

# Asian Disaster Management News

A newsletter of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)  
Asian Institute of Technology  
Bangkok, Thailand

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## Asian Disaster Management News - An Introduction

This is the first issue of a long anticipated newsletter on disaster management for Asia and the Pacific region, expressly targeting an audience of managers who directly or indirectly in their respective professions, are responsible for disaster management related activities. This may be within governmental or public sectors, or in NGO or private agencies.

As mentioned in the Feature article by Brian Ward, the awareness of effective disaster management and coordinated disaster preparedness initiatives is emerging as an increasingly important issue, both within the national development context and within the private sector.

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Disaster management training is one of the services provided by ADPC.

## Disaster Situation Reports

The Disaster Situation Reports are summaries of reports provided to the UNISDR by the United Nations International Emergency Network (IEN) and other disaster management organizations in the Pacific region with reported loss.

### INDONESIA - Earthquake/Tsunami

On December 12, 1992, an earthquake occurred with a magnitude computed at 7.5 on the Richter Scale, followed by tidal waves (tsunami). As of December 13, 1,895 were reported dead. There were several schoolbuses and people were staying outside their houses for fear of further destruction. Approximately 250,000 people were evacuated or homeless.

At that stage, government authorities estimated the losses caused by the earthquake and tsunami at approximately US\$ 80 million. The occurrence was declared a national disaster. At the request of OCHA/UNEP and UNISDR/OCHA an assessment mission was conducted by an ADPC expert, concentrating on damage and relief needs assessment.

Cont'd on p. 3

This newsletter, Asian Disaster Management News, is intended to further the above mentioned aim by providing a means for continued communication and a channel for active regional information sharing.

Feature issues of the Asian Disaster Management News will include information on national disaster management related activities, and the readers are invited to forward any material that may be useful to share with other colleagues in the region.

Apart from providing an active source of information, this newsletter may also introduce incentives and suggestions to be included in national efforts to improve national or local disaster management capabilities.

Asian Disaster Management News is a quarterly newsletter published by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, in cooperation with a channel of communication and source of information for disaster management in the region. The content is the result of extensive disaster management work by governmental and non-governmental and private institutions and agencies. For further information please contact: Information Office, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Asian Institute of Technology, PO Box 2754, Bangkok 10501, Thailand. Tel: (66-2) 554 9799 Fax: (66-2) 524 4340 E-mail: (UNISDR) Disaster@AIPC.AIT.or.th

Down memory lane, a new section in this edition, carries excerpts from the past issues and archives of the ADPC Newsletter, Asian Disaster Management News (ADMN), Vol.1, No. 1 January 1993.

The highlights of one of the articles, "Asian Disaster Management News - An Introduction", are as follows.

"This is the first issue of a long anticipated newsletter on disaster management for Asia and the Pacific region, expressly targeting an audience of managers who directly or indirectly, in their respective professions, are responsible for disaster management related activities. This may be within governmental or public sectors, or in NGO or private agencies".

"One of its main objectives is to serve as a starting point for and form part of a regional Information Network for Disaster Managers within Asia and the Pacific region. The desire for such a network is based on the fact, that disaster mitigation knowledge and techniques already exist, but are not always available when or where required".

"The long-term objective is to create a formal membership network. At this initial stage the intention is to facilitate contacts and provide information about on-going projects at the national level and other information on a regional as well as international level. ADPC within this network is to serve as a focal point for contact and forwarding of information. There are also the already existing Alumni from disaster management courses of ADPC".

"Future issues of the Asian Disaster Management News will include information on national disaster management related activities, and the readers are invited to forward any material that may be useful to share with other colleagues in the region. From the feature article, Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness in Asia and the Pacific: Some Reflections by Col. Brian Ward, "Asia and the Pacific region can make the unenviable claim to be more prone to natural hazards than any other region in the world".

"Whilst it may be true to say that in the study of disasters in the west, and international cooperation in relief operations, are relatively

recent developments, Asian countries have been coping with disasters since time immemorial. In China, construction of flood control dykes on the Yellow River began more than two thousand years ago, while those on the Red River in Vietnam date back to the 11th century. The first seismometer was invented by Zhang Heng 1,800 years ago; and the first rain gauge was invented in Korea in the 15th century. In India, "in the famine of 1630-32 the Emperor Shah Jahan opened soup kitchens, gave a lakh and a half to charity, and remitted one eleventh of the land revenue of the affected area."

"Where do Countries in this Region Stand at Present?"

Recent years have seen a marked change in attitudes towards disasters. Growing recognition of the real benefits of prevention and mitigation, rather than adhoc relief efforts, is spurring national and international initiatives in disaster management. People are less fatalistic and have higher expectations of the authorities in relief and mitigation.

Considering their level of development, national disaster management structures are remarkably sophisticated and countries can be justly proud of them, even if there are sometimes shortcomings in implementation. The economic effects of disasters, direct and indirect, the inter-relationship with environmental issues and the cost-benefits of mitigation are increasingly recognized. The need to integrate disaster and environmental strategies into national development plans is accepted, and there is a growing awareness of the benefits of regional cooperation".

"It is particularly welcome that the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) resolution emphasizes the importance of integrating national disaster mitigation plans in national development plans. It's easier said than done. In the past, there has been a tendency to say that disasters are the responsibility of one single department, with the natural, but regrettable consequence that other departments heave a sigh of relief that they are not responsible".

"It is crucial that the enthusiasm and goodwill of the developed world to identify and support risk reduction strategies within the framework of IDNDR is matched by enhanced capacities in developing countries and to absorb and implement those strategies in their respective countries".

Down Memory Lane...

July 2003 marks four years in ADPC's life as an independent organization. This issue being published with a new focus and being brought out in November 2003 is a good opportunity to share with you recent significant developments at ADPC. The fourth meeting of our Board of Trustees held on 25 June 2003 was a new milestone in our journey towards recognition as an international organization based in Thailand. It received news of endorsement of the new Charter by three countries; and set a goal for wider acceptance by other founding member countries.

The year 2003 has proved to be rather challenging time for ADPC with the ending of some programmes, delays in the start up of new ones, the SARS epidemic causing delays in training courses; and a re-focus of donor priorities with the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. We have managed to transform the challenges into opportunities, with right sizing and restructuring ADPC to focus on our 'niche' areas of expertise, building on our strengths and experiences. We now have teams working on five technical areas: Building National and Provincial Disaster Management Systems, Community - based Disaster Risk Management, Climate Risk Management, Public Health in Emergencies and Urban Disaster Risk Management. In this issue, we have explained the work of each team. We continue to remain geographically focused on our primary sub regions; South Asia, South East Asia and East Asia.

I have pleasure in introducing our new Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Earl Kessler. With his long years of work in Asia and experience at USAID, Earl is definitely an invaluable resource to ADPC.

In the middle of 2003, we have successfully launched two new one-year projects under DIPECHO third Action plan for South East Asia (2003-2004). "Partnership for Disaster Reduction – Phase II (PDR-SEA II)" is implemented in partnership with UN-ESCAP, as the follow-up program of PDR SEA I (Oct 2000-April 2002), and will cover Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The second project, implemented in collaboration with the Mekong River Commission (MRC) covers all four MRC member countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam, and is titled "Capacity Building for Preparedness Planning in the Lower Mekong Basin using Flood Information Products". It will be a sub-component of MRC's six-year Flood Management and Mitigation Program (2003-2008).

We are proud to begin the "Climate Forecast Application Project", funded by USAID/OFDA and NOAA in three countries, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam, following the successful "Extreme Climate Events Program" implemented during 1998-2003. So too the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Programme (AUDMP) will begin the last phase of its nine year life.

I am pleased to inform you that ADPC is a founder of the ISDR-Asia Partnership, together with: ADRC, UNDP (BCPR) and UNESCAP. The partnership produced the "zero" issue of a newsletter "Disaster Reduction in Asia-ISDR informs", released by UN Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Jan Eglund in Geneva on 5 Nov 2003. A copy of this issue is being mailed with our newsletter. This partnership will be important in the run up to the second World Conference on Disaster Reduction to be held in Kobe in January 2005 and in the ongoing implementation of disaster reduction in our region.

I look forward to continuing to work with all of you, our partners in the shared onerous mission of making our communities and countries safer from the threats of disasters.

