

PDR-SEA

NEWS

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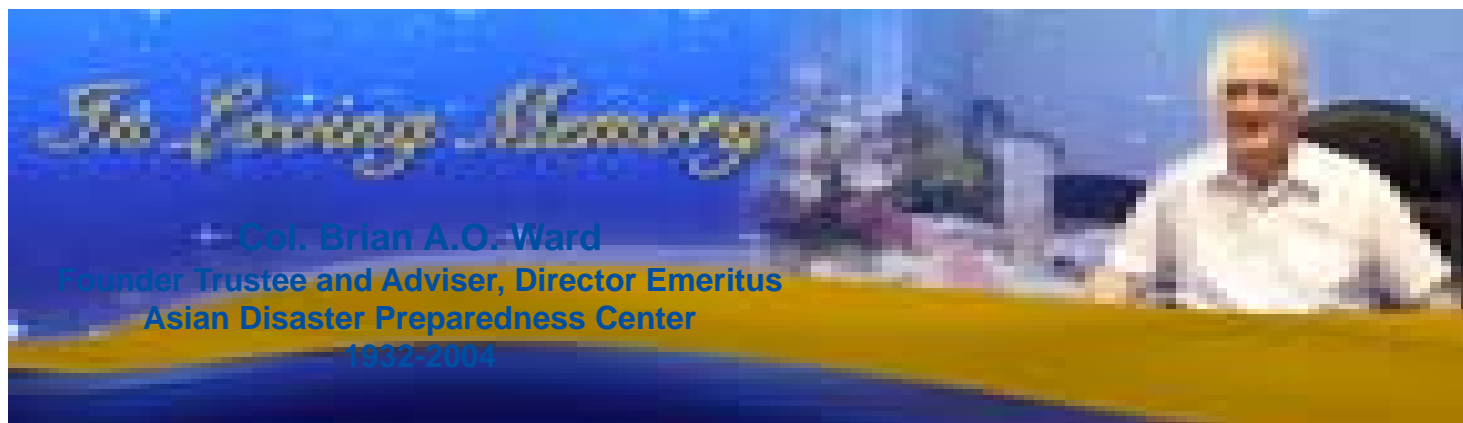


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in memoriam...



Col. Brian A.O. Ward

**Founder, Trustee and Adviser, Director Emeritus
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
1982-2004**

Col. Brian Ward: a man of great wisdom and insight, dedication to the cause of disaster risk reduction, deep love for the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center he founded and nurtured up until his death, and an inspirational mentor to a generation of disaster management practitioners. In recognition of his outstanding personal and professional contributions to disaster reduction, Col. Brian Ward was awarded the United Nations Sasakawa Certificate of Distinction in 2001.

With a heavy heart, we inform the disaster management community of the death of Col. Brian Ward on Saturday, 12 June 2004, in London, United Kingdom.

Col. Brian Ward's distinguished professional career spanned over five decades in several related fields. He served the Royal Engineers Corps of the British Army for over 20 years in the UK, Germany, Malaysia and Thailand. He then worked for over 10 years with the League of Red Cross Societies (LRCS, now the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies - IFRC) as Delegate and Chief Delegate in several countries of Africa and Asia. During this period, he also undertook missions as Technical Adviser to the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO, now the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs- UNOCHA) on disaster management capacity building in countries in Asia and the Pacific.

In 1985, Col. Ward was commissioned by UNDRO, with funding support from the United Nations Development Programme, to assess the needs of Asian and Pacific countries in disaster management. Seeing the need for substantial capacity building of national disaster management systems, he recommended the establishment of a regional Center. The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center was thus established at the Asian Institute of Technology in 1986, and Col. Brian Ward was invited to serve as its first Director, which he did with distinction for over 7 years.

