

### Thailand's Disaster Management Strategy detailed out



*Strategies for four identified major disasters in Thailand were discussed and detailed out during the group works.*

Bangkok, Thailand—Nearly 200 representatives from 20 different government departments related to disaster management and other organizations, including the media, Non-Government Organizations and Inter-Government Organizations participated in the seminar on “Thailand’s Disaster Management Strategy” held on 10 March 2003. The seminar was jointly organized by the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) and ADPC. The DDPM is the new Thai Government national agency under the Ministry of Interior responsible specifically for disaster management established in October 2002.

The seminar’s objective was to provide a forum for the participants to learn, discuss about and strategize disaster management in Thailand under the new administrative structure to determine their roles before, during and after disaster. The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. Pramuan Ruchanaseree, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Interior, along with other distinguished guests, including Mr. Kosin Kesthong, Director-General of the DDPM; Mr. Thomas Dolan, Senior Regional Advisor of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance; Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of ADPC’s Board of Trustees; and Dr. Suvit Yodmani, ADPC Executive Director.

At the seminar, the strategies for dealing with the country’s four identified major disasters, comprising natural disaster (mainly flood and landslide), fire disaster, chemical disaster and traffic-related disaster, were detailed out through group works. These strategies were discussed and shared extensively among the participants in a quest to find ways to enhance disaster management in Thailand. Based on the strategies identified at the workshop, the DDPM will eventually produce an Action Plan against disasters in Thailand for future implementation.

ADPC recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the DDPM (for more information on this, please refer to the Asian Disaster Management News for January to March 2003 on page 10). Furthermore, the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program of ADPC is implementing the Thailand Urban Disaster Mitigation Project (TUDMP) in Hat Yai, Songkla Province with the Faculty of Natural Resources of Prince of Songkla University as its project partner. The TUDMP aims to reduce disaster vulnerability of urban populations, lifeline facilities and infrastructure and shelter to natural hazards through demonstration project and training.

The participants were also briefed about the TUDMP and discussed the ways of utilizing ADPC’s expertise and experience in further developing and strengthening the capacity of the DDPM.

#### INSIDE...

- Training for Fire Volunteer Groups enhances grass-root capacity in implementing fire mitigation strategies in Lao PDR
- The center for disaster mitigation established to continue promoting disaster mitigation in Indonesia

### The 8<sup>th</sup> AUDMP Working Group Meeting highlights Disaster Risk Communication and Monitoring and Evaluation

Colombo, Sri Lanka—Continuing with the thematic focus at the last AUDMP Working Group Meeting, the 8<sup>th</sup> WGM held during 17-19 March 2003 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, focused on “Disaster Risk Communication and Monitoring and Evaluation”. The meeting was co-hosted by the Centre for Housing, Planning and Building (CHPB), National Building Research Organization (NBRO) and Urban Development Authority (UDA), three implementing partners of the Sri Lanka Urban Multi-Hazard Disaster Mitigation Project (SLUMDMP) under AUDMP.

The WGM began with the Sri Lankan tradition of lighting the oil lamp. Present at the opening ceremony were Mr. James Stein, Director of the Office of Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade, USAID, New Delhi; Hon. Azad Sali, Deputy Mayor of Colombo; Mr. Thomas Dolan, OFDA Senior Regional Advisor; Hon. Asoka Jayawardana, Former Mayor of Ratnapura; Dr. Carol Becker, Director of USAID Sri Lanka; H.E. Mr. Jerm Tivayanond, Thai Ambassador to Sri Lanka; Hon. Saliya Mathew, Governor of Sabaragamuwa Province; Dr. Suvit Yodmani, ADPC Executive Director; and Mr. N.M.S.I. Arambepola, AUDMP Acting Program Manager.



*The panel of distinguished guests at the Opening Ceremony of the 8th Working Group Meeting.*

As a result of the need expressed by the project partners at the last WGM for knowledge on designing effective communication campaigns, AUDMP had developed a draft set of Disaster Risk Communication Guidelines. These were presented and discussed with the participants to compile a final version to be made available to the partners.

The issue pertaining to Monitoring and Evaluation was also discussed in great detail by the participants. The meeting provided a platform for the participants to

review the AUDMP monitoring and evaluation framework and discuss a range of tools for increasing the effectiveness of project management to achieve the desired results.

A day prior to the meeting, Disaster Safety Day was held in Ratnapura for the second time. The event was jointly organized by SLUMDMP in collaboration with the Sabaragamuwa Province Chief Minister's Office and Ratnapura Municipal Council with an objective to promote public awareness, particularly among school children, teachers and parents, on the significance of disaster mitigation and preparedness. Ratnapura is the demonstration project site of SLUMDMP. The WGM's participants visited the site to witness the celebration as well as to observe flood-prone areas and gem mining sites, which could pose potential hazards when mining was over and the sites were left abandoned.



*A day prior to the WGM, the participants attended Disaster Safety Day in Ratnapura, which was held for the second time.*

### Indonesian Urban Disaster Mitigation Project (IUDMP)

#### The center for disaster mitigation established to continue promoting disaster mitigation in Indonesia

On 10 January 2003, the center for disaster mitigation in Indonesia was established at the Institute for Research and Community Empowerment of the Institute of Technology Bandung (ITB) to continue and further promote disaster mitigation in Indonesia beyond the life of the IUDMP. The center was named “the “Research Group on Disaster Mitigation (RGDM-ITB)”. The establishment was based on the merit and initiatives that the IUDMP and other partners have done to mitigate the disaster risk and save more lives in Indonesia. A business plan to direct

the center's activities was also developed by the IUDMP team.

The successful establishment of the center will greatly benefit Indonesia in the area of disaster mitigation 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.