**Dr. Suvit Yodmani**  
Executive Director, ADPC

# 'What if' rather than 'if only'

## Be prepared for the unexpected

### Jane's Public Safety Series

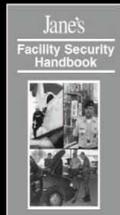
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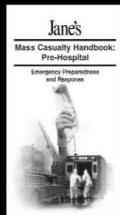
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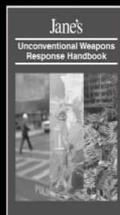
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**T**his Newsletter, first launched in January 1993; reached the silver jubilee of its publication with the April-June 2003 issue. Turning twenty-six is a good time to pause and re-focus and we are pleased to re-launch ourselves as "Disaster Risk Management in Asia" aiming to serve a wider audience by being "a newsletter of and for the community of disaster risk management practitioners and development workers in Asia". While continuing to report ADPC activities, the newsletter will enhance its role as a "platform for dialogue and exchange". DRM in Asia will actively strive to have a much wider coverage of reflective experiences; and learning lessons from "practice" of all actors in the sector managing both disaster risks and development processes. We look forward to your support and active written contributions showcasing successes of the work from the sector while critically reflecting on the enormous challenges of scale, sustainability, cost effectiveness and relevance to the needs of communities we claim to serve.

In this International Year of Fresh Water, the issue focuses on the theme of the ISDR World Disaster Reduction campaign running from World Reduction Day on 8 October 2003 to World Water Day on 22 March 2004. "Living with Risk: Turning the Tide Towards Sustainable Development" is an onerous challenge, but reflects the perspectives of communities who successfully cope with the challenges of living in disaster prone locations and strive to adapt so as to make their livelihoods, shelter, assets and life styles more resilient to the threats they face.

Sajedul Hasan's article on Flood Proofing in rural Bangladesh; and Susann Olsson and Dang Quang Tinh's pieces on Emergency Kindergartens in Central Vietnam show how small, innovative initiative have the ability to spread like wildfire; often implemented with resources from local government and communities themselves. From Bangladesh, the flood proofing approach is now being implemented in several provinces in the Mekong Delta in South East Asia; while Kindergartens are now planned to be established in six flood prone ASEAN countries. Charles Setchell's article on Flood Hazard Mitigation Project in Mali brings relevant perspectives from another continent.

On a different scale, the Natural Disaster Mitigation (NDM) Partnership represents an exciting cutting edge model for pursuing the cooperation easily established in the emerging phase, into a sustained collaboration for risk reduction. The full participation of the Government, both national and provincial with several bilateral donors, multilat-

eral banks and NGOs represent a new formalized working arrangement in the not-so-visible 'peacetime' mitigation phase, worthy of emulation elsewhere.

As Dr. Suvit message explains, ADPC is undergoing a new period of organizational, consolidation and strengthening. In this issue, we explain the restructured ADPC and its teams and highlight our recent work. Our newly established Information Sharing, Knowledge Management and Communication taskforce will guide our efforts at becoming a more effective node and active disseminator of knowledge on disaster risk management in Asia.

With this issue, we introduce new sections. "Down Memory Lane" will carry excerpts from the newsletter 25 issues back. As you will see from this section, many of the insights are remarkably prescient. "Happenings" reports on new developments related to stories and articles from previous issues. We welcome your suggestions on how to improve still further.

Ambika Varma, who served this Newsletter as its Assistant Editor for the last ten issues, has recently been promoted to a new position as Information Manager in our PDR SEA project. Ambika, many thanks for your dedication, hard work and persistent pursuit of excellence, which ensured the newsletter came out regularly and with high quality and for your continuing contributions.

As this Newsletter takes on new challenges, we look forward to your active involvement and contributions in helping us keep up its name and goals.

**Loy Rego**  
ajrego@adpc.net

***This edition brings to you....***

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# Flood Proofing: An Emerging Concept...

## Motivation & Purpose...

Flooding is almost an annual feature in Bangladesh, due to its geographical location, natural drainage system and excessive rainfall in the upper catchment areas. Pervasive flooding in the low-lying areas at times defying comprehension, creates perennial challenges for households and their environment.

As a consequence of the devastating floods of 1987 and 1988, the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) launched a series of Flood Action Plan (FAP) studies to formulate and implement technically, economically, financially and environmentally sound solutions to the adverse effects of floods in Bangladesh. CARE Bangladesh's Flood Proofing Project (FPP) is being carried out with the financial assistance spread over five years from USAID.

The project covers 1000 communities in the active flood plains in 20 high flood risk sub-districts, demonstrating the need for a more comprehensive national, regional and community level flood proofing strategy. The project is community - based by approach and strategy and operationalizes the Household Livelihood Security (HLS) framework. The primary reason for designing and implementing this project was to promote flood proofing as an integral requirement of all development activities in flood prone areas and to show how flood proofing can improve the social and economic well being of individuals,

families and communities. The project seeks to reduce the disruption of normal social and economic activities during and after flood episodes.

During flood events, the FPP specifically aims to assist households and communities: to conserve their resources; maintain their health & physical well-being; develop replicable community based participatory approaches for flood proofing; and mobilize efforts to prepare and manage flood readiness, response and protection plans.

*"The provisioning of long term non-structural or minor structural measures that can be undertaken by individuals, families or communities to mitigate the effects of floods", defines Flood Proofing.*

*The Bangladesh Government launched 26 FAP studies. FAP-23 is one of the studies which aims to identify and implement effective flood proofing measures.*



## Major Efforts Undertaken...

**Community Mobilization and Training:** The initial process of community mobilization was undertaken using Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) methodology. This essential component of the project plans to ensure continued community ownership and responsibility for flood proofing and preparedness activities.

**Structural Mitigation Measures:** These measures include making adjustment to structures to keep water out or reduce water entry. For example, raising the homestead yards of poor families, installation of latrines and tube wells above peak water levels, construction and renovation of community flood shelters/communal places, village roads, small culverts, village markets and river ghats.

**Small scale Agriculture, Social Forestation & Erosion Control Measures:** The project promotes small-scale agriculture and improved natural resources within the communities. These include homestead and roof top vegetable gardens in the raised or protected homesteads, tree plantation, social forestry and livestock rearing.

**Income and livelihood protection:** Under the project a safety net to protect financial and social losses of the flood-affected people has been planned. Disruption of the local economy during and after floods manifests shortage in employment opportunities, which can severely reduce incomes of poor people, who possess little food or money reserves.

Theme...



## Major Achievements...

*Char is the Bengali term for a mid channel island that periodically emerges from the riverbed as a result of accretion. These areas are subject to regular flooding.*

Since the inception of the project, a total of 25,000 char land households have been supported with structural and non-structural interventions. The participatory approach has initiated a new socio-cultural trend by bringing the community, stakeholders, government institutions and the Local Project Societies (LPS) together for analysis, planning, implementing, demonstrating, disseminating and assessing the needs of the study area. The poor, char land flood vulnerable communities get access to social networking, information, predictable occupation trends, capacity building and institutional strengthening processes, thus generating multiplier effect in the socio-cultural economy.

The project has led to the formation of a Mother's Club and an Adolescents and Children Forum in each community to educate all persons involved in required behavior change for flood preparedness, health, nutrition, and other identified areas. The LPS are seen to play key role in developing a detailed Village Plan which includes, community planning, implementation and maintenance, decision making, flood preparedness planning, developing early warning system, rescue and rehabilitation plan, linkage with other institutions etc.

Gender issues are identified as key elements encompassing the entire project landscape. The effort of integrating and ensuring active participation by women at every level of the project cycle has worked effectively, a clear indication of this being the emergence of the above mentioned Mother's club members and various other Community-Based Volunteers (CBVs) as change agents within the community.

## Lessons Learnt...

One of the most important lessons learnt in this process is that Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) needs effective planning which can be ensured through true community participation. It has also been identified that CBO /LPS and other participating agents are fundamental for the success of CBDM. In order to succeed in developing a sustainable CBDM it is very essential to integrate gender needs and empowerment issues in the overall framework of the process. A Secure Holistic Livelihood approach increases the pace of sustainable CBDM approach. It is also important to note that infrastructure development is essential for sustainable CBDM and can be guaranteed as one of the entry point interventions. Facilitating the growth of community-based institutions and or linking to local level institutions are enforcing elements to ensure sustainability in disaster prone remote areas. Most importantly the project has reversed the preconceived notion of disaster victims prefer relief assistance more as LPS' legal status has appeared as a crucial issue for long-term sustainability.

In conclusion it can be said that CBDM and holistic livelihood patterns are complimentary and promise sustainability. This approach can be applied to other similar situations through a detailed participatory analysis.



