

Thailand and Lao PDR Partners Prepares for Project Implementation

AUDMP organized an Urban Disaster Mitigation (UDM) Course for Thailand and Lao PDR partners with assistance from the Training and Education Division, between 6 to 10 August at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand.

AUDMP designed to respond to the need for safer cities in Asia currently has projects in 9 different countries including two new projects in Lao PDR and Thailand. The Lao PDR Urban Fire and Emergency Management Project aims to reduce the vulnerability of population and built environment to fires and man-made urban hazards in Vientiane. The Thailand Urban Disaster Mitigation Project aims to mitigate flood disasters in Hat Yai in Southern Thailand.

In preparation for the implementation of these two new AUDMP projects, the UDM course aimed to build the capacity of the AUDMP partners on the concepts and tools for urban disaster mitigation, including: city level assessment methods; development and implementation of mitigation strategies; and integration of urban disaster mitigation as part of the urban development planning process. The course also provided an opportunity to learn from successes and failures by the sharing of experience among participants and resource persons. The course participants were all from organizations that will be involved in the implementation of the ADPC-supported projects.

This course was based on the two-week regional UDM Course Curriculum developed by ADPC as part of AUDMP with core funding from USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. Two regional UDM courses have been conducted in Bangkok and a third one is planned for next year. At the national level, the UDM course has been adapted and conducted by selected national partner institutions in Nepal and Sri Lanka. Mr. Amod Dixit from the National Society for Earthquake Technology of Nepal and Ms. Geethi Karunaratne from the Center for Housing, Planning and Building in Sri Lanka, both key persons in developing the UDM course at the national level, were resource persons for this course.



Opening Ceremony of the UDM Course



Desktop Exercise on City Mitigation Planning

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National Demonstration Projects

Bangladesh Urban Disaster Mitigation Project (BUDMP)

A Strengthened MDMC for Safer Communities

The Municipal Disaster Management Committee (MDMC) in both Gaibandha and Tongi have approved phase two of the project focusing on implementing mitigation strategies at the community level.

One of the first activities of the BUDMP was to reactivate the MDMCs in the two selected municipalities. After establishment, regular meetings were conducted in preparation for floods through assessment of risks in their municipalities, formulation and review of preparedness plans and development of mitigation strategies for selected vulnerable communities. To aid this process, MDMC members, including volunteers from communities who has been functioning as young forces under the MDMC, participated in a specially tailored disaster management training course organized by AUDMP project partners in Bangladesh.



Field surveying for structural mitigation

Under phase two, there are plans to impart training to civil society including teachers and religious leaders, which will further enhance the capacity of community groups to mitigate against floods.

Currently, engineering designs for structural mitigation have been completed. Their implementation in Gaibandha and Tongi will begin shortly through BUDMP partnerships with selected community groups, MDMC, the municipality, CARE Bangladesh and partner NGOs.

Cambodia Community Based Flood Mitigation and Preparedness Project (CBFMP)

Capacity of CRC Trainers Enhanced

On 4-9 June, ADPC conducted a refresher training of trainers (TOT) course for seven disaster management specialists of the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), IFRC and Pact to reinforce their skills and strengthen their capacity to carry out training for CRC volunteers in the future. Immediately after, on 11-15 June, these seven trainers conducted training for 18 new trainers from CRC National Headquarters on community based disaster management and TOT skills.

CBFMP has reviewed their curriculum after the courses and they are currently being finalized. Conduct of future courses are also being planned.

Indonesia Urban Disaster Mitigation Project (IUDMP)

IUDMP tests Risk Assessment in Denpasar

A model for rapid risk assessment including data needs, methodology, outputs and sample questionnaire has been completed. Six cities - Bengkulu, Bandar Lampung, Cilegon, Sukabumi and Yogyakarta - have been preliminarily identified for rapid risk assessment.

As a pilot test of the model, it will first be implemented in the City of Denpasar, Bali. Results from this test case will be used to further improve the model.

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

SLUMDMP collaborates with the National Program of Clean Rivers

SLUMDMP has been proactive in integrating the Kelani River Disaster Mitigation Action Plan into the National Program of Clean Rivers implemented by the Ministry of Forestry and Environment. Consequently, all Disaster Mitigation Steering Committees established in the urban local authorities either side of the Kelani River belt will be reformed as

Environment and Disaster Mitigation Steering Committees.

Training, Resource Materials and Continuing Education

The Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) Joins ADPC's Training Network

ADPC and the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) on 26 July 2001. Dr. Suvit Yodmani, ADPC Executive Director and Mr. Eduardo T. Gonzalez, DAP President were the main signatories of the MOU.

The MOU intends to develop and strengthen national partner training institutions (NPTIs) in the conduct and delivery of training courses on Urban Disaster Mitigation (UDM) by assisting in the enhancement of capacities for curriculum development, trainers' capabilities, and information exchange. Trainers from the network of NPTIs are included in ADPC's pool of consultants who participate as resource persons in regional training programs held in Bangkok or other countries.

