the States in collaboration with the ATIs. In order to discuss the lessons learnt from these programmes and to jointly develop training calendar for the NIDM and the DMCs, the Annual Training Conference is organized every year with participation of the Director Generals of State Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs), Secretary (Disaster Management) of States/UTs, Heads of Disaster Management Centres of ATIs and senior representatives from NDMA, Central Ministries and Departments. The 5th Annual Training Conference of the Institute was organized on 15-16 February 2010. The Conference was inaugurated by Shri A.E. Ahmed, Secretary (Border Management), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Smt. Sheila Balakrishnan, Director General, Anna Institute of Management, Chennai delivered the Key Note Address. Directors General of ATIs of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala shared their experiences while Heads of
DMCs of 24 ATIs presented physical and financial progress made during the year 2009-10. Total programmes organized by DMCs during the period from April 2009 to January 2010 were 607 providing training to 24237 participants.

From April 2009 to January 2010 NIDM conducted 55 training programmes, including 23 off-campus programmes in different states, providing training to 1466 senior and middle level functionaries of the Central and state governments. Besides, NIDM conducted 11 web based training programmes imparting training to 742 participants. Two SATCOM based programmes were also delivered by NIDM in collaboration with ATI Mysore and Bhopal providing training to 5000 sub-district level functionaries covering basic aspects of disaster management.

Considering the experiences gained and lessons learnt by NIDM and the DMCs during the current and previous years as well as the expected demands and challenges for training, the Training Calendar of NIDM and also that of DMCs for 2010-11 was discussed at length and finalized during the conference. As per the training calendar of 2010-11, NIDM will organize about 90 training programmes including 40 off-campus programmes. Each DMC is expected to organize about 25 programmes of a total duration of 105 days during the year 2010-11.

The participants deliberated on various issues of mutual interest besides discussions to finalize the training strategy for the next year. ED, NIDM suggested that following consideration should be taken into account while finalizing the strategy for the current year:

- Increasing demand for disaster management training in the states due to establishment of SDMAs and DDMAs
- Formulation of National Human Resource Plan and Capacity Development Plan on Disaster Management
- Guidelines issued by NDMA emphasizing training and capacity development in different sectors
- Forthcoming Indian Cyclone Risk Mitigation Programme and other such programmes by NDMA
- Recently launched GOI-UNDP DRR Programme
- Proposed revised ICS training programme

Taking part in the deliberations, DRR, UNDP Dr. J. Radhakrishnan mentioned that the recently launched GOI-UNDP Disaster Risk Reduction Programme has two components:

- Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction will be implemented by NDMA, and
- Urban Risk Reduction Project will be implemented by MHA, GOI along with the Ministry of Urban Development, NIDM and UNDP.

In continuation of in-principle approval of MHA to setup six Centre of Excellence on specific disasters, respective ATI were advised to expedite the development of detailed project proposals in this direction. The six centers of excellence approved by MHA are:

- Drought – YASHADA, Pune
- Industrial and Chemical Disasters – DMI, Bhopal
- Earthquake – AASC, Guwahati
- Flood – ATI Kolkatta
- Cyclone – MCR HRD Institute Hyderabad
- Landslide – ATI Nainital
UN-OOSA/UN-SPIDER & NIDM Training Workshop on use of Space Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction

New Delhi, 11-13 January 2010

NIDM in collaboration with United Nations Organization for Outer Space Applications (UN-OOSA) and Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) organized a three days training workshop on “Use of Space Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction” from January 11-13, 2010.

The goal of the training workshop was to sensitize the faculty members of State Administrative Training Institutes and other stakeholders mainly administrators involved in capacity building activities at national and state level for use of space technologies in disaster risk reduction activities. One of the objectives of the workshop was to define long-term needs of capacity building to ensure that use of space based information is promoted at all levels.

The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon, Honb’le Member of the National Disaster Management Authority. Dr. Shirish Ravan, Programme Officer UNSPIDER represented UN-OOSA/SPIDER. Dr. Ravan also acted as one of the resource persons. Several other experts and professionals working in the area of geoinformatics and communication technology were invited to be resource persons for this workshop. Shri V. Bhanumurthy, NRSC Hyderabad, Shri. N.K. Shrivastava, ISTRAC- ISRO, Dr. Krishna Vatsa, Regional Advisor BCPR – UNDP, Dr. K.J. Ramesh, Advisor, MoES, Shri R. Gopalakrishan, ISRO were among the eminent experts, who took part as resource persons in the workshop. The workshop was attended by 14 participants including one participant each from Bangladesh and Nepal.