*Sajedul Hasan from CARE Bangladesh, the author of this article can be reached at <[sajedul@carebangladesh.org](mailto:sajedul@carebangladesh.org)>. For a more detailed reading, visit <http://www.adpc.net>.*

## *Emergency Day Care Centers: A Community Solution to Community Needs...*

In Vietnam, one of the world's more disaster-prone countries, at least 14,000 Vietnamese children and adults have been killed by natural disasters in the last 25 years. The most common natural disasters in Vietnam have been water-related, in particular storms and floods. In the severe floods of 2000, 2001 and 2002, 1,683 people were killed of which 72% were children under the age of 16 (UNICEF, Vietnam).



In response to a large number of drowning deaths, UNICEF Vietnam began supporting Emergency Day Care Centers (EDCC) in the three most flood-prone provinces in the Mekong delta in the south of Vietnam in 2001. During flood events, parents who needed to travel distances to work or to find food, often left children unattended or in the care of the eldest sibling. During the last two years, more than 900 EDCC have been opened, which provide shelter and care for about 20,000 flood affected children.

A single EDCC provides support for about 20-40 children aged 1-6 years. The children belong to pre-identified poor families affected by the floods. A minimal fee of about US \$3 per month is charged for the children to attend the center, although the fee is waived in about half of the cases due to the low income of the families. The program plans to phase out government funds and get the community to take care of the total cost in the near future.

On an average, an EDCC has two staff; one caretaker and one cook. Ideally, the EDCC staff is provided basic training on childcare, injury prevention, emergency preparedness and basic child rights. The EDCC are established predominantly in private houses which have been donated for this cause and sometimes also in health commune stations and schools that are closed during the flood. UNICEF Vietnam has provided each EDCC with Emergency Recreational Kits, including recreational toys, teaching and learning materials, and other relevant information on childcare along with providing capacity building of the caretakers as well as the district government staff in emergency preparedness related to child protection, and the developing of IEC material in this area.

### *Constructive Outcomes...*

It has been observed that the parents are relieved to know that during a flood situation, their children are well looked after when they are working or looking for food. In a significant achievement, the number of children drowned has decreased by 62% in the areas where EDCC have been established. The EDCC have given rural children access to kindergarten education for the first time while attending the EDCC has improved their social skills and boosted their self-confidence. Almost 50% of all EDCC that were opened in the last two years have been transformed into permanent kindergartens for children.

### *Lessons Learned...*

One vital lesson learnt has been that it is very important to be well prepared, so that the centers can open up as soon as the flood reaches a critical mark. This includes pre-identifying families most in need of the service, identifying funds, staff and facilities, and pre-positioning supplies as needed. Water and sanitation problems need to be identified and addressed, and solutions found, since floodwaters are a potential source of health risks. Media, especially TV, has played a very important role in informing people about EDCCs and the need for emergency preparedness. It is essential to further utilize this media for information dissemination. The EDCC program began on

a small scale and initially visits were organized for key government officials to show them the benefits of the ongoing program. These visits helped facilitate the increase of EDCCs in the region as the government took great initiative in the further establishment of more centers, mostly at provincial level. This proved to be a key contributing factor to the program's success. The government is committed to the expansion of the programs and is currently working with NGOs and various donors in additional provinces.



The EDCCs have been a great success for children, providing them with an educational haven during the flood season, allowing them to increase their social skills and self-esteem. UNICEF Vietnam is proud to have supported these centers and work in partnership with the Government and will advocate for models that increase child protection during emergencies.

*The author, Susann Olsson from Child Protection Section, UNICEF Vietnam can be reached at [solsson@unicef.org](mailto:solsson@unicef.org).*

### ***Flood Kindergartens: Community Solution to Community Needs...***

*Excerpts from an interview with Dang Quang Tinh, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Socialist Republic of Vietnam on "Community Solution to Community Needs".....*



Past records show children comprised a majority of the casualties during flood in the Mekong River Delta. What are the community-based measures taken by the Government of Vietnam to minimize casualties among the children?

Yes, during floods and moments of crises, children are separated from their parents, get lost in crowds or swept away. The Government of Vietnam has adopted several strategies for the Mekong River Delta to "live with the floods". Following the directives set forth by the government, one strategy is the creation of 'flood kindergartens' to protect children during the time of flood. The government set up "Kindergartens" where parents could leave their children while they struggled to save their houses, belongings and livelihoods. The increase in the number of emergency kindergartens allowed parents to get involved in other family and community activities during the disaster times. Flood season is also typically the busiest time for those parents who make their livelihoods from fishing and who have very little time to watch over their children.

*How successful have been the "Flood Kindergartens"? How receptive has been the community towards the Kindergartens?*

During the 2002 disaster, 918 emergency kindergartens were organized to keep 20, 273 children safe in flood-prone areas and information about them was widely communicated to the public. This resulted in a substantial reduction of child-deaths. An analysis of the 2002 deaths has shown that no child died in the emergency kindergarten. The local people responded actively to the flooding in 2002, there were great changes in the awareness level of both local authorities and residents. Flood Kindergartens were welcomed for its effective role to protect the children during emergencies.

## *New Initiative for Holistic Development in Central Vietnam: NDM Partnership*

### *The Need of the Hour...*

During November & December 1999, two heavy tropical rain spells inundated a large area of Central Vietnam, causing massive losses. The people of the area were supported by agencies at all levels of the Government. This helped overcome the aftermath with rapid stabilization of life and rehabilitation of the affected people.

The incident showed tangible benefits of cooperation, coordination in disaster relief, rehabilitation and speedy recovery. Realizing the importance of such action, government, donors and NGOs jointly expressed their wish to develop an institution to make disaster resistance a fundamental component of all new development in Central Vietnam.

Regions of Viet Nam	Disaster Zone	Principal Hazards
North	North Upland	Flash floods, landslides, earthquakes
	Red River Delta	Monsoon river floods, typhoon storms, storm surge
Center	Central Provinces	Typhoon storms, flash floods, drought
	Central Highlands	Flash floods, landslides
South	Mekong River Delta	River flooding from upstream, typhoon storms along the coast

*(Source: Second National Strategy and Action Plan for Disaster Mitigation and Management in Vietnam-2001-2020-Draft)*

### *Time for Action...*

This initiative soon got translated into a Government/Multi-donor fact-finding Mission that visited seven badly affected Central Provinces, which received more than 230 disaster mitigation project proposals from the provinces. Based on an assessment of the situation and these proposals, the Mission developed a Master Plan aimed at promoting and mobilizing resources for disaster risk mitigation. Of the initial 140 projects, the provincial authorities identified 21 top priority projects to be considered for immediate implementation. These projects include 15 structural and 6 non-structural projects.

This was coordinated with the direct objective of poverty reduction, environmental protection, gender equality, and sustainable and equitable development in Central Vietnam. List of projects and the

report of the multi-donor mission are available at the NDM-Partnership website.

The Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership (NDMP) is led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and includes the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE). It is based on the fundamental principles of regular and transparent information sharing; policy dialogue; identification, prioritization and recommendation for allocation of resources; and effective utilization of Government, Donor and NGO resources.

A preparatory assistance phase of the NDMP funded by the UNDP, Royal Netherlands Embassy and the Government of Luxembourg was set up to initiate partnership activities and prepare plans for the actual implementation of the NDMP. This was provided for ongoing programs and projects; identify priority provincial projects for disaster mitigation in Central Vietnam and assist the Provinces to obtain funding for these projects and to determine how the Partnership can be extended to the North and the South and thus, serve the whole of Viet Nam.





The following are the five Partnership Pilot Projects that have been developed for Water Disaster Risk Reduction ;

1. for Low Lying Areas of Hai Lang District, Quang Tri Province.
2. for Five Communes Protected by the Dong Dyke System, Binh Dinh Province.
3. in Phong Dien District, Thua Thien Hue Province.
4. in Binh Son District, Quang Ngai Province.
5. in Ngu Hanh Son District, Da Nang City

### *Achievements made so far...*

The achievements made during the preparatory phase include effective information sharing, improved cooperation and coordination, and identification and development of five partnership pilot projects. A study has also been carried out to assess the existing institutional arrangements, policies, capacity, and coordination for disaster management in Vietnam.

### *Future Orientation of NDM-Partnership...*

The Partnership has set goals to be achieved by year 2010 which include improving community awareness and local participation along with minimizing the number of people killed or injured during natural disaster. The partnership also aims at reducing economic losses caused by disasters, which averaged around 2% of national GDP in 1990's, to below 1% in the decade from 2001 to 2010. NDMP also aims to minimize negative impacts caused by disasters on poverty, the environment, sustainable development, equitable development and cultural heritage.