In 1992, he retired after shepherding the Center to be recognized as a key technical resource in disaster management. By that time, ADPC had trained over 1,000 people from nearly 60 countries in various workshops and seminars, conducted more than 100 technical advisory or liaison missions, written two seminal books for the Asian Development Bank (Disaster Mitigation in Asia and the Pacific and Disaster Management: A Disaster Manager's Handbook), and expanded from a staff of 6 to 20 people.

From 1998 onwards, he returned to guide the transition of ADPC to the status of an independent foundation. From 1999 till his demise, he served as Director Emeritus and Special Adviser, as well as member of the ADPC Board of Trustees. During his long career for ADPC, LRCS and UNDRO, he undertook numerous senior-level disaster-related technical advisory missions in Asia, the Pacific and Africa including Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, China, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda, Vietnam, Western Samoa and Yemen.

Col. Ward provided visionary leadership to the Center, insightful wisdom and exemplary professional commitment, and was a source of inspiration and mentor to a generation of disaster management professionals and institutions throughout Asia and the Pacific.

To the man whom we have great affection for, a man of candour, conviction, high values and great sense of humor, whose love for his work was evident in his personal sacrifice, a man from whom we have drawn ideas and wisdom, as well as inspiration and determination to actualize these ideals, we are forever grateful and shall remain committed to the course he charted.

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Strengthening Community Resilience in Crisis through Network for Early-warning Assistance and Resilience, NEAR

It takes very little to push a vulnerable community over the edge and one crisis can destroy thousands of lives and livelihoods. Indonesians, like residents of many developing countries, are constantly faced with some crises or other. Existing problems often are exacerbated and already weak systems can collapse completely, leaving people in desperate need of food, health-care and other basic services.

Between 1997 and 2003, Indonesia has suffered more than 30 major humanitarian crisis including floods, droughts, earthquakes, and conflict. Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) Network for Early-warning Assistance and Resilience (NEAR) program was created to mitigate the effects of these disasters by working with communities to identify vulnerabilities, and to develop mitigation and preparedness strategies for future crises. NEAR stands for networks through community, government, civil and private sectors for early warning thereby to analyze, map, prepare and plan for the disaster event and assistance via relief, response and mobilization, and to build resilience by empowering, securing, creating an ownership leading to sustenance. NEAR's overarching goal thus is to enhance community resilience throughout Indonesia. This is done by reflecting on past trends, patterns and perceived vulnerabilities, on site appraisals to determine validity of information, cross sharing of lessons through workshops and abating crisis through implementation of community designed small scale resilience activities. These local community initiatives help minimize loss of life when crises occur, support sustainable recovery and resiliency and serve as model examples for sharing with other vulnerable communities and local government offices.

Because multiple sectors are often affected by a crisis, the strategy of NEAR is gathering experts in a variety of fields: education, health, food security, agriculture, capacity building, and economics to share their knowledge with participants. It encourages community exchange networks, mapping, mitigation planning, integrated human development, associations and links, concept design and proposal development, accountability, awareness raising, and setting up early warning system.

CRS believes that accurate knowledge of community needs and the root causes of crisis will help reduce their impact. Building local capacity is one of CRS' core goals, and NEAR is an important means of achieving this. Local organizations throughout Indonesia have joined with CRS to increase the collective capacity to respond to crises. Through workshops and other activities developed by CRS, these organizations

have an opportunity to learn how to identify their communities' unique vulnerabilities and local crises indicators. By analyzing this information, the organizations can develop activities to reduce the impact of crises and effectively respond to them.

Activities such as awareness campaigns, community meetings, and the distribution of literature on early warning systems are helping to build individual capacity to respond to crises and ensure that safety measures are well understood by everyone. Several community activities under this pilot program have included Environmental Protection; Geographical Information Systems for Vulnerability and Poverty Mapping; Disease Monitoring; Hygiene Awareness; Flood Proofing; Safety and Preparedness Programs for schools, religious groups and community groups; Conflict Reduction/Peace Building Schemes; Public Safety Information Campaigns; Earthquake Drills and Emergency Response Simulations.