Expert Group Meeting - Peer review a newly developed course curriculum on Risk Analysis in terms of content and pedagogy

New Delhi, 18 March 2010

♦ The Word Bank Institute, Washington D.C. conducts online courses on number of themes related to Disaster Risk Reduction at international and national level in association with the regional and national partners. National Institute of Disaster Management is one of the partner organizations of the WBI. NIDM in collaboration with the World Bank Institute (WBI), Washington D.C. organized a series of workshops. The participants of these workshops included the current and prospective partner organizations of WBI like the Arab Academy of Egypt (Middle East and North Africa), Catholic University of Peru (Latin America), Golden Spear Regional Disaster Management Centre of Excellence of Kenya (Africa), Istanbul Technical University of Turkey (Europe and Central Asia), National Disaster Coordinating Council, and Miriam College, Philippines (South East Asia) and NIDM (South Asia). The three workshop organized include:

♦ Risk Analysis Expert Meeting on February 2, 2010 with an objective of peer reviewing the newly developed online...
course curriculum on “Risk Analysis” both in terms of its contents and pedagogical aspects. The course on Risk Analysis has been developed by the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany. The meeting was attended by eminent international experts working in this area, experts from IIT Bombay, select experts working in the area of DRR and risk assessment at national level in India besides NIDM faculty.

- Training workshop on Risk Analysis from February 3-5, 2010. The aim of the workshop was to familiarize the participants with the module of the online course on Risk Analysis and develop trainers to conduct the Risk Analysis Course. The course on Risk Analysis has three basic modules on
  - Fundamental Elements of Risk Analysis
  - Earthquake Risk Analysis
  - Flood Risk Analysis

  The resource persons of the workshop were the professionals from KIT, who had been involved in developing the course. The workshop was attended by international and national experts working in this area besides NIDM faculty.

- Workshop-cum-Network Meeting from February 8-9, 2010. One of the objectives of the meeting was to bring together WBI DRM existing and new partners and lay out the areas of mutual interest, collaboration and peer to peer learning. The meeting provided an opportunity to assess the outcome of the multi-year collaboration and the challenges to move forward.

**NIDM-WBI Faculty Exchange Programme**

The World Bank Institute (WBI) Disaster Risk Management Learning program with support from Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) collaborated with the National Institute for Disaster Management (NIDM), India to strengthen the capacity of Indian institutions and professionals in the area of disaster risk reduction. As part of the collaboration, competitively selected faculty members of NIDM were provided with an opportunity to improve their skills by participating for three months in an academic fellow program in leading universities with reputable disaster risk management programs, such as University College London (UCL), Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey, and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany. Under this programme following three Faculty members of the Institute were deputed to undergo training:

- Dr. Sujata Satapathy, Assistant Professor at Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of UCL from September 2009 to 3rd week of December 2009.

- Dr. Surya Parkash, Associate Professor at Department of Civil Engineering, Middle East Technical University, Ankara from 22 February to 9 May 2010 and

- Dr. Amir Ali Khan, Assistant Professor will be visiting Centre for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Technology (CEDIM), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) for a period of 3 months from April to June, 2010.

Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon, Hon’ble Member of the National Disaster Management Authority inaugurated the programme
Manual on Drought Management Released

New Delhi, 4 January, 2010

NIDM has developed a “Manual for Drought Management” on the request and support from the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. The manual has been developed through a consultative process involving the concerned Central Ministries, State Governments, scientific, technical and research organizations and the grass root level organizations working for mitigation and management of drought. The Manual has been prepared and published on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India by NIDM.

The Manual on Drought Management has been released by Shree Shard Pawar, Hon’ble Minister of Agriculture and Cooperation on 4th January 2010 in New Delhi.

This manual has received good appreciation from Central Ministries, State Governments, scientific, technical and research organizations and the grass root level organizations working for mitigation and management of drought.

NIDM in International Forum

♦ January 13 -16, 2010 - Dr. Surya Prakash, Associate Professor, Geo-hazards Division participated in a joint Workshop on Landslide and Infrastructure Management organized by National Institute of Land and Infrastructure (MILIM) and Public Works Institute (PRI) Japan in collaboration with NIDM
♦ January 19-29, 2010, Shri P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, Executive Director, NIDM participated in the Japan-SAARC Symposium on Disaster Prevention jointly organized by SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) and Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), Kobe
♦ March 20-31, 2010, Ms. Sreeja Nair, Assistant Professor participated in the Environment and Disaster Management Mission at Kabul University, Afghanistan. The month long programme was aimed at curriculum reference improvement of teaching aids and methods to the environment protection and disaster management department of the Kabul University.