Overall, the main aim of this initiative is to make significant contribution to hunger eradication and poverty alleviation; and prepare responses to floods, storms, and droughts; rehabilitation of disaster damaged economic and social infrastructure; reduce the effects of future natural disasters; and sustainable management of natural resources, including integrated management of river basins, wetlands, and coastal systems.

Judging from the participation and plans for the project a positive change in quality of life of the inhabitants of Central Vietnam can be expected.

*For further reading, visit: <http://www.undp.org.vn/ndm-partnership>.*

## *ADPC's Board of Trustees Meets...*

The 4th Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on 25 June 2003 at the AIT Board Room, Bangkok. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Prof. Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, Royal Thai Government and Chairman of the ADPC Board of Trustees.

Ambassadors of Bangladesh, Denmark, Delegation of European Union, India, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam were present at the meeting. Representatives from Embassies of Australia, the People's Republic of China, and Pakistan were also present.



The board reviewed ADPC activities, re-organization of its structure, the expansion of Partnerships, ADPC Fellowship scheme among other matters.

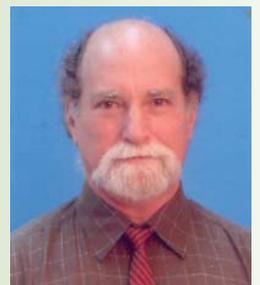
The Board was informed about the two national awards ADPC received from the Government of Cambodia and the Government of Philippines.

## *ADPC Programs and Activities...*

### *Earl Kessler joins the ADPC family...*

Mr. Earl Kessler, a citizen of the United States of America joins ADPC as its new Deputy Executive Director, effective 2 September 2003.

Mr. Kessler brings a very strong disaster management focus to the position. He has more than 30 years experience worldwide in designing and implementing a broad array of shelter and urban development programs, working in the public, private, academic and volunteer sectors. He has provided technical assistance and policy development frameworks for capital investment, disaster reconstruction, training and capacity building programs involving national, state and local governments as well as NGO and community groups.



Prior to joining ADPC, Mr. Kessler worked as Deputy Director of Urban Programs of USAID, as Director of Regional Urban Development Offices (RUDO) for South Asia Mission located in Delhi, India and for South-East Asia Mission located in Bangkok, Thailand, and as Urban Ombudsman for Planning and Development Collaborative Inc (PADCO). Mr. Kessler received a Master of Architecture in Planning for Developing Countries from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Since July 2003, ADPC has established a new internal organizational structure composed of the Office of the Executive Director and four teams, which are:

- ◆ Climate Risk Management (CRM)
- ◆ Disaster Management Systems (DMS)
- ◆ Public Health in Emergencies (PHE)
- ◆ Urban Disaster Risk Management (UDRM)

Each team focuses on specific technical areas; reflecting their expertise and experience that ADPC has developed over the years. A brief description of each team and relevant programs under them are given below.

### *Climate Risk Management (CRM)*

The CRM team aims to reduce the impacts of climate variability on communities and countries in Asia through the application of climate information. The team builds on its past experience of the Extreme Climate Events (ECE) program implemented since 1997 and plans to accomplish the goal through establishment of partnerships with international, regional, national, sub-national and local institutions, and by involving stakeholders and community in the planning and implementation of activities. The team believes that advocating capacity building at regional, national, provincial and local levels will greatly enhance the resilience of communities at risk.

### *Disaster Management Systems (DMS)*

The DMS Team undertakes activities ranging from capacity building, regional cooperation/networking, information management, and new program development to fostering of partnerships, in support of the ADPC Vision and the DMS Team Mission. The DMS Team is tasked to focus on three technical areas.

- ◆ Advocating and advancing Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM),
- ◆ Building National and Provincial Disaster Management Systems (BNPS), and
- ◆ Supporting and Promoting Regional Cooperation.

The Team's structure comprises of four functional work groups:

- ◆ BNPS Work Group,
- ◆ The Partnerships for Disaster Reduction-South East Asia Phase II (PDR-SEA 2) work group,
- ◆ Training Work Group and
- ◆ Information and Knowledge Management Work Group.

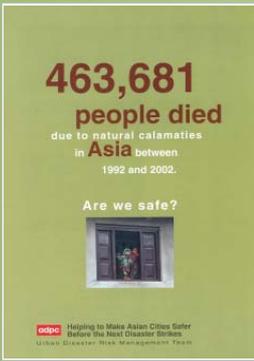
### *Public Health in Emergencies (PHE)*

Responding to the growing need to develop expertise in health and medical responses in crisis, ADPC has established a new team; Public Health in Emergencies (PHE), with the objective of assisting health service providers to prepare for emergency situations in coordinated manner. The PHE team aims to become a recognized focal point in Asia for emergency health preparedness and training. The team will focus on policy management, provision of assistant to health agencies, both government and non-government, in the areas of health emergency preparedness, mitigation and response, provision of consultancy services to governments on health preparedness issues and conducting research on health response and preparedness.

### *Urban Disaster Risk Management (UDRM)*

The UDRM team strives to build on the experiences gained and lessons learned from implementation of Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP) since 1995. The UDRM Team vision states "Sufferings of inhabitants, economic and material losses as a result of disasters are prevented, minimized or mitigated while preserving the gains and benefits of the urbanization for building safer urban communities". The focus areas of the team are as follows:

- ◆ Planning and Building Safer Cities: A Comprehensive Approach
- ◆ Public Awareness Campaigns: A Partnership Approach
- ◆ Emergency Management and Response Planning for Cities: A Multi-Sectoral Approach
- ◆ Knowledge Development and Capacity Building: A Holistic Approach



## *“Helping to Make Asian Cities Safer Before the Next Disaster Strikes”: The Urban Disaster Risk Management Team’s Strategy*

Recognizing the great challenges brought about by the rapid growth of urbanization in Asia, which subsequently led to an increased vulnerability of the urban population and infrastructure to disaster impact, ADPC has continually strengthened its efforts of reducing disaster risk by continuously building up the physical, social and economic capacity of communities and institutions in disaster-prone areas. Strategy Asia 2020 focuses on the expansion of ADPC’s geographical network and facilitation of collaborative actions for a safer Asia. In its recently published promotional information material, the team clearly defines its targets and strategies on how to go about attaining its mission, “helping to make Asian cities safer before the next disaster”.

### *Natural Disaster Risk Management Primer under Development*

ADPC is taking an initiative to develop a Primer on Disaster Risk Management for Asia. This Primer is designed to be used by professionals and practitioners for understanding disasters in their own geographical, social, economic and cultural context. The overall goal is to ensure a common understanding of disaster risk management that is applied across all sectors and among all levels of current disaster-risk reduction. The Primer would consist of different volumes, starting out with Volume I to provide the rationale and theoretical context of a holistic approach to disaster risk management, with Volume II to focus on the management of slow onset flood, and Volume III on seismic hazards.

A Workshop on Natural Disaster Mitigation Primer for Asia was conducted during 4-5 August 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand, to finalize the outlines for the 3 volumes. Over a one-year period starting from August 2003, the first three volumes of the Primer will be developed with support from the United Nations Development Programme and the United States Agency for International Development’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.



AUDMP - making cities safer...

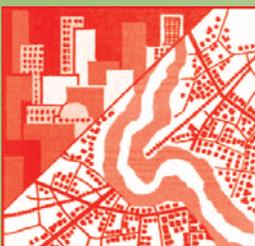
### *Earthquake Risk Management Process in Nepal*

Action planning process for earthquake disaster risk reduction is underway in four municipalities in Nepal, namely, Vyas, Banepa, Pokhara, and Dharan. This was decided after a study was conducted jointly by ADPC and National Society of Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET-Nepal), in order to assess needs and feasibility of these municipalities to be target areas for implementation of activities under consolidation phase of the Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Project (KVERMP).

Action planning process includes vulnerability assessment, capacity building and training, setting up of committees with the participation of key stakeholders in each municipality and capacity building and training. Training for local masons and contractors on earthquake resistant building construction is also a part of the process.

### *Integrating Disaster Mitigation in Urban Planning Education in Asia: the CASITA Project*

The Capacity-building in Asia using Information Technology Applications (CASITA) project is an attempt of AUDMP to build capacity of modern disaster mitigation tools targeted at reducing disaster vulnerability of urban regions in Asia. The project specifically focus on providing support to the institutionalization of academic courses on disaster mitigation in existing urban



planning curricula at university level, thus developing the skills of young urban planners in Asia on the use of modern disaster mitigation tools. ADPC partners with the International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), the Netherlands, and Ecole Nationale des Sciences Geographiques (ENSG), France to implement the project.

