

Editorial Board

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Highlights

2nd India Disaster Management Congress (IDMC) held in Nov 2009

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National Policy on Disaster Management

The much awaited National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM) was approved by the Union Cabinet on 22 October 2009. The process for preparation of the National Policy was initiated in 2003 following the transfer of the subject of disaster management from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Home in 2002. A number of consultations were held and the first draft of the policy document was prepared in 2004. The Indian Ocean tsunami and the hectic activities that were seen soon thereafter witnessed a paradigm shift in disaster management in the country resulting in the passage of the Disaster Management Act 2005. The Act mandated the National Disaster Management Authority to lay down policies on disaster management. Therefore the newly constituted Authority took upon itself the task of drafting the NPDM in the changing context of the legal and institutional system that emerged after the notification of the Act.

The draft policy prepared by the Authority was discussed at various levels and further circulated to all the Central Ministries and the State Governments for their comments. Based on the comments received and further consultations at the highest level the NPDM was approved by the Government. The NPDM would now be a binding document on the basis of which the State Policies and the National, State and District Plans on Disaster Management shall be developed. The NPDM is a comprehensive policy document comprising of 13 chapters that cover the Preamble, Approach and Objectives, Institutional and Legal Arrangements, Financial Arrangements; Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness, Techno-Legal Regime; Response, Relief and Rehabilitation; Reconstruction and Recovery; Capacity Development; Knowledge Management, Research and Development and the Road Ahead.

The vision of the NPDM is to *'build a safe and disaster resilient India by developing a holistic, proactive, multi-disaster oriented and technology driven strategy through a culture of prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response'*. The central themes underpinning the Policy are community based disaster management, including last mile integration of the policy, plans and execution, capacity development in all spheres, consolidation of past initiatives and best practices, cooperation with agencies at national and international levels and multi-sectoral synergy. The Policy would be expected to give a sense of direction and purpose to the efforts and initiatives of various stakeholders at all levels to build a safe and disaster resilient India.



P.G.Dhar Chakrabarti

2nd India Disaster Management Congress

New Delhi, November 2009

The Second India Disaster Management Congress was organized by the National Institute of Disaster Management in New Delhi from 4-6 November, 2009 in the Vigyan Bhawan.

The congress was inaugurated on 4th November, 2009 by Gen. N.C. Viji, PSM, UYSM, AVSM (Retd), Vice Chairman, NDMA. The welcome address was delivered by Sh. P.G.Dhar Chakrabarti, Executive Director, NIDM. Welcoming the Guests and participants from various parts of the world, he mentioned that the congress will serve as platform to bring together the stake holders from academia, administration, DM Profession and Non-Governmental Organizations. Other eminent dignitaries Shri G.K.Pillai, Union Home Secretary, Ms Aruna Roy, from Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, Dr. Nitin Desai, Member, PM's Council on Climate Change, Dr. A.S Arya, Professor Emeritus, IIT, Roorkee, Dr.Amit Mitra, Secretary General, FICCI, Mr. Roberto Zagha, Country Director India, The World Bank, and Ms. Margareta Wahitorm, UN Asstt. Secretary General, DRR also addressed the delegates.



Gen. N.C. Viji, Hon'ble vice chairman of NDMA delivering inaugural address during the 2nd IDMC on 4th Nov, 2009

The South Asia Disaster Knowledge Network (SADKN) portal was also launched on the occasion. Two Disaster Mitigation awards, one for individual category and other for Institutional category were awarded. The individual category was awarded to Shri. Amod Mani Dixit, Executive Director, National Society for Earth Quake Technology, Nepal and Institutional category to the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and was received by Dr. Satheesh C.Shenoi, Director, INCOIS.

There were 26 Technical Sessions organized under 13 Thematic Clusters. About 1000 scientists, scholars and practitioners working on different aspects of disaster risk reduction and management across the world attended the congress. The recommendations of all the thematic sessions have been compiled in 4 main Thematic Cluster (i) Geological Disasters (i) Hymet Disasters (ii) Man-made Disasters (iii) Policy and (iv) Planning and Cross Cutting Issues. Moderator of each cluster presented the key recommendations and outcome document in the Plenary Session on 6 November 2009. These outcome documents were open for comments and suggestions from the Session Chairs, rapporteurs and delegates through an electronic discussion forum (e-group).



Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former Hon'ble President of India addressing the delegates during the valedictory session of 2nd IDMC on 6 Nov 2009

The valedictory ceremony was held on 6th November, 2009 at 16.00 hrs. The occasion was graced by Hon'ble Dr.A.P.J Abdul Kalam, former President of India, as chief guest and by Dr. Mohan Kanda, Hon'ble Member, NDMA. Welcoming the guests Sh. P.G.Dhar Chakrabarti, Executive Director, NIDM briefed the summary of the conference proceedings & the outcome of the congress. The key recommendations of the thematic clusters were read by Dr. R.K. Bhandari (Geohazards), Professor D.R.Sikka (Hydro met Hazards), Professor Santosh Kumar (Man made disasters) and Sh. P.K.Mishra (Policy, Planning and Cross Cutting Issues). Dr. Mohan Kanda highlighted the work being carried out by NDMA and NIDM at various levels. Dr. Kalam suggested that the NIDM should start some regular courses on disaster management and also initiate research in this field of Science. The congress was a grand success.

International Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility and Industrial Disasters

Bhopal, December 2009

The National Law Institute University and National Institute of Disaster Management jointly organized an international conference on Corporate Social Responsibility and Industrial Disasters from 5-6 December 2009 at NLIU campus, Bhopal to highlight the implications of the Bhopal gas tragedy impact of which is felt even today after 25 years of its occurrence. A glaring example of the impact of Industrial Disasters and failure to accomplish social obligations is the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. India suffered one of the worst industrial disasters in the history of mankind, in 1984 which caused enormous loss of life, degradation of health and environment, the effects of which are visible even today. The Bhopal Gas Disaster was a catastrophic failure at Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) pesticide manufacturing plant at Bhopal, India. Over 15,000

people died, and 500,000 were injured in the accident, that shook the world. The disaster that occurred due to lack of safety measures and the use of inferior technology at the plant is a glaring example of gross negligence, which unfortunately characterizes most industries even today. Justice J.S.Verma, Former Chief Justice of India and former Chairman, National Human Rights Commission Prof. Mark Galanter, Centennial Professor, Department of Law, London School of Economics and Political Science and P.G. Dhar Chakrabati, Executive Director of NIDM were the key dignitaries present in the inaugural session. Conference has brought together Researchers, Corporate Executives, Academicians, Government Officials, Policy Makers, Non-Governmental Organizations and Students from across the world. This event has provided a forum to examine the adequacy of the existing legal system in relation to industrial disasters with special emphasis on Bhopal Gas Disaster; to define the norms of Corporate Social Responsibility; evaluate the existing policies relating to Disaster Management and to develop a model of Corporate Social Responsibility and Disaster Management, on the plane of Industrial Disasters. The Conference has given special emphasize on the issues pertaining to Corporate Social Responsibility and Industrial Disasters. Besides the responsibility of the Corporate, responsibility of the government and individuals also has been discussed during the conference. 180 papers were presented during the international conference under the 6 thematic sessions (i) Bhopal Gas Disaster and Law: National & International Perspectives (ii) Disaster Management: Legislative Initiatives (iii) Corporate Social responsibility and Industrial Disasters (iv) Human Rights, Environment and Industrial Disasters (v) Industrial Disasters and Impact on Public Health. (vi) CSR Perspective of Developed and Developing Nations.

The highlight of the conference was the panel discussion on “Corporate Social Responsibility and Industrial Disasters”. The panelists included Prof. N.R.Madhav Menon, Former Director of National Judicial Academy (NJA), Prof. Marc Galanter, Shri. M.M. Buch, former Principal Secretary, M.P, Prof Mohan Gopal, Director National Judicial Academy, Prof. Jffrey Addicot, Professor of Law and Director of the Centre for Terrorism Law at St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio, Texas.

