

## **7<sup>th</sup> Khoryug Conference on Disaster Management for Tibetan Buddhist Monasteries with Focus on Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction at Vajra Vidya Institute, Sarnath, 21st - 24th March 2016**

National Institute of Disaster Management as the technical partner provided guidance and conducted training during the Khoryug conference held at the Vajra Vidya Institute, Sarnath, from March 21-24 March 2016 on the theme of Disaster Preparedness and Risk reduction. This initiative of NIDM is in line with one of the activities envisaged under Priority Action 3 of “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-30”, namely ‘To protect or support protection of cultural’ and collecting institutions and other sites of historical, cultural heritage and religious interest.



*Experts sharing their expertise on various aspects of Disaster Management with participants during Khoryug conference*

The primary goal of the conference, chaired by the 17<sup>th</sup> Karmapa was to initiate disaster preparedness and risk reduction training for monks and nuns. With this training monasteries and nunneries are expected to become equipped with effective disaster management plans and knowledge and ultimately supply first responders and educators to their local communities.

56 participants representing various monasteries and nunneries from India, Nepal and Bhutan participated in the Conference. After a warm welcome by the conference’s host, V.V Thrangu Rinpoche, the Karmapa addressed the congregation to reiterate his resolve to prepare monasteries and nunneries for potential disasters and to train monks and nuns to become community actors and supports for disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

The proceedings on Day 1 provided an overview of ‘significance of the cultural heritage and the need for disaster risk reduction for it’ followed by a presentation on concepts and practices of Disaster Management.

During the second day of the conference, participants focused on deepening their knowledge of the hazards they face and learning how to identify the vulnerabilities that put them at risk for disaster. The topics covered were the science of disasters and climate change, risk assessment

methodology for monasteries and nunneries, mitigation measures and 'Disaster Management Planning Process for Monasteries'.



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The third day centred on bringing the threat of disaster into reality through experiential hands-on training and disaster scenario planning. Following a session on first aid training, the participants were guided through the step of preparedness planning and brainstormed specific emergency needs, divided into major actions related to immediate response, water and sanitation, food and nutrition, shelter and health response.

The fourth and final day of the Conference concluded by synthesizing the past three days into disaster management plans. NIDM presented a framework for approaching short term and long term recovery that encompasses the effects of disaster on both humans and valuable monastic texts and relics. Thereafter, the participants presented their framework for disaster management planning for their monasteries and nunneries.