While implementing these activities and sharing of experiences it is noted that community groups quickly start to take their own initiatives to find solutions towards their problems by advocating to the local government authorities through the media and open dialogues, designing small scale activities to abate potential crisis and seek external assistance when local capacity is insufficient.

Currently, NEAR is working with local organizations in selected regions of Indonesia to build their capacity to prepare for and respond to emergencies. The program encourages

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Community groups collectively working towards disaster reduction: Indonesia

echo from the field...

Forging an Alliance: Every Village a Knowledge Center

In India where majority of the population lives in the rural areas and where 40% of the nation's population lives below the poverty line, a daily meal is more appealing than operating a computer. An exercise to take ICTs to the remote villages may seem futile to many. Or perhaps not! While on one hand poverty, unemployment and disparities prevails, on the other hand India has developed considerable strength and infrastructure in ICTs and distance learning. To quote Prof. Swaminathan, 'here lies the unique opportunity to take socially relevant information to all the 600,000 villages in our country by August 15, 2007, which marks the 60th anniversary of our Independence.'¹ He further stressed that technology must be made an ally in the movement for economic, social and gender equity and to lead India to achieving the millennium development goals.

With these very objectives a national level consultation was held on May 19-20, 2004 to forge an alliance to fulfill the Agenda 2007: Every Village a Knowledge Centre. The consultation was convened by the M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, India.

Over 50 eminent persons from premium organizations such as IGNOU, NASSCOM, Microsoft India, ICRISAT, TATA Sons Limited, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), from Government, Non-Government, Public and Private Sectors, Academic Institutes and Universities in the country, attended the consultation meeting. Discussions revolved around key issues of connectivity, content, scalability, sustainability, capacity building, network management and servicing, and policy issues.

The two-day deliberations generated a lot of ideas, commitment and enthusiasm among participants. Despite the variety in the range of organization attending the consultation there seemed to be consensus about the way forward.

Some of the ideas generated are listed below:

- Remote areas need to be connected and regional imbalances should be remedied
- Have implementable and affordable connectivity
- Examine generation of non-conventional and alternative sources of energy
- Maintain a socially inclusive approach and be gender sensitive in implementing all programs
- Information content should be demand driven rather than supply driven. There should be a conversion of generic information to location specific knowledge
- Synergize all existing initiatives. With a convergence of initiatives and the tapping of the collective strength a seemingly ambitious target can be achieved
- There is a need to generate a common wave length between network partners
- Elect fellows from the community who will be the torch bearers of the knowledge revolution
- Create tiers of ownership - community, local governments, self-help groups. Each and every link in the chain needs to be strengthened
- Build and strengthen the capacity of the local people who will be the key players in delivery and dissemination of information
- Increase and strengthen linkages between local-local, local-global, global-local, lab-lab, lab-land, land-land and land-lab
- Integrated use of the different communication tools; internet and community cable, radio and the newspaper to extend the reach of information and knowledge
- Develop guidelines for sustainable business models which deliver essential information and offer revenue yielding services

Village Knowledge Centers in Pondicherry

"whatever a poor family can gain benefit from, the rich can also gain benefit; the reverse does not happen".

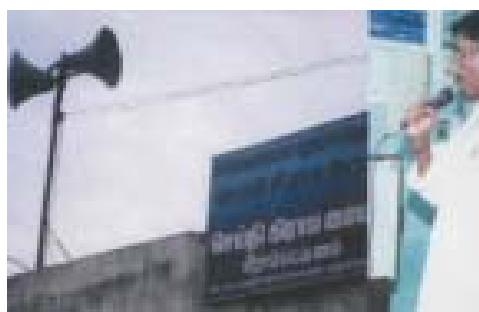
In 1998, the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai, India started a project in electronic knowledge delivery to the poor villages in Pondicherry, southern India. The project aimed at taking the benefits of the emerging technologies and ICT to the help change the lives of the rural poor. Thirteen villages were connected using a hybrid wired and wireless network; consisting of PCs, telephones, VHF duplex radio devices, spread spectrum, email connectivity through dial-up telephone lines, VSAT, public address system and community newspaper - that facilitates both voice and data transfer, and enables the villagers to get information that they need and can use to improve their lives.