Core Working Group Meeting for SOP

New Delhi, November, 2009

There was an urgent need for Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) for Disaster Management in place in all states. This



Dignitaries in the inaugural session of the International Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility and Industrial Disasters held at NLIU Bhopal on 5 Dec 2009



Dignitaries present in the Valedictory Session of the International Conference

will provide comprehensive guidance to the functionaries of various agencies of the central and state governments to effectively respond to a situation of disaster or impending disaster with flexibility for adaptations according to the requirements of specific situations on the ground. In order to fulfill this need, the first meeting of the Core Working Group for drafting SOP for Management of Natural Disasters was held on 16th November, 2009, at NIDM under the chairmanship of Shri P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, ED, NIDM. The meeting was attended by administrators and experts working in the field of Disaster Management from States and Central agencies.

After detailed deliberations the meeting decided about the contents of SOP, methodology of drafting, peer reviewing, engaging consultants, conducting the initiation and valediction workshops, visit of CWG members to the multi-hazard states for discussion with Administrators/Experts regarding constraints, needs and challenges in disaster response etc. It was also agreed by some CWG members to provide necessary inputs regarding some of the natural disasters. It was also decided to submit the final report to Ministry of Home Affairs within six months.

MHA and NIDM Team Visited Cyclone Affected area of West Bengal

December, 2009

A team consisting of Ms. Suchitra Goswami, Deputy Secretary, Disaster Management Division of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Dr. K.J. Anandha Kumar, Associate Professor, NIDM, along with Senior officials of Government of West Bengal visited areas affected by Aila, (Cyclone) on 16th December, 2009. The objective of the visit was to review the Impact of GoI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Programme. The Aila struck on 25th May, 2009 and devastated several villages in West Bengal including various parts of South 24 Paraganas district. Meetings were held and the areas affected were visited, met the people affected by Aila especially talked to women folk and children to know the factual position. The observation of the Central team with suggestions for Restoration of Land and Livelihood which emerged out of the visit was submitted to the Joint Secretary (DM).



IOCL Fire, Jaipur

Jaipur, October 2009

The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) terminal at Sanganer, Jaipur was commissioned in 1995 and is spread over 105 acres of land. The terminal has 11 storage tanks for Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) and Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO). The fire started at around 7:15 PM on 29th October, 2009. The fire was a major disaster in terms of deaths, injury, loss of business, property & man-days, displacement of people and environmental impacts. It is estimated that petroleum products worth approx. Rs. 191 crore were lost and the replacement cost of buildings and machinery is estimated to be over Rs. 160 crore. Besides huge damage to environment is also reported. All 11 tanks in the depot



have been completely destroyed. The product is insured and the time frame for rebuilding the infrastructure at the terminal would be about two years.

11 deaths have been confirmed of which 6 are employees of IOC. Over 100 people are injured of which 7 have suffered serious injuries. When this terminal was commissioned in 1995, it was situated away from the city and in an isolated location. The Sitapur Industrial Area adjoining this terminal was developed by the Rajasthan Industrial Investment Corporation (RIICO) in 1997, after which the growth of this area took off. It is reported that the blasts in the Depot have damaged the roof, window panes and walls of nearby factories, shopping complex, some residential buildings. The employees of the nearby factories and local residents in the vicinity were subsequently evacuated by the local authorities. The fire incident affected vehicular traffic on a stretch on NH-12 (Jaipur-Tonk-Kota Road) and also railway traffic of Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur route. All the fires have burnt out by 6:00 AM on 11.11.2009, after more than 13 days.

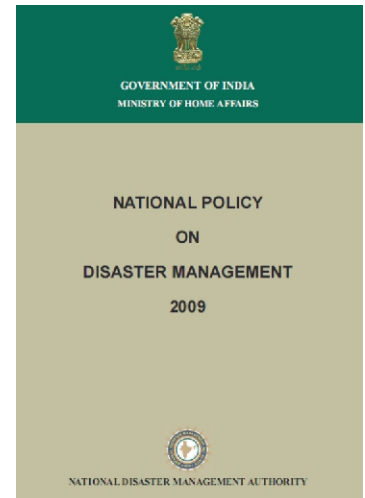
National Policy on Disaster Management Released

New Delhi, October 2009

National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM) was approved by the union cabinet on 22 October 2009. The decision was taken in a cabinet meeting chaired by the Honbl'e Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Objectives of the National Disaster Management policy are, promoting the culture of prevention, preparedness and resilience at various levels. The policy will act as a skeleton for the holistic handling of various disasters effectively. The NPDM has been prepared in tune with and in pursuance of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. NPDM covers all aspects of disaster management - institutional, legal and financial arrangements, disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness, techno-legal regime, response, relief and rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery, capacity development, knowledge management and research and development.

