

### Reconstructed school in Kavresthali reveals the essence of community-based disaster management

*Kathmandu, Nepal* - At the ceremonial handover of the newly reconstructed earthquake-resistant school building of Kavresthali Lower Secondary School to the community on January 12, 2002, Krishna Ghimire, a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade schoolboy, speaking on behalf of his classmates, said: "Thank you for making my school safe. I suggest the next step should be to strengthen our homes..."

The young boy's speech is a brilliant example of awareness and preparedness at the community level. This, however, did not happen overnight. The active incorporation of community participation in the school reconstruction process convinced the people of Kavresthali that it is worth investing in earthquake-resistant structures.

Evidence of active community participation can be seen throughout. The masons who built the school are from Kavresthali. They were assisted by students, teachers and parents in the community. Funds and acquisitions of material were also generated by the community themselves. The training for masons conducted by the National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET-Nepal) was in itself a family affair, held in the evenings with hands-on demonstrations for all to see.

This school reconstruction in Kavresthali is part of the School Earthquake Safety Program initiated by NSET under AUDMP's Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Project. The training convinced local masons that constructing earthquake-resistant buildings using local materials and simple methods of construction is effective and affordable. One retrofitted or reconstructed school means about 20 masons trained on earthquake resistant technology. This creates a multiplier effect in which masons are able to convince homeowners to construct earthquake resistant houses. If each mason builds ten houses a year, 20 masons could reduce the vulnerability of 200 families.

In Kavresthali, the community library building is now being constructed with earthquake-resistant features.

Catch next month's issue of AUDM News on how disaster management has diversified the livelihood options of Kavresthali community.



Krishna Ghimire, a student of Kavresthali Lower Secondary School delivering a touching thank you speech at the ceremonial handover of his newly-reconstructed earthquake-resistant school



Left: Mr. David Hollister, ADPC's Deputy Executive Director addressing the handover ceremony

Right: This special occasion excited not only school children but also adults alike in the village



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## National Demonstration Projects

### Bangladesh Urban Disaster Mitigation Project (BUDMP)

#### BUDMP's training workshop continues with a great success

*Tongi and Gaibandha, Bangladesh* - In November, a total of 138 and 117 participants from civil communities, in Tongi and Gaibandha respectively, attended a one-day training workshop on the topic of 'Role and Responsibilities of Civil Societies in Urban Disaster Management' organized by CARE-Bangladesh and its partners, Association for Rural Development (ARD) and Gano Unnayan Kendra of Gaibandha (GUK).

Widening its target, the workshop focused on new groups in educational and religious communities, including primary and secondary school teachers, scouts and guides, and religious leaders, in the hope to raise people's awareness on the role and responsibilities of civil societies in reducing the vulnerability of their city to disasters.

The workshop is designed in the light of vulnerability assessments of respective municipalities as a part of non-structural mitigation measures under phase I BUDMP.



Scouts and guides participating in the workshop in Tongi, Bangladesh

### Indonesia Urban Disaster Mitigation Project (IUDMP)

#### IUDMP to establish Center for Research on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation

*Bandung, Indonesia* - While Institute of Technology Bandung (ITB) is completing the replication phase under AUDMP, the IUDMP team is

working towards setting up a Center for Research on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation at ITB to continue promotion of disaster mitigation in Indonesia.

Recently, Indonesia has started implementation of the decentralization and autonomy process which is a very profound change in the local relation to the central in all spheres of activity, including education.

ITB has undertaken the process and re-structured their institute. A socialization meeting has been planned for February 2, 2002 to discuss the establishment of the Centre. ADPC will provide assistance in development of a business plan for the Center.

The successful establishment of the Center will greatly benefit Indonesia in the area of disaster management since IUDMP has built a body of knowledge in the field of disaster mitigation from the demonstration project in Bandung and replication in Bengkulu and a few other cities. The Center can share the experiences in disaster mitigation and provide technical assistance to other cities all over the country.

### Sri Lanka Urban Multi-Hazard Disaster Mitigation Project (SLUMDMP)

#### SLUMDMP pursues the goal of institutionalizing urban disaster mitigation

*Sri Lanka* - In the attempt to institutionalize of urban disaster mitigation in Sri Lanka, SLUMDMP organized a seminar at the Center for Housing Planning and Building (CHPB) on January 28, 2002. It was participated by the staff of the Faculty of Architecture, Moratuwa University, Sri Lanka.

To date, SLUMDMP has successfully organized four courses of the National Course on Natural Disaster Mitigation, which is targeted at practitioners and officials attached to local government institutions, including CHPB and the Sri Lanka Development Administration (SLIDA). The seminar is an effort to institutionalize disaster mitigation in the university system.

Since land use planning is viewed as one of the main streams of natural disaster management, the attempt

is to intergrate risk-based mitigation tools into the undergraduate and postgraduate curricula of urban planning schools.

### Training, Resource Materials and Continuing Education

#### ADPC to conduct a curriculum critique workshop on earthquake vulnerability reduction for cities (EVRC-1)

*ADPC* - Prior to the first regional Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction for Cities (EVRC-1) course scheduled for May 20-31, 2002 in Kathmandu, Nepal, ADPC will conduct a curriculum critique workshop during February 12-14, 2002 in Bangkok, Thailand. Its objective is to enhance the quality of course content to be delivered at EVRC-1.

International experts and scholars working in the area of earthquake engineering, mitigation and training will be invited to participate in the workshop.