Publications by NIDM Faculty

Major Activities of NIDM

Training Programmes

(January - March 2010)

♦ Cyclone Risk Mitigation and Management, 4-8 January, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Comprehensive Landslide Risk Mitigation and Management, 4-8 January, 2010 at ATI Karnataka
♦ Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Development, 7-8 January, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Training Workshop on Use of Space Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction in Collaboration with UN-SPIDER, 11-13 January, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Management of Serial Bomb Blast, 13-15 January, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Disaster Management for Forestry Sector, 18-22 January, 2010 at Dehradun
♦ Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management, 18-22 January, 2010 at AASC Assam
♦ Response to Tsunami Warning, 27-29 January, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Transportation of Hazardous Goods, 01-02 February, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Comprehensive Landslide Risk Mitigation and Management, 01-05 February, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Climate Change and Disasters, 01-05 February, 2010 at APARD, Hyderabad
♦ Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management, 01-05 February, 2010 at Himachal Pradesh
♦ Risk Analysis Training Workshop with WBI, NIDM and KIT at Shangri – la Hotel, New Delhi 3-5 February, 2010 at Shangri-la Hotel, Delhi
♦ Gender Issues in Disaster Management, 08-12 February, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Basic Course on Disaster Management for NDRF Commanders, 08-12 February, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Environment & Disasters, 08-12 Feb at Tezpur Univ.
♦ Relief Management, 22-24 February, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Management of Industrial and Chemical, 22-26 February, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Training Programme on Disaster Risk Mitigation and Management of Built Environment, 22-24 February, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Training Programme on Railway Safety and Disaster Management, IRITM, Lucknow 22-26 February, 2010 at Lucknow
♦ DDMP Orissa, 22-26 February, 2010, 2010 at Orissa
♦ Training Programme on Earthquake Resistant Retrofitting Building at Forest Conference Hall, Deorali, Gangtok, March 2-3, 2010 at Sikkim, Gangtok
♦ DDMP Manipur, 8-12 March, 2010 at Manipur
♦ Integrated Emergency Management Course (EMC), UAoA, Nainital, March 8-10, 2010 at UAOA, Nainital
♦ Training Programme on Disaster Psycho Social Care, March 8-12, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Role of GIS and Remote Sensing in Disaster Management, March 8-12, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Management of Stampedes and Road Accidents, March 15-17, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Retrofitting of Lifeline Structures: Technical and Managerial Issues, March 17-19, 2010 at NIDM
♦ ToT ON Community Based Disaster Risk Management, March 15-19, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Needs of Children & Elderly in Disasters, March 22-26, 2010 at NIDM
♦ Managing Serial Bomb Blast, March 29-30, 2010 at NIDM

Online Training Programme with WBI

(January - March 2010)

♦ Community Based Disaster Risk Management (Second Course) from 4 January – 31 January 2010
♦ Safer Cities (Second Course) from 1 February – 28 February 2010
♦ Climate Change & Disaster Management (Second Course) from 1 March – 28 March 2010
♦ Earthquake Risk Mitigation (Second Course) from 15 February – 14 March 2010
Upcoming Events of NIDM

Training Programmes

(April - June 2010)

- Flood Risk Mitigation & Management at NIDM 5-9 April, 2010
- Climate Change & Disasters NIDM 5-9 April, 2010
- Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Recovery Process at NIDM 12-16 April, 2010
- Community Based Disaster Risk Management at UP-AAM 12-16 April, 2010
- Earthquake Risk Mitigation & Management at ATI, Sikkim 19-23 April, 2010
- ToT on Environment & Disasters NIDM 19-23 April, 2010
- Cyclone Risk Mitigation & Management at NIDM 26-30 April, 2010
- Retrofitting of Lifeline Structures GIDM 26-30 April, 2010
- Disaster Psycho-social Care NIDM 3-7 May, 2010
- Disaster Database Management NIDM 10-14 May, 2010
- Risk Resistant Building Codes NIDM 17-21 May, 2010
- Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan at ATI, Arunachal Pradesh 17-21 May, 2010
- Flood Risk Mitigation & Management SIRD UP 17-21 May, 2010
- Risk Assessment and Vulnerability Analysis NIDM 24-26 May, 2010
- SATCOM based CBDM YASHADA 24-26 May, 2010
- Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan Assam 31 May-4 June, 2010
- Training for Members of SDMAs and DDMAs, 2010
- Earthquake Risk Mitigation & Management ATI West Bengal May 31 – June 4, 2010
- Basic Course on Disaster Management for Civil Defence Officers NIDM 7-11 June, 2010
- Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Course SIRD, MP 7-11 June, 2010
- Drought Mitigation & Management NIDM 14-18 June, 2010
- Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management Meghalaya 14-18 June, 2010
- Application of Remote Sensing and GIS in Disaster Management NIDM 21-25 June, 2010
- Cyclone Risk Mitigation and Management NIDM June 28-July 2, 2010

Online Training Programme with WBI

(April - June 2010)

- Basic Course on Comprehensive Natural Disaster Risk Management Framework May3-June12, 2010
- Course on Community Based Disaster Risk Management June12-July 17, 2010
- Course on Safe Cities May 24-June19, 2010
- Course on Climate Change & Disaster Management June14-July 10, 2010

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