Disaster management will now be more transparent and accountable and will involve different communities, Panchayati Raj Institutions, community-based organizations, local bodies and civil society. The Policy addresses the concerns of all the sections of the society including differently abled persons, women, children and other disadvantaged groups. In terms of grant of relief and formulating measures for rehabilitation of the affected persons due to disasters, the issue of equity/inclusiveness has been accorded due consideration.



GOI launched DRR programme with UNDP

After the successful implementation of the GOI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme (2002-2009) in 169 districts and 17 states, Government of India with support from UNDP is now implementing the GOI-UNDP Disaster Risk Reduction Programme (DRR) from 2009 to 2012 with an outlay of \$20 million (approximately Rs. 100 crores). The GOI-UNDP DRR programme is envisaged to support Central and State Government programmes and initiatives by providing critical inputs that would enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the efforts in Disaster Risk Reduction. The programme strives to strengthen the institutional structure to undertake Disaster Risk Reduction activities at various levels including risks being enhanced due to climate change and develop preparedness for recovery.

The expected outputs of the Programme are

- (i) Institutional strengthening & capacity building for Disaster Risk Reduction to be implemented by NDMA with an outlay of \$ 12.6 million (approximately Rs 63 crores) and
- (ii) Urban Risk Management to be implemented by Ministry of Home Affairs with an outlay of \$7.4 million (approximately Rs.37 crores).

Papers

- Chakrabarti, P.G.Dhar, and Walia A. (2009), Tool Kit for Mainstreaming Gender in Emergency Response, in

Enarson and Dhar Chakrabarti (eds) “Women Gender and Disaster Global Issues and Initiatives”, Sage publications New Delhi, pp. 337-360

- Guleria Sushma and J.K. Patterson Edward (2009). “Coastal Zone Management: Translating Policy into Action”, Proceedings of the international symposium on geotechnical engineering, ground improvement, and geosynthetics for sustainable mitigation and adaptation to climate change including global warming, Bangkok, Thailand from 3-4 December 2009.
- Satapathy, S. (2009), Psychosocial and Mental health Support Services in Fire tragedies in India: A qualitative analysis, Disaster Advances An International Journal, Vol.2 (4), October 2009, pp.- 25-31

Delegations

WBI team visited NIDM

New Delhi, Nov 7, 2009

A team comprised of Katalin Demeter, Andrei Tolstopiatenko, Hari Krishna, Shelly Kulshrestha visited NIDM and had meeting with the Executive Director, Joint Director and faculty members of the Institute. Key issues discussed during the programme are (i) Staff development programme (ii) GFDRR India Program (iii) Course customization and branding of the new online programmes.

Other issues specific to the online programmes effective implementation were also discussed. Key area are (i) exploring option of providing electronic registration to participants (ii) organizing alumni meeting to get feedback about the courses and for reinventing the online program (iii) Integration of DRR in higher education etc. Since ED NIDM is a member of the committee appointed by Government of India for integration of DRR in higher education. It is likely that disaster course will be mandatory for all at the university level. This will increase opportunity for such online courses. NIDM has also suggested providing online training to existing teachers in higher education systems so as to create adequate human resources for teaching DRR in schools (iv) Institutionalizing the delivery system NIDM can consider linking the courses with IGNOU and other universities for certification. NIDM can offer professional diploma certificates in collaboration with WBI to candidates who successfully complete all the online courses (v) It was also decided that a regular task manager will be appointed at NIDM for the smooth running of the online programmes since the online course will soon be transferred from WBI to NIDM server (vi) Besides WBI agreed to develop and provide training manuals for participants and facilitators.

NIDM in International Forum

- P.G.Dhar Chakrabarti, Executive Director NIDM participated in the First Editorial Committee of Asia-Pacific Disaster Report meeting on 18-19th November, 2009 at Bangkok, Thailand
- Prof. Santosh Kumar participated in the International Conference on Seismic Risk Mitigation from 8-10 December at Istanbul, Turkey
- Dr. Amir Ali Khan, Assistant Professor, participated in the International Symposium on Disaster Management in Saudi Arabia from 3-6 October, 2009 in Riyad.