Under the CASITA project, a regional training course cum workshop entitled "Sustainable Capacity Building on Urban Disaster Mitigation in Asia using IT&C Learning Tools" was conducted on 11-22 August 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand. For more information, visit the CASITA project website at this address <<http://www.adpc.net/casita/>>.

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

Recognizing the positive outcome of the implementation of Bangladesh Urban Disaster Mitigation Project (BUDMP), and as a continuing effort to attaining sustainability of the project, the initiative has been expanded and replicated in two other municipalities of Bangladesh, namely Bhuiyanpur and Sahjadpur. Structural intervention for flood mitigation at the community level and construction of a model demonstration house have been implemented in both municipalities. Different forms of public awareness activities such as billboard display, cabling network connection, etc. have also been continuously carried out.

### *Case studies developed under BUDMP and SLUMDMP*

The development of 2 case studies in Bangladesh is underway and is to be released in print and in video. The Community-based Initiatives in Tongi and Gaibandha municipalities is to be completed in November 2003. The Public Awareness case study in print is also being compiled and consolidated, and is going to be released soon. This initiative is a follow-up activity of BUDMP.

Two visual case studies are also developed based on the Sri Lanka Urban Multi-Hazard Disaster Mitigation Project (SLUMDMP). The first video, "Looking Back - A people's appraisal of SLUMDMP after the disaster in May 2003", encapsulates people's views on the failures and successes of the project in the aftermath of the May 2003 floods. The second video features a water tank rehabilitation, a community-based project for flood/drought mitigation in the dry zone of Sri Lanka which has been done in collaboration with SLUMDMP.

### *Regional Training Course on Disaster Risk Communication*

The First Regional Training Course on Disaster Risk Communication (DRC-1) will be held from 2-6 February 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand. Being the fifth course, developed under the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP), DRC-1 is an attempt to instill theoretical and practical aspects of communication campaigns to build capacity of development workers for a more effective awareness dissemination.

Outcomes expected from the participants will be to:

- ◆ conduct basic primary and secondary research to inform every aspect of the communication plan
- ◆ create effective messages for target audiences using relevant media
- ◆ know how to efficiently use time and resources
- ◆ know how to effectively implement and evaluate communication campaigns

For further details about the DRC-1, contact Dr. Buddhi Weerasinghe at [buddhiwe@adpc.net](mailto:buddhiwe@adpc.net).

*AUDMP - making cities safer...*



## Regional Seminar on “Anti-Personnel Mines - Are They Worth It?”

The Regional Seminar on “Anti-Personnel Mines- Are They Worth It?”, organized by The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) was held on August 21 and 22, 2003. The seminar was a forum for civil society from 12 countries in Asia and Pacific region to discuss and share their views on the significance of non-use of anti-personnel mines. Through the commitment of Royal Thai Government to the Ottawa Treaty (Mine Ban Treaty), the Regional Seminar “ Anti-Personnel Mines - Are They Worth It?” took place



with funding support from the Governments of Australia, Canada, and Norway and the United Nations Children’s Fund.

Dr. Andrew McAlister, Canadian Ambassador to Thailand, Mr. Pensak Chalarak, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Mr. John Griffin, Australian Charge d’Affaires to Thailand, Ms. Ingunn Vatne, Norwegian Charge d’ Affaires to Thailand, Mr. Jean-Luc Bories, United Nations Children’s Fund Representative were present at the opening ceremony on 21 August 2003. The seminar was represented by over 50 delegates comprising of NGOs, landmine victims, academicians and the media.



### Courses and Activities...

- ◆ Eleventh Community Based Disaster Risk Management Course (CBDRM-11) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 21 July - 1 August 2003. It was attended by 24 participants from 12 countries. The countries that were represented were: Bangladesh, Cambodia, East Timor, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Micronesia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and United Kingdom.
- ◆ Fifth Flood Risk Management Course (FRM-5) was organized in collaboration with the Research Center on Flood and Drought Disaster Reduction (CDR), China and was held in Beijing, China from 15-26 September 2003. It was attended by 16 participants from seven countries. The countries that were represented were: Bangladesh, China, Lao PDR, Nigeria, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- ◆ Training of Trainers for Rapid Emergency Needs Assessment (TOT-RENA) was organized, at the request of the World Food Programme Bangladesh, in Koitta, Manikgunj, Bangladesh from 5-9 October 2003. It was attended by 29 participants from Government, Non-Government and WFP.



#### Future Course Announcements:

- ◆ Disaster Risk Communication ( 2-6 February 2004)
- ◆ Crisis and Consequence Management
- ◆ Community Based Disaster Risk Management (July 2004)
- ◆ Thirty First Disaster Management Course (November 2004)

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) through its Public Health in Emergencies (PHE) Team in partnerships with the Regional Offices of the World Health Organization's Southeast Asia and Western Pacific (WHO-SEARO/WPRO) and with the World Education Inc. (WEI), Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) organised a series of courses in public health and emergency management and courses in disaster management with focus on health. Among the most recent and upcoming activities under the PHE Team include:

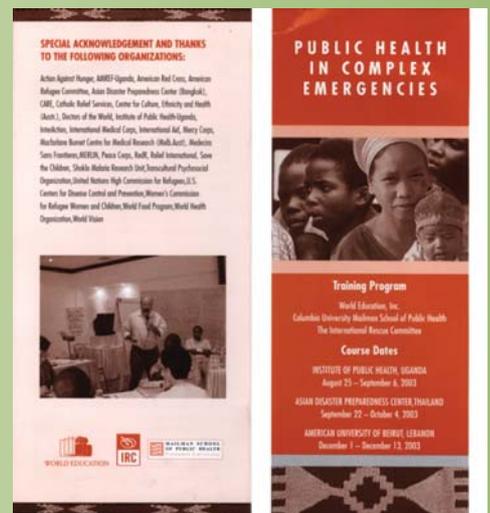


◆ The 3rd Inter-regional Training Course on Public Health and Emergency Management in Asia and the Pacific (PHEMAP-3) in collaboration with WHO was successfully conducted from 18-29 August 2003 at Bangkok, Thailand, with funding from the Royal Government of Norway. Twenty-seven senior public health management officers from the national and provincial level staff of the Ministry of Health and other emergency health management units from 13 countries of Asia and the Pacific took part in the training course. The next course, PHEMAP-4, is planned from 19 April-1 May 2004, Bangkok, Thailand.

◆ The First International Training Course on Hospital Emergency Preparedness (HEmP-1) is scheduled for 24-28 November 2003, Bangkok, Thailand. The HEmP-1 Course is designed to assist health service providers, both administrative and medical, to enable them to prepare facilities and themselves effectively in a coordinated manner to respond to emergencies that will involve large number of casualties. Further details of this course can be browsed at the ADPC website at <http://www.adpc.net>.

◆ The World Education Inc. (WEI), Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in association with ADPC will jointly organize the course on Public Health in Complex Emergencies (PHCE). The course is planned from 19-31 January 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand. The goal of the course is to enhance the capacity of humanitarian assistance workers and their organizations to respond to the health needs of refugees and internally displaced persons affected by these emergencies. The detailed information and application form regarding this course can be downloaded at the IRC website at <http://www.theirc.org/phce/> or at the ADPC website at <http://www.adpc.net>.

◆ The LEADERS Course in Asia is an international course on Development and Disasters with special focus on health. The World Health Organization and its Southeast Asia Regional Office will tailor the english-language LEADERS Course, presented last February 2003 in Jamaica, to a global audience, primarily Asia, with support from the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC). The course is tentatively scheduled on 29 March-10 April 2004, Bangkok, Thailand. For more information on LEADERS course, visit the WHO website at <http://www.disaster-info.net/LIDERES>.



## Appraisal of MRC's Flood Management and Mitigation Programme Flood Emergency Management Strengthening

### Flood Management and Mitigation Programme (FMMP)

Following the devastating floods of 2000 in the lower Mekong, the MRC Council at its meeting in October 2000 requested the Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS) to formulate an MRC Strategy on flood Management and Mitigation to lay the ground for a much stronger future involvement of MRC in regional flood management mitigation. Based on the Strategy, approved by the MRC Council in November 2001, a Flood Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) was formulated. The FMMS provided a framework for the new MRC Flood Mitigation and Management Programme (FMMP).

1. Establishment of Regional FMM Center
2. Structural Measures and Flood Proofing
3. Mediation of Transboundary Flood Issues
4. Flood Emergency Management Strengthening
5. Land Use Management.

The FMM Program is being funded by the Government of Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Japan, USA and the Asian Development Bank.