### **Lao PDR Urban Disaster Mitigation Project (LUDMP)**

#### **Training for Fire Volunteer Groups enhances grass-root capacity in implementing fire mitigation strategies**

Based on the combined results of the city-level and community-based assessment previously done in Vientiane and Ban Hatsdy, respectively, mitigation and preparedness strategies have been planned and implemented by the community with assistance from LUDMP's three implementing partners--the Urban Research Institute (URI), Lao PDR's National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), and the Fire Brigade of Lao PDR.

In order to build capacity of communities in implementing fire mitigation strategies, LUDMP in collaboration with the Fire Brigade of Lao PDR organized a training program during 15-16 February 2003 for 160 community volunteers representing eight communities from four targeted districts in Vientiane.

The training program was the first community-based fire prevention activity undertaken by the Lao Fire Brigade. Knowledge of fire prevention, fire fighting and rescue was imparted to the volunteers through presentations, exercise and simulation so as to equip them with sufficient knowledge in face of fire.

The training program proved a success as at the end of the training, fire volunteer groups were set up in each community to safeguard lives and property of community members in the event of fires. Among 20 members of each group, the work was divided into three teams—fire protection, fire rescue and fire fighting—in order to improve effectiveness of the community fire coping mechanism in case of fire emergency. Besides fire response, the volunteer groups will also encourage people in communities to take pre-active, pre-cautious actions during normal circumstances as a means to mitigate fire disasters.

### **Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Project (KVERMP)**

#### **Consolidation Phase activities of KVERMP kicked off in three potential municipalities**

A visit to three potential municipalities, namely Vyas, Pokhara and Banepa, was carried out in order to assess needs and feasibility of these three municipalities to be targeted areas for implementation of activities under Consolidation Phase of KVERMP of ADPC. The visit was facilitated by representatives of the National Society of Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET-Nepal), the project's implementing partner.

Meeting with key stakeholders in each municipality was conducted. The results were positive as all three municipalities agreed to offer their full cooperation in carrying out proposed activities. This is an effort to further replicate the success from KVERMP in these three municipalities. In this regard, it was felt that it would be prudent to consider each municipality separately since their capabilities and the needs are different. Therefore, NSET-Nepal was requested to identify the needs of each municipality and prioritize them for formulating the respective Work Plan for each municipality. NSET-Nepal has recently completed the work schedule for each municipality and the work is being carried out accordingly in the respective municipalities.

### **Bangladesh Urban Disaster Mitigation Project (BUDMP)**

#### **BUDMP experiences captured to be replicated into five other municipalities**

As part of its replication phase activities, the BUDMP training manuals on disaster mitigation are being modified and revised collaboratively by CARE-Bangladesh, BUDMP implementing organization, and AUDMP/ADPC. The experiences from the BUDMP implementation are also incorporated into the revised version as a means to replicate its success into other interested municipalities nationwide through training programs.

Three manuals on three different subjects under disaster management will be revised as follows:

1. Basic Disaster Management Manual
2. Manual on Training of Municipality Disaster Management Committee
3. Manual on Training for Volunteers

These three manuals will tackle all stakeholders involved in disaster management in the country.

BUDMP replication activities are planned in five, out of 17, most vulnerable municipalities identified by CARE-Bangladesh. They are Shahjadpur, Bhuapur, Goalanda, Bhairab and Dohar. Replication activities will be undertaken in all these five municipalities through both direct activity implementation in Shahjadpur and Bhuapur, which were identified as the two most vulnerable municipalities among the five; and experiential learning by the other three municipalities (Gaolanda, Dohar and Bhairab) through on-site visits, observations, workshops and interaction with the local community.

To complement this replicating attempt, foundation training for new partner NGOs and other municipal officers on disaster mitigation in the five selected municipalities has also been conducted to lay foundation towards strong disaster management in the country.

### ADPC's joint project on Sustainable Capacity Building on Disaster Mitigation in Asia with ITC, the Netherlands

Following a dialogue generated at the workshop on Academization of Disaster Mitigation held in July last year, ADPC will soon start a joint project on Sustainable Capacity Building on Disaster Mitigation in Asia with the International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), the Netherlands.

The project aims to build capacity of universities and training institutes in AUDMP target countries on modern disaster mitigation tools, as part of the ongoing AUDMP, which targets at reducing disaster vulnerability of urban regions in Asia. It will do so by providing support to the institutionalization of academic courses on disaster mitigation in existing urban

planning curricula at university level, thus providing Asia with young urban planners knowledgeable of modern disaster mitigation tools.

The project will focus on the transfer of knowledge on Information Communication Technology (ICT) tools, such as Remote Sensing & Geographical Information Systems applications for hazard mapping through distance education with the AUDMP project partners via an Internet-based platform for E-learning. The project plans to have its first one-week kick-off workshop in April 2003.

The project partners include ADPC, ITC, the Netherlands and Ecole Nationale des Sciences, France.

### Case study on School Earthquake Safety Program in Nepal now available

A case study on the school earthquake safety program (SEEP) in Nepal, the fourth in the series of "Safer Cities" case studies, is now available.

The case study draws from the experiences of the Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Project implemented by the National Society for Earthquake technology, Nepal (NSET-Nepal). The SEEP evolved from a simple retrofit activity to a comprehensive program of earthquake safety involving the whole community. This case study explains the rationale for focusing on schools and the comprehensive process of developing and implementing the SEEP in Kathmandu Valley.

For copies of this case study, please e-mail [audmp@adpc.net](mailto:audmp@adpc.net)

**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 shelters in Asian cities. The AUDMP's projects are being implemented in eight countries – Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. 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.

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