Major Activities of NIDM (October - December 2009)

Training Programmes

- Climate Change and Disasters, GIDM Gujarat, 6-9 October
- Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management, ATI Himachal Pradesh, 12-16 October
- Comprehensive Landslide Risk Mitigation and Management, NIDM, 12-16 October
- Management of Serial Bomb Blasts, NIDM, 14-16 October
- Climate Change and Disasters, APARD Hyderabad, 26-30 October

- Basic Course on DM for NDRF Commanders, 9-13 November
- Climate Change and Disasters, NIDM, 16-20 November
- Relief Management, 16-20 November
- Mitigation of Hydro-meteorological Disasters, ATI Mizoram, 23-27 November
- Management of Stampedes and Road Accidents, 23-27 November
- Flood Risk Mitigation and Management, ATI Delhi, 30 Nov- 4 December
- Mainstreaming DRR in Development, NIDM, 3-4 December
- Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management, ATI Assam, 14-18 December
- Applications of GIS and Remote Sensing in Disaster Management, ATI West Bengal, 14-16 December
- Gender Issues in Disaster Management, NIDM, 14-18 December
- Basic Course on DM for Civil Defense officers, 14-18 December
- Mainstreaming DRR in Development, NIDM, 22-24 December

Online Training Programme with WBI

- Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Framework , September 21- November 9, 2009
- Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management , September 14 - October 11, 2009
- Comprehensive Natural Disaster Risk Management Framework, 14 December 2009 – 24 January 2010

Upcoming Events (Jan March 2010)

Workshops

- Training Workshop on Use of Space Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction in collaboration with UN-SPIDER, NIDM, 11-13 January
- Training Workshop on Risk Analysis in collaboration with WBI and KIT on New Delhi, 3-5 Feb 2010
- Networking Workshop in Collaboration with WBI, 8-9 Feb 2010

Training Programmes

- Comprehensive Landslide Risk Mitigation and Management, ATI Karnataka, 4-8 January
- Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Development, NIDM 7-8 January
- Management of Serial Bomb Blast , NIDM 13-15 January
- Disaster Management for Forestry, FRI Dehradun 18-22
- Climate Change and Disasters, APARD, Hyderabad 18-22 Dr. R K Mall
- Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management , ATI Assam 18-22
- Response to Tsunami Warning ,NIDM 27-29 January
- Earthquake Risk Mitigation and management , ATI Himachal Pradesh 1-5 February
- Basic Course on Disaster Management for NDRF Commanders, NIDM 8-12 February
- Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, ATI Arunachal Pradesh 8-12 February
- Transportation of Hazardous Goods, 1-2 February
- Gender Issues in Disaster Management, NIDM 8-12 February
- Comprehensive Landslide Risk Mitigation and Management , NIDM, 1-5 February

- Retrofitting of Lifeline Structures: Technical and Managerial Issues, NIDM, 15-19 February
- Relief Management, NIDM, 22-24 February
- Basics of Disaster Management for Trainers of the Indian Railways , IRITM, Lucknow 22-26 February
- Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, ATI Orissa 22-26 February
- Management of Industrial and Chemical Disasters, NIDM, 22-26 February
- Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) on Earthquake Response and Recovery, March 2010
- Applications of Geoinformatics in Disaster Management, NIDM , 8-12 January
- Training of Trainers on Community Based Disaster Risk Management , NIDM, 15-19 March
- Urban Risk Mitigation, DMI, Madhya Pradesh, 1-5 March
- ToT of Disaster Psycho-social Care, NIDM, 8-12 March
- Management of Stampedes and Road Accidents, NIDM 15-19 March
- Needs of Children and Senior Citizens in disaster, NIDM, 29 -31 March
- Managing Serial Bomb Blasts, NIDM, 29 -31 March

Online Training Programme with WBI

- Community based Disaster Risk Management, January 18 - February 7, 2010
- Safe Cities, 1- 21 February, 2010
- Earthquake Risk Reduction , February 15 - March 7, 2010
- Climate Change and Disaster Management, 1 - 31 March, 2010

We welcome comments / responses / articles from readers of our Newsletter
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