The Government of Germany, under its agreement to financially support the implementation of two components of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Flood Management and Mitigation Program (the Components 4: Flood Emergency Management and Component 6: Preparedness, and Land Use Management), commissioned GTZ to appraise these two components. This mission undertook the following tasks in all four MRC member countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam from June to September 2003,

- \* Reviewed the problem analysis and results in greater detail regarding these components.
- \* Clarified overarching questions;
- \* Clarified the mandate and role of MRC with respect to these components;
- \* Defined expected impacts and indicators;
- \* Identified coordination needs and mechanisms to avoid overlaps;
- \* Revised the activities of Component 4 and 6 complete with revised budget, workplans and recommendations.

### Capacity Building using MRC Flood Information Products

Mekong River Commission (MRC), in collaboration with Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), has launched the project on "Capacity Building for Preparedness Planning in the Lower Mekong Basin using Flood Information Products" in September 2003. The 10-month project will be implemented in all four member countries of MRC; Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. The project is being implemented under Component 1 of the MRC's Flood Management and Mitigation Programme (FMMP). The overall objective of the project is to enhance capacity for undertaking flood preparedness planning to have timely, efficient and coordinated emergency response during floods in the Lower Mekong Basin. Their main activities include: assessment of the usability of MRC's flood forecasting products, development of training curriculum and delivery of pilot training courses in all four MRC member countries, organizing an awareness seminar at regional level and development of institutionalization plan for the training courses in two MRC member countries of Cambodia and Vietnam.



Building National and Provincial Systems (BNPS)

### ASEAN Feasibility Study on Institutionalization of ASEAN Emergency Response and Strategic Planning For Environmental Disasters

With the objective of identifying the needs and options for an ASEAN Center for Emergency Response and Strategic Planning for Environmental Disaster, a team of consultants from ADPC together with a representative from Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) are engaged to conduct a feasibility study on the establishment and operationalisation of an ASEAN Emergency Response and Strategic Planning Institute for Environmental Disasters. The study commenced during the month of September 2003.

The study will involve an assessment of the needs and capacities for regional environmental disaster management, primarily in the areas of coordinated emergency response, training, research and information sharing.

## *Dumangas Disaster Coordinating Council hailed best in the Philippines, conferred GAWAD KALASAG*



*Department of National Defense Secretary and National Disaster Coordinating Council Chairman Angelo T. Reyes, Dumangas Mayor Rolando B. Distura, Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose D. Lina Jr. and Office of the Civil Defense Administrator Melchor P. Rosales during the Gawad Kalasag ceremony at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines last July 30, 2003*

In recognition of its integrated/holistic approach to disaster management, the Municipal Disaster Coordination Council of Dumangas, Iloilo, Philippines was conferred the Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Award, otherwise known as the GAWAD KALASAG. This is through the efforts of its Local Chief Executive, Mayor Rolando B. Distura.

The Gawad Kalasag recognized that, "As a catch basin of the Jalaur River and basically an agricultural community, the local government has implemented outstanding disaster mitigation projects, with multi-sectoral participation. Foremost of these projects was the establishment of the Dumangas Agromet Station, which ensures regular provision of local weather and climate data to the community, for disaster preparedness and mitigation, thereby boosting agricultural and fishery production and, above all, the protection of human lives and properties during disasters". The municipality invested in the setting up of the agromet station, with technical support from the Philippine Meteorological Agency, PAGASA and ADPC.

Dumangas will soon embark on a community-based flood and drought forecasting and warning system and a community radio station to further enhance its disaster preparedness.

Contributed by Ruby Rose Policarpio, Dumangas Planning Office, Philippines and can be reached at [rspolicarpio@dumangas.ph](mailto:rspolicarpio@dumangas.ph).

### *Sixth SE Asia Regional Disaster Management Committee Meeting*

The sixth Regional Disaster Management Committee (RDMC) meeting was held at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand, from 14-16 August 2003, by the South East Asia Regional Disaster Management Unit. A total of 16 participants attended the meeting, 11 of whom were disaster managers/ personnel from 10 national societies (Brunei, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam).

The meeting broadly discussed the issues of disaster preparedness and response, knowledge sharing, and community based disaster management. The following issues emerged from the deliberations of the meeting:

- ◆ To promote ownership of CBDM training by local governments/ community through institutionalised arrangements
- ◆ To facilitate exchange of practical/ workable contingency plans from country to country
- ◆ To advocate/ promote the use of training curriculum for volunteers
- ◆ To initiate exploratory talks with ASEAN disaster management committee
- ◆ To improve and facilitate dissemination of disaster information through existing tools such as web page, DMIS, Monthly DM bulletin and planned tools such as an information brochure.

## *UN- Sasakawa award of Merit for disaster reduction awarded to Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority*



The Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority headed by Shri Narendra Modi, Chief Minister was awarded the UN Sasakawa award 2003 for outstanding work in the field of disaster management and risk reduction. The presentation of the award was organized by the UN and Government of Germany on 16th October 2003 at Bonn, Germany.

The citation of the award says “the Sasakawa Jury wishes to recognize the inclusive and innovative approach adopted by GSDMA in disaster situations, in which many partners and their stakeholders, both inside and outside India, provided knowledge



and resources to formulate effective policies and legislation and prepare disaster management plans” It also says “Created in the wake of the powerful and deadly Bhuj earthquake of January 2001 in Gujarat, India, GSDMA has acquired a solid reputation in the massive reconstruction and rehabilitation work following the disaster”.

The Sasakawa award, administered by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), is given to individuals and institutions for their outstanding work in disaster management and disaster reduction.

GSDMA, set up after the Bhuj earthquake of 2001 had been nominated by the Government of India for this prestigious award. Along with undertaking reconstruction and rehabilitation work, GSDMA has taken several initiatives in the direction of disaster mitigation and preparedness such as strengthening of emergency response system, establishment of seismological research network, large scale training of masons and engineers, community based preparedness, various studies on disaster management related issues and massive awareness campaign.

*For more updates visit, <http://www.gsdma.org/unaward.htm>.*

## *Update on ADPC Cooperation with ASEAN*

In 2001 and 2002, ADPC worked closely with ASEAN Secretariat and its member countries, providing technical support, in the development of ASEAN Regional Program on Disaster Management (ARPD), which was endorsed at the 12th AEGDM meeting at Hanoi in September 2002.



Since July until December 2003, ADPC, has been carrying out the “Feasibility Study on the Establishment and Operationalization of an ASEAN Emergency Response and Strategy Planning Institute for Environmental Disasters”, funded by the Japan-ASEAN Exchange Program (JAEP). The program involves assessment of needs and priorities of ASEAN member countries in the area of environmental disaster management, primarily in the areas of coordinated emergency response, training, research and information sharing.

ADPC has also successfully completed two training courses on “Urban and Rural Flood Mitigation” for ASEAN member countries supported by the ASEAN Foundation, in January 2003 in the Philippines. ADPC was invited to participate and to co-facilitate a session on Project Framework Development at the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, from 29-31 October, organized by ASEAN Secretariat and Royal Thai Government, with support from UNHCR. The major significance of the meeting was the signing of the 2nd ASEAN Concord in Bali, and that it would operationalise the ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management into concrete projects.



# Promoting Sustainable Development Through Hazard Mitigation: BAMAKO, MALI

## The Concern...

Flash flooding throughout Bamako in August 1999 resulted in numerous deaths, injuries, and generated significant economic losses for several thousand people. In response to this calamity Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, (OFDA), USAID provided disaster assistance with local purchase of selected relief supplies. Another agency, Action Contre La Faim/Action Against Hunger (ACF/AAH, or ACF) was tasked to distribute supplies to flood victims. The most affected area of the city was the Banconi area of Commune One, which received the bulk of relief assistance.



ACF was requested by OFDA/DC for additional information on the causes of flooding in the affected area, and opportunities for mitigating these causes. This initiative led to a series of interactions that resulted in the October 2000 approval of a two-year, \$450,000 mitigation project in Banconi, which was to be implemented by ACF. This article reviews the impacts of the project, which ends in December 2003 and is based on a recent mission to Bamako by the author.

Bamako is one of several African cities that have experienced several flood disaster declarations in the past five years. One of the primary causes of flooding in Bamako and other African cities is the improper disposal of refuse in waterways, thereby compromising their ability to safely absorb the additional volume flowing through their channels during floods. In Bamako efforts to mitigate flood hazards are thus linked with the improvements in urban service provision (e.g., improved retention, drainage, refuse collection and disposal).