Aside from DAP in the Philippines, other NPTIs include the Sri Lanka Development Administration (SLIDA) and the Center for Housing, Planning and Building (CHPB), in Sri Lanka; the Nepal Administrative College (NASC) in Nepal; and the Human Settlement Management Institute (HSMI) and the National Safety Council (NSC), in India.

All NPTIs are members of the Asian Disaster Mitigation Training (ADMIT) Network, an arrangement set up to continue activities and efforts after the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP) completes its term.

Information and Networking

AUDMP Publishes New Working Papers

Working papers serve to capture and document the knowledge and best practices emanating from the country projects of AUDMP. These working papers will also be a useful tool for promoting replication.

All working papers will be made available in various formats (hardcopy, CD-ROM, website, etc.) to individuals and organizations interested in promoting disaster mitigation in communities, municipalities, cities and countries. Below is a list of working papers.

To request for copies of these working papers please contact Mr. Rajesh Sharma, AUDMP Information and Networking Manager at: rajesh@ait.ac.th

Working Papers

#1 Integrating Natural Hazards in the Planning Process: Risk Control Planning Workbook, Prepared by Linda Noson for the Sri Lanka Urban Multi-Hazard Disaster Mitigation Project, January 2000.

#2 Standard Operation Procedure for Urban Disaster Management in the Municipality of Bandung, Prepared by the Indonesian Urban Disaster Mitigation Project, March 2000.

#3 Lessons Learned from Community Based Flood Mitigation and Preparedness Project in Cambodia, Prepared by the CRC, IFRC and Pact Cambodia, August 2001

Project Reports

#1 Cambodia Community Based Flood Mitigation and Preparedness Project, Prepared by Cambodian Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Pact Cambodia, August 2000.

#2 Sri Lanka Urban Multi-Hazard Disaster Mitigation Project, Prepared by the Centre for Housing, Planning and Building, National Building Organization, and Urban Development Authority, August 2000.

#3 Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Project, Prepared by National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal and GeoHazards International, USA, 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.

Chairman of Gaibandha Municipality Supports Community Based Disaster Mitigation

Gaibandha Municipality is one of Bangladesh Urban Disaster Mitigation Project's demonstration site. An extract of the interview with the Mr. Sabur, Chairman of Gaibandha Municipality conducted by Dr. Nurul Huda, Project Manager at CARE Bangladesh is shown below. This case demonstrates the importance of leadership, capacity building and community participation:

"The Ghagot, tributary of the mighty river of the Brahmaputra has been passing my birth place of Gaibandha town. My house is stones throw distance of the Ghagot. During the monsoon when the river overflows, water inundates my residential area of Kutipara. As a result, houses, roads and bridges gets damaged and the extent of damage depends on the velocity of river water every year. During the last monsoon in the year 2000, about 3 kilometers of earthen road was completely damaged. All inhabitants of Kutipara used boat for transportation and communication.

Do you know what is Kuti in Bengali? Kuti means ten million. We have ten million problems due to flooding. I always thought this is our nemesis because I was long time Commissioner and now I have become Chairman of the municipality for 3 years but still I could not solve the problem. We had no idea how to reduce flood vulnerability in a planned way.

One day, CARE officials accompanied by Mr. Salam, a local NGO official, came to my office and proposed that we set up a community based flood preparedness and mitigation system in Gaibandha Municipality. At first, I had no clear conception about what this means but after a series of discussion, the municipality council took the decision to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with CARE Bangladesh with a view to implement the Bangladesh Urban Disaster Mitigation Project (BUDMP) on a pilot basis with financial and technical support from ADPC.

Accordingly, we reorganized the Municipality Disaster Management Committee (MDMC) with the representation of all Commissioners, all government departments' representatives working in the municipal area, two local elite and all NGO representatives. Since then we have received a 3-day training on role and responsibilities of MDMC and on community based flood preparedness and mitigation. I took courage from the training to first reduce flood vulnerability from my residential area Kutipara then from the whole municipality.

Although Gaibandha is a very old municipality, we have no sufficient fund for development activities. But in the last dry season I organized meetings with local elite, representative of local clubs, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) representatives, Red Crescent and BUDMP volunteers in Kutipara. We took the decision to repair the damaged 3 kilometers earthen road with our own resources. We formulated different sub committees distributing responsibility to implement the scheme. Later, the municipal council provided some funds and with full enthusiasm as well as mutual cooperation of inhabitants of the Kutipara, we were able to repair the 3 kilometers road. Since then, BUDMP volunteers and local young men have been sharing the responsibility of maintaining the newly repaired road.

Now we have become more prepared for floods since we have formulated a disaster contingency plan for the municipality through a decision of MDMC."

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, Thailand and Sri Lanka. 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 and Urban Development Office for South Asia (RUDO/SA) and is implemented by ADPC in Bangkok, Thailand.

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