The project had its foundation on the holistic philosophy of Prof M S Swaminathan, which emphasizes an integrated pro-poor, pro-women and pro-nature orientation to development, community ownership of technological tools against personal or family ownership, and encourages collective action for spread of technology. The knowledge centres provide information that is locale specific and relates to the community's needs such as prices of agricultural inputs and outputs like seeds, fertilizers pesticides, rice and vegetables, weather, transport,

echo from the field...



Women run the
VKC at Emblam
Centre, Pondicherry



Weather information
broadcasted through
Public Address
Systems



Villager reading the
community
newspaper in the
local language:
Tamil

Prof. Swaminathan said that to realize this, there is a need for consolidated efforts toward generating technical, financial, institutional and capacity building resources. He further reiterated that there is a need to synergize learning from each others' experiences and most importantly to maintain focus on the people and not just the technology.

Towards the end of the second day a steering committee and several task forces were constituted. The aspiration was to reach the set goals within the period of 3 years through a division of labour, clear delineating roles and responsibilities. There was tremendous enthusiasm amongst the alliance members, and partners agreed to take the alliance forward on a mission mode. Lastly Prof. Swaminathan called for creating and sustaining a climate of confidence, collaboration and partnership to make this vision a reality.

M S Swaminathan Research Foundation is a non-profit Trust with a basic mandate of imparting a pro-nature and pro-women orientation to job-led economic growth in rural areas and to harness science and technology for environmentally sustainable and socially equitable development. It is known for its bottom-up participatory approach, where the people take precedence to technology. For more information on the activities write to msswami@mssrf.res.in or visit the website at www.mssrf.org

Ambika Varma is working as Information Manager-PDR-SEA at the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Thailand. She can be contacted at ambika@adpc.net

Footnotes:

¹ Prof M S Swaminathan, Discussion Paper presented at the MSSRF - TATA National Virtual Academy for Food Security and Rural Prosperity, National Consultation on Agenda 2007: Every Village a Knowledge Centre , 19 - 20, May 2004

employment opportunities, health-care, education, livelihoods etc. Information is gathered and fed into an intranet to be disseminated through access nodes in different villages by volunteers selected from the community and villages. Use of local language and multimedia such as public address systems and radio, add value to the raw information. The success of the project and its benefits has spread to other villages and upon the request of the villagers themselves the Village Knowledge Centre (VKC) Project has expanded to other villages in the vicinity. More than 50,000 people living in these villages are believed to have benefited from this project.

The Village Knowledge Centre Project has seen several positive impacts on communities in terms of promoting economic development, changes in social and cultural values, solidarity, political awareness, community organization and participation. The project has also influenced the local government in becoming more transparent.

For its successful implementation the project won two international awards- the Motorola Dispatch Solutions Gold Award 1999 and the Stockholm Challenge Award 2001.

and Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The one-year project started implementation in June 2003 with funding address disaster-related issues within the context of sustainable development, with communities targeted as major beneficiaries in six target information sharing of best practices, experiences and methodologies among disaster management practitioners, and by enhancing capacities of information about PDR-SEA-2 please contact: Ms Imelda Abarquez, Project Manager, Tel: (662) 516-5900 Fax: (662) 524-5350 E-mail: pdr-

Third Disaster Management Practitioners' Workshop for Southeast Asia

Institutionalizing CBDRM in Government Policy Making, Planning and Program Activities



The Third Disaster Management Practitioners' Workshop for Southeast Asia on Institutionalizing of CBDRM in Government Policy Making, Planning and Program Activities, was held on May 10 to 13, 2004 at the United Nations Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand. It was jointly organized by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). This is the third time in the past years that disaster managers from southeast Asia have come together to discuss operational and technical issues on community-based disaster risk management.