## The Purpose...the Directions...

The primary ACF project objective was to provide effective watershed management, which was to include retention strategies such as slip trenches and diversion efforts along with waterway bank restoration. A new refuse collection and removal system needed to be implemented along with a landfill operation. An extensive community-based training efforts in public health and sanitation along with livelihood generation through a community operated composting operation was suggested. The engagement of local government authorities and project area residents in a process of identifying needs and priorities throughout the project cycle was envisaged to lead to decentralization aid and promote democratic governance (DG).

The USAID/Mali mission was very supportive right from the project initiation, viewing the project largely as an applied Democracy and Governance (DG) project. They felt that government decentralization would be promoted through hazard mitigation and urban service provision.

## The Outcomes...

The mission has found that in addition to promoting decentralization, the project has effectively reduced flood hazard vulnerability, generating livelihood opportunities to project area youth, and has also shown significant improvements in project area public health. Specific results achieved include restoring channel volume in key project area waterways through removal of several hundred tons of



Perspective...

accumulated refuse and related debris. This intervention has helped improve project area drainage capacity and reduce flood vulnerability. The issue of improving water retention capacity has been dealt with the construction of slip trenches (a.k.a., soak pits), thereby reducing both runoff volume and flood vulnerability. ACF has demarcated and constructed a landfill site. A refuse collection and disposal service has been established through the creation of eight collection routes. A collection team serves each route, which use tractor-trailers to collect the refuse and bring it to the landfill site. This service has generated numerous livelihood opportunities for unemployed youth, and has become self-sustaining, as collection fees more than offset costs. According to Bamako government officials, it is also the first collection and disposal system in the country's history.

A composting operation has been established at the landfill site with an initial signing of a sales contract. Prior to establishing the operation ACF conducted a survey of refuse, and found that 87 percent of collected refuse was compostable, and that a market for compost existed in Bamako with a potential for the possible expansion of the market. A 33-40% reduction in the incidence of selected water-borne (e.g., diarrhea) and mosquito-borne (e.g., malaria) illnesses has been reported in the project area since the project's inception. This suggests strongly that the project has also contributed to significant public health improvements.

The success of this project has brought ACF local, national and international recognition. It was invited to make a presentation on the Bamako project at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto and Osaka, sponsored by the World Water Council in March 2003.

### *A Way Forward...*

Various other donors have replicated various elements of the Bamako project. Malian authorities have become increasingly impressed with the project outcomes and Commune 1 officials are now considered resources for training programs. The project has received very positive media coverage and an example of this is the extensive coverage accorded to a December 2002 visit to the project site by the national government Minister of the Environment, who invited several donors to accompany him on the visit. As a result of this visit, the Ministry of Environment identified the project as a model for replication elsewhere in Bamako, and in other Malian cities. In response, OFDA provided additional funds to ACF to intensify training and outreach activities, to contribute to the larger objective of reducing hazard vulnerability in Malian cities, thereby making them safer places to live and work.

Although the ACF/OFDA effort to reduce flood hazard vulnerability in Bamako has proved successful, it has demonstrated that such an effort can also be a cost-effective means of promoting several other objectives simultaneously. At a time when most organizations have constrained budgets, the multiple benefits of hazard mitigation in Bamako should be recognized, appreciated, and considered as a model for hazard mitigation and sustainable development programming activities elsewhere.

*The author, Charles A. Setchell, AICP, Urban Planning and Urban Disaster Mitigation Specialist, Technical Assistance Group, OFDA/DCHA/USAID can be reached at [csetchell@usaid.org](mailto:csetchell@usaid.org).*



◆ **Second Annual Mekong Flood Forum 2003**

28-29 October 2003

The MRC Secretariat is conducting the 2nd Annual Mekong Flood Forum 2003, an annual recurrent event to provide a platform for relevant stakeholders to share their experience and information to address the flood management issues. The Forum is scheduled on 28-29 October 2003 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia with the theme "Information Flow, Networking and Partnerships".

The forum will discuss the following:

- ◆ To share lessons learned on the last year floods by the concerned agencies;
- ◆ To exchange information on completed, ongoing and planned FMM initiatives in the LMB;
- ◆ To review the agenda and course of action, in a national as well as regional perspective; and
- ◆ To exchange experience and ideas about flood management in general and this year's theme in particular.

For further details, contact Luu Phu Hao, Officer-in-Charge, Secretariat, Tel: (855-23) 2720 979, Fax: (855-23) 720972

◆ **First Southeast Asia Water Forum**

17-21 November 2003, Chiang Mai, Thailand

GWP SEATAC, in partnership with the Royal Thai Government and various international organizations, is convening the First Southeast Asia Water Forum on 17-21 November 2003, in Chiang-Mai, Thailand. The theme of the Forum is Strengthening Regional Capacity through Best Practices in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The Forum will feature seven thematic sessions focusing on the following key water management issues in the region:

- ◆ Access to Safe Water Supply and Sanitation
- ◆ Conflict Resolution and Basin Organizations
- ◆ Community and Local Management of Water Resources
- ◆ Water, Environment and Ecosystems
- ◆ Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management
- ◆ Water and Flood

For further details, contact Southeast Asia Water Forum, E-mail: [gwp\\_seatac@ait.ac.th](mailto:gwp_seatac@ait.ac.th), Tel: (66 2) 524 5558; 524 6067, Fax: (66 2) 524 5550

Further information are available at [www.gwpseatac.org](http://www.gwpseatac.org).

◆ **World Congress on Natural Disaster Mitigation**

19-21 February 2004, New Delhi, India

Jointly organized by India Institution of Engineers, World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), the plenary sessions for this multidisciplinary congress include the global and regional dimensions of natural disasters, their implications for national development, capacity building and public education and awareness of natural disasters, the role of government, mapping, vulnerability and much more.

For more information or to register, contact the Organizing Secretary General, Engineer Bhawan Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002 India; tel: 91-11-2270168; e-mail: [tmcwec@del3.net.in](mailto:tmcwec@del3.net.in); <http://www.wfeo-cee.org/ndm.htm>.

◆ **Asia Conference on Earthquake Engineering**

5-6 March 2004, Manila Philippines

Organized by the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines, Inc. (ASEP). Manila, Philippines, this conference aims to provide a venue for dialogue and cooperation among scientists, engineers, researchers, and planners addressing the issues of earthquake engineering practice and research, seismic hazards and loss mitigation in "earthquake countries".

Conference information may be obtained from ACEE 2004 Secretariat - ASEP Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines, Inc. Unit 713 Future Point Plaza Condominium, Panay Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines; tel: +632 4118603; e-mail: [acee\\_2004@yahoo.com](mailto:acee_2004@yahoo.com).

## *Violence Against Women: The Health Sector Responds (Pan American Health Organisation, 2003)*

Filled with actual stories gleaned from research, this book on Gender Based Violence (GBV) addresses well an important issue—the involvement of the health sector, and its responsibility in dealing with cases of GBV. The book begins with the foundational Critical Path Study by PAHO in Central America, which describes what happened when women actively sought help from state services, church and schools in their community, and neighbors and family members, and the roadblocks and obstacles they encountered in seeking help.

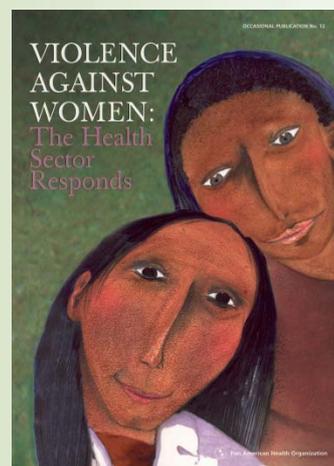
With the recent growing changes of attitude in some sectors and a combined response of health professionals with political leaders, the police and court systems, NGOs, schools, and churches.

The intermingling of actual experiences with general statements in the text provides significant windows to the text and makes this book more readable and compelling. Its dealing with important questions like ‘How can health workers best support women living with violence?’ is useful and down to earth. The only drawback is that the text is so small and in some cases obscured by being printed in a pale color font on a colored background, that these parts strain the eyes and make a good resource book less readable.

The first chapter gives an overview of why gender-based violence should be viewed as a public health problem. The next two chapters discuss PAHO’s integrated strategy for addressing GBV, its development, implementation, and achievements, particularly majoring on the ‘Critical Path’ study. This is followed by lessons learned at different levels, and how these may be applied in an integrated strategy to other communities around the world. The variability of community perceptions is underlined, as well as the variability of responses to GBV.

The book would have been more comprehensive if in its conclusions other forms of home-based violence were at least mentioned so that the whole approach and strategy promoted was to understand the causes and to minimise home-based violence in general rather than one specific manifestation. Despite this, the book makes a significant contribution to the understanding of GBV and how to reduce it, and it is well worth reading.