For more information about EVRC-1, please contact Dr. Buddhi Weerasinghe at [audmp@ait.ac.th](mailto:audmp@ait.ac.th)

#### SLUMDMP organizes the 4th Natural Disaster Mitigation (NDM-4) course

*Sri Lanka* - Following the success of the three previously-organized NDM courses, the Center for Housing Planning and Building (CHPB) conducted the fourth NDM course during January 21-26, 2002 at the main auditorium of CHPB, Sunil Mawatha, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.

A total of 16 participants from a range of disciplines attended the 6-day course, which was adjusted and re-designed in line with the ADPC's Urban Disaster Mitigation regional course to suit the natural disaster environment in Sri Lanka. The course comprised of four modules on urbanization and urban issues in Sri Lanka, hazard and vulnerability assessment, mitigation practices and institutionalization as well as a field trip to the demonstration area of SLUMDMP-Rathnapura Municipal Council on which group exercises on disaster mitigation were based.

The necessity for inclusion of the subject area of NDM in the academic courses on urban planning

was realized and stressed by the participants, from both governmental and academic disciplines.

### Information and Networking

#### Update list of AUDMP Publications

##### Working Papers

1. Integrating Natural Hazards in the Planning Process: Risk Control Planning Workbook, January 2000.
2. Standard Operation Procedure for Urban Disaster Management in the Municipality of Bandung, March 2000.
3. Lessons Learned from Community Based Flood Mitigation and Preparedness Project in Cambodia, August 2001.
4. Emergency Management and Response Plan for Ratnapura, Sri Lanka, July 2000.
5. The Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Action Plan, January 1999.
6. Kathmandu Valley's Earthquake Scenraio, USA.

##### Project Reports

1. Cambodia Community Based Flood Mitigation and Preparedness Project, August 2000.
2. Sri Lanka Urban Multi-Hazard Disaster Mitigation Project, August 2000.
3. Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Project, September 2000.
4. Indonesia Urban Disaster Mitigation Project, September 2000.

##### Proceedings

1. Workshop on Urban Risk Reduction in Asia, Ahmedabad, 29 March 2001, Organized by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology, and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, April 2001.

If you would like to receive these publications, please write to the following address mentioning the publication(s) and your complete postal address:

Ms.Clarence M. Carlos,  
Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program,  
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center,  
AIT Campus, P.O. Box 4, Klong Luang,  
Pathumthani 12120 Thailand  
Tel: (66-2) 524-5354 Fax: (66-2) 524-5350  
Email: [clarence@ait.ac.th](mailto:clarence@ait.ac.th)

## Earthquake Safety Day in Nepal

*Every January 15 is recognized as Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Safety Day in memory of the occurrence of the worst ever earthquake tragedy striking the valley on January 15, 1934. The 4th Earthquake Safety Week was held during January 12-15, 2002. This is an extract of the article written by Shubhekshya Upadhyay, a class seven student studying in Paragon Public School, Battisputali, Kathmandu, Nepal. It interestingly illustrates a perspective of Nepalese children towards earthquake preparedness.*

“What is an earthquake? All of us know about it and many of us have experienced it also. Simply, earthquakes are caused by natural movement of the tectonic plates beneath the earth surface. No one can stop this natural movement but we can save ourselves from the effects caused by this kind of movements. Earthquake can take place any time. So we must always be ready with all the things we need during an earthquake. When an earthquake strikes, if we are inside the house, we should safely go and hide ourselves under table, desk or a bed instead of panicking. Always remember that we should never jump from the window. During an earthquake, if we are outside our home we should move away safely from the over-passage, under-passage bridges, etc. We should never stand near the electric poles and never enter a house as soon as the earthquake stops as because the shock may return.

All the people do not know about these things. We should organize many programs to educate people about them. In Nepal there was a devastating earthquake which took place on January 15, 1934, killing many lives of Nepalese people. In 1999, the Nepalese government decided to celebrate the Earthquake Safety Day on every January 15 as a memorial to those who died in the 1934 earthquake tragedy.

In this event different institutions working on the earthquake-related field organize various programs to educate people about earthquake safety. In January 2002, there was an exhibition in Jawlakhel, Lalitpur Nepal. There were about thirty booths of various institutions that are working to make communities safe from earthquakes. International agencies like Geohazards International, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, also participated in this event. All the display materials were very interesting and useful to all.

In my opinion it is not sufficient doing this kind of exhibition once a year. It should be done frequently. There should also be programs in school so that every student will learn about it. These types of programs are done only in Kathmandu but it should be done throughout the country so that all the people of the nation will know about it.

I would like to tell you all that Nepal is one of the countries that lie in the earthquake zone. So to prevent us from earthquake we should study different books about earthquake and consult many people about it.

Finally, I would also like to thank every institution who organized different programs to celebrate Earthquake Safety Day.”

**The Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP)** is an eight-year program designed to reduce the natural disaster vulnerability of urban populations, infrastructure, critical facilities and shelter in Asian cities. Currently, projects under the AUDMP are being implemented in sites in 9 countries – Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Pipeline projects are planned in China and Vietnam. Core funding for the AUDMP comes from the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Additional funds come from ADPC and collaborating institutions in target countries. The program is managed by the USAID's Regional Urban Development Office for South Asia (RUDO/SA) and is implemented by ADPC in Bangkok, Thailand.

The AUDM News reports on the monthly activities of the programs and projects in target countries. They were made possible through support from OFDA, USAID. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID.

For more information about AUDMP, please contact Mr. Josh Moga, AUDMP Program Manager, at AUDMP, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, AIT P.O. Box 4, Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120, Thailand Tel: (662) 524 5354 Fax: (662) 524 5350 E-mail: [audmp@ait.ac.th](mailto:audmp@ait.ac.th) or visit our website at: <http://www.adpc.ait.ac.th/audmp/audmp.html>