The four day workshop was attended by more than 75 participants from over 11 countries within and outside this region, representing government organizations, regional bodies, international and local NGOs, the United Nations and most importantly Community Leaders.

The opening ceremony was attended by Dr Suvit Yodmani, Executive Director, ADPC, Mr Sawanit Kongsiri, Assistant Secretary General, Thailand Red Cross, Mr Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary, UNESCAP and H E Prof. Dr Krasae Chanawongse, Prime Minister's Advisor and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, ADPC. Mr Earl Kessler, Deputy Executive Director, ADPC was master of the ceremony.

In order to get an all-round perspective on CBDRM and institutionalizing CBDRM in the countries in southeast Asia, sessions were broken down into five areas: The Nature and Practice of CBDRM in different countries, Institutionalizing CBDRM in Government Policies and Practices, CBDRM Monitoring and Evaluation, Gender relations in CBDRM, and Cooperation Agreements between organizations.

Towards the end of four days there was a general consensus on the following:

- CBDRM works best when

there is a high level of coordination and cooperation amongst stakeholders, e.g. governments, NGO's and vulnerable groups and people

- The CBDRM approach is an essential part of disaster risk management
- CBDRM works best when it is integrated with structural and non-structural development planning
- There is a need to maintain efforts to enhance inclusiveness, decentralization and empowerment
- There is a need to continue advocacy and capacity building at all levels
- The mass media is an important stakeholder in CBDRM
- Community Leaders need to be included as primary stakeholders in the international and regional dialogue on CBDRM
- It is important to showcase success stories and share knowledge on implementing CBDRM
- DM practitioners need to enhance their skills in marketing CBDRM

project updates...

- Integration of CBDRM materials in all levels of education as well as the government policies and programs is desirable
- Increased allocation and mobilization of resources for CBDRM activities is needed
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in CBDRM needs to be participatory
- M&E needs to be accountable to all stakeholders
- The quality of M&E should be improved by building the capacity of governments, community and other actors in CBDRM
- Build M&E arrangements into initial planning of programs and projects
- Promote the understanding of the importance of gender relations to all stakeholders
- Advocate for clearer government policies on gender issues
- Activities should provide equal opportunities for both sexes

During the discussions and debates on what is CBDRM, there were several perspectives. It was explained as being a tool, process, methodology, model, concept, and philosophy. There was also some debate on the term institutionalize. Alternative terms provided were mainstreaming, scaling up, normalizing, legitimizing, integrating, building agreements, adopting, replicating,

and sustaining. The overall thought was that there is a need to continue to address the issue of disaster risk reduction and CBDRM offers useful options for addressing it.

Focus for the Future:

Some of the main recommendations and way forward were:

- Enhance regional networking and continue regional networking workshops
- Develop more regional capacity building materials
- Discuss and develop an agreed common understanding of what CBDRM should be (aims/features/minimum requirements & standards)
- Engage a broader constituency (including private sector and media)
- Develop pragmatic tools to support the institutionalization of CBDRM e.g. a dictionary of currently utilized terms
- Enhance the capabilities of CBDRM practitioners in the areas of implementation, monitoring and evaluation, improving gender relations, documentation and advocacy
- Continue to exchange knowledge and experiences to effect policy and practice change

The workshop ended with the book launch of the CBDRM Handbook and its accompanying booklet Integration of CBDRM into Socio-Economic Development process.

Networking Meeting



A networking meeting was held on May 14, 2004 immediately after the Disaster Management Practitioners' Workshop, in Bangkok, to provide an opportunity for national networks from different countries to share their networking experiences, and identify mechanism to support each other. It was attended by a small group of representatives and community leaders from the Philippines and Indonesia. National network representatives from Lao PDR, Vietnam and Cambodia though unable to attend the meeting provided their inputs in writing prior to the meeting.