*The book, Violence against Women: The health sector responds is reviewed by Robin D Willison, Team Leader of Public Health Emergencies, ADPC and can be contacted at [rwillison@adpc.net](mailto:rwillison@adpc.net).*



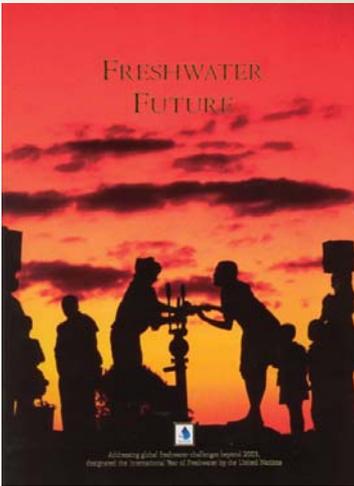
*Book Review...*



*“ While the costs of prevention have to be paid in the present, its benefits lie in a distant future. Moreover, the benefits are not tangible; they are the disasters that did not happen.”*

**Kofi Annan**  
UN Secretary General

*The following publications may be of interest to our readers.  
ADPC Library can offer assistance in locating them...*



*Freshwater Future, Addressing global freshwater challenges beyond 2003, designated the International Year of Freshwater. Jon Ingleton (ed.), 2003, 42 pages. Request for copies from Care Cambodia, #52, street 352, Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA, P.O. Box 537, Tel: 855-23 215 267-8-9, Fax: 855-23 426 233, e-mail: care.cam@care-cambodia.org*

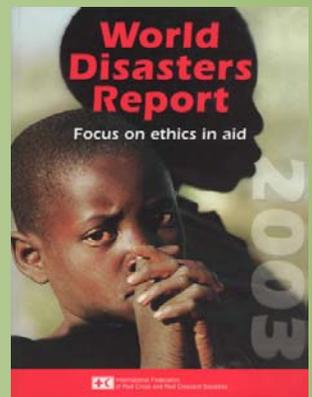
This is a commemorative publication for the United Nations' International Year of Freshwater 2003. Freshwater Future creates a forum of discussion from a wide range of disciplines, including UN agencies, development banks, aid agencies, government water bodies in developing nations, NGOs and commercial solution providers. It is aimed at both water professionals and non-professionals alike, giving a broad insight into the challenges and solutions faced throughout the world by our ever-increasing demands on finite water resources. Drawing on a diverse collection reports the publication the 73 papers are divided into eight areas: freshwater perspectives, ecosystems, water for life, water and society, water use, water risks, global perspectives and working for freshwater.

*Contingency Planning for Emergencies, a Manual for Local Government Units, Second Edition. Ma. Elaine I. Salazar (Ed.), May 2003, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee and National Disaster Coordinating Council, 72 pages. Available online at <http://www.ndcc.gov.ph/>*

This is the second edition of the manual. The principal concept underlying this manual on contingency planning for emergencies is to strengthen and enhance the operational capabilities of the local government units in responding to any emergency situation in their localities. It is presented in a ready reference style and is divided into three chapters covering the "when", "why", "how" and "who should participate" of contingency planning.

*World Disasters Report, Focus on Ethics in Aid. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 2003, ISBN 9-2913-9092-5, 239 pages, US\$ 25 Order online from <http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/wdr2003/order.asp>.*

In this eleventh annual edition, the World Disaster Report examines the ethical challenges faced by those working on the front line in post-conflict situation, chronic food crises and natural disasters. It questions the capacity of the humanitarian system to assess the needs of vulnerable people and challenges the aid community to promote and practise the overriding principle of saving life with dignity, wherever it is under threat.



*Flood Impact on Women & Girls in Prey Veng Province, Cambodia. IDP Education Australia, June 2002, CARE - Cambodia, 75 pages. Hard copies maybe got from Care Cambodia, #52, street 352, Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA, P.O. Box 537, Tel: 855-23 215 267-8-9, Fax: 855-23 426 233, e-mail: care.cam@care-cambodia.org or access the electronic version at <http://www.adpc.net/pdr-sea/publications.htm>*

Bookmarks...



This publication is a result of a research study undertaken by a group of researchers from IDP Education Australia and Womyn's Agenda for Change at Oxfam-Hong Kong, with funding from the Disaster Preparedness European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (DIPECHO) for CARE Cambodia. The study aimed at a gender analysis of the impact of flooding on women and girls in Cambodia. Case studies are provided to substantiate the findings and recommendations are made to make disaster preparedness efforts more responsive to women and children's needs.



## International Year of Fresh Water

[www.wateryear2003.org](http://www.wateryear2003.org)

The United Nations General Assembly in resolution 55/196 proclaimed the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater. It encourages Governments, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable freshwater use, management and protection. It also calls upon governments, national and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions and to lend other forms of support to the Year.

## Association of State Floodplain Managers

The Association of State Floodplain Managers is an organization of professionals involved in floodplain management, flood hazard mitigation, the National Flood Insurance Program, and flood preparedness, warning and recovery. ASFPM has become a respected voice in floodplain management practice and policy in the United States because it represents the flood hazard specialists of local, state and federal government, the research community, the insurance industry, and the fields of engineering, hydrologic forecasting, emergency response, water resources, and others.



## The Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM)

[www.wmo.ch/apfm](http://www.wmo.ch/apfm), [www.wmo.ch](http://www.wmo.ch), [www.gwpforum.org](http://www.gwpforum.org)

A collaboration between World Meteorological Organization, the Global Water Partnership, the APFM aims to incorporate flood management as a component of Integrated Water Resources Management; provide the necessary tools to facilitate the above; provide a mechanism for coordinating regional activities on flood management and assist in the preparation of relevant projects at regional and national level.



## International Flood Network (IFNet)

<http://www.idi.or.jp/vision/IFNet-all.html#background>

The objective of the International Flood Network (IFNet) is to facilitate international cooperation in flood management, to reduce the loss of life and damage caused by floods, to promote policies and practices which can break the vicious circle of poverty and environmental degradation and lead to a safe and sustainable future.

### More water-related websites:

- ◆ World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- ◆ Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- ◆ World Water Council (WWC)
- ◆ World Water Forum
- ◆ Flood Hazard Research Centre (FHRC)
- ◆ International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
- ◆ International Human Dimensions Programme for Global Environmental Change (IHDP)



## *Climate Change in the Caribbean and South-East*

**H**azard impacts in the Caribbean and South-east Asia in the 1990's have exposed the vulnerability of key economic sectors throughout the regions and provided an indication of the potential economic and social dislocation. These identified vulnerabilities within the tourism, water, agriculture and fisheries sectors are compounded by human activities. The identification of the hazard impacts associated with climate change makes it critical for adaptation strategies within the Caribbean and Asian regions to incorporate the broader cross-sectoral framework of disaster loss mitigation.

A Seminar on Climate Change and Severe Weather Events in Asia and the Caribbean was held at the Grand Barbados Beach Resort in Barbados on July 24th and 25th, 2003, sponsored by the Inter American Development Bank (IDB) through its Japan Programme. The seminar provided a forum in which experts from the South-east Asian and Caribbean regions discussed climate change impacts on the tourism, agriculture and fisheries and urban water sectors, compared adaptation strategies and made recommendations for future steps. Presentations made at the seminar were based on case studies carried out in the Caribbean and South-east Asia.

The following publication is one of the outcomes of the seminar:

*Climate Change in the Caribbean And South-East Asia:  
Managing Disaster Risk For Tourism, Urban Water Supply, Agriculture And Fisheries*

## *Climate Adaptation in the Pacific: Lessons Learned*

A symposium on Climate and Extreme Events in the Asia-Pacific: Enhancing Resilience and Improving Decision-Making was held as part of the 20th Pacific Science Congress in Bangkok, Thailand the week of March 17-21, 2003. The Symposium was co-organized by the East-West Center (EWC) and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC).

The two-and-one-half day symposium was organized to facilitate the sharing of individual experiences and discussion of integrating themes that provided a framework for comparing individual programs and identifying common problems and opportunities.

Individual presentations, small-group discussions and plenary deliberations addressed the following integrating themes:

- ◆ Communication issues related to information content, format and dissemination as well as the identification of critical information gaps based on past experience;
- ◆ Participation issues related to effective engagement of relevant stakeholders and establishing an effective, interactive dialogue with users of climate information;
- ◆ Information use issues related to how climate information has been and can be used to support decision-making including discussions related to responding to individual events and the routine integration of climate information in development and planning in the region;
- ◆ Institutional capacity issues which include discussion of institutional barriers as well as opportunities to enhance the capabilities of current or emerging boundary organizations in the Asia-Pacific region; and