The most significant outcome of the meeting was the signing of an agreement of partnership between the community leaders of the Philippines and Indonesia.

continued from page 3

other organizations to link up to this network. In addition to its activities with local organizations, NEAR is also strengthening linkages with local governments, central ministries, local agencies and other networks. Activities are currently being implemented in selected regions of the country - North Maluku, West Kalimantan, Lampung, West and East Nusa Tenggara and Central Java.

CRS was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States, originally to assist the World War II refugees. Today CRS operates in 92 countries around the world and providing assistance without regard to ethnicity, religion and race. CBDRM is part of a Catholic Relief Services Agency wide 'Risk Reduction' framework.

Wayne Ulrich, Technical Adviser for Emergency Response, Catholic Relief Services, Indonesia. He can be contacted at wayne@crs.or.id

project updates...

message from pdrsea

Dear Partners,

We have come to the end of the second phase of PDR-SEA Project on June 18, 2004. These last 12 months have been full of exciting and intelligent partnerships and we would like that it continues as we define the strategic direction of CBDRM in the region. The next years will be more challenging as we align our standards in CBDRM practice and training, and form our regional disaster management network in institutionalizing CBDRM.

Thank you all for contributing to the successful completion of the project and we look forward to continued collaborations and partnerships in the years ahead.

Imelda Abarquez, Project Manager
Partnerships for Disaster Reduction Southeast Asia



PDRSEA-2 TEAM

publications

APDC under its PDRSEA Project have produced several publications. These publications are available both in print and electronic form on the website: <http://www.adpc.net/pdr-sea/publications.htm>

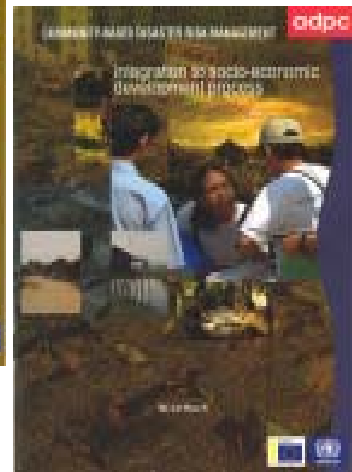
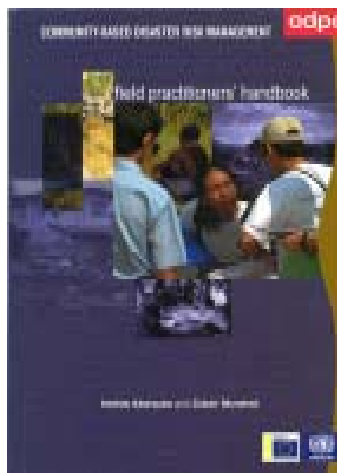
Community-based Disaster Risk Management Field Practitioners' Handbook. Imelda Abarquez and Zubair Murshed, 2004, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Community-based Disaster Risk Management: Integration to Socio-Economic Development Process. Dr Le Huu Ti, 2004, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Proceedings of the Third Disaster Management Practitioners' Workshop for Southeast Asia on Institutionalizing of CBDRM in Government Policy Making, Planning and Program Activities. 2004, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Overview of Early Warning Systems in Selected Countries of Southeast Asia. Lolita Garcia, 2004, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Disaster Management in Southeast Asia: An Overview. Lolita Bildan, 2003, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center



Echoes

a monthly posting of the community of disaster practitioners in southeast asia

The June 2004 issue of ECHOES will be the last issue coming from the project. Several partners have expressed the desire to have ECHOES continue on. To encourage participation we would like to invite organizations from Southeast Asian countries to be involved in the production of ECHOES from the next issue onwards. Every month ECHOES will feature one country and one organization can be responsible for collecting information. The PDRSEA team will continue to design and host the website. Please feel free to write to us about your willingness to participate and contribute: anbika@adpc.net