



BIMSTEC Workshop
Regional Cooperation on
Disaster Risk Reduction
and Management

New Delhi

30-31 October 2006

Structure of presentation

Part I - Disaster management in
BIMSTEC countries:
issues and challenges

Part II - Possible areas of regional
cooperation on disaster
management in BIMSTEC region

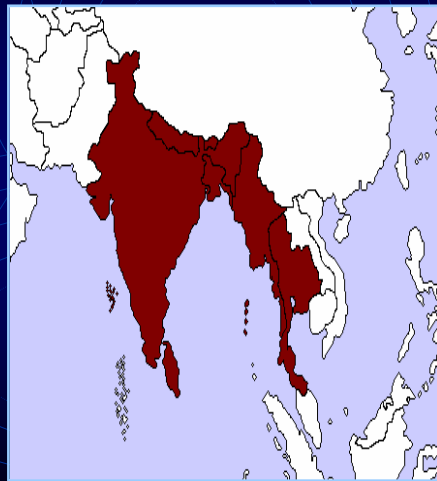
Part I

Disaster Management in BIMSTEC Region Issues and Challenges

BIMSTEC



- Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand set up BIST-EC in June 1997
- Myanmar joined in December 1997 to make it BIMST-EC
- Nepal and Bhutan joined in February 2004 to make it BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)



Profiling BIMSTEC

- 4.7 million sq.km of surface area endowed with rich and diverse natural resources
- Abundant human resources of 1.3 billion people
- Combined GDP US\$ 1042 billion
- Estimated trade potential US \$ 60 billion
- Shares common civilizational bond
- Yet one of the poorest regions of globe
- With 21% of world population, it produces only 1.4% of world income
- The area is the home of 30% of world poor and 40% of world illiterates

..... its members

Country	GDP (US Billion \$)	World Rank	Per Capita Income	World Rank
Bangladesh	61.218	56	1,900	175
Bhutan	0.812	162	1,300	195
India	775.410	12	2,900	152
Myanmar	5.378	127	1,500	190
Nepal	7.516	110	1,400	193
Sri Lanka	23.514	78	3,700	142
Thailand	168.774	36	7,400	97

Focus of BIMSTEC

Initial Focus

- Trade and investment
- Technology
- Transportation and Communications
- Energy
- Tourism
- Fisheries

New Areas

- Environment Management
- Disaster Management

Why disaster management?

- Bay of Bengal area including the two land locked countries of Nepal and Bhutan are one of the most disaster hotspots of the world
- The area is prone to almost all possible types of disasters including earthquake, landslide, avalanche, flood, cyclone, tsunami, drought, forest fire etc
- Countries of the region known to have lost 2 to 20% of GDP and 12 to 66% of revenue in past disasters
- Disasters further worsened conditions of poverty
- Aggravated the fragile eco-system of the region

Bangladesh



Area – 144,000 sq.km
 Population – 141.34 million
 Density – 1055 per sq.km
 Urbanization – 23.9%

Major disasters

Event	Year	Dead	Affected
Cyclone	1970	300,000	20 million
Flood	1974	1789	38 million
Flood	1988	2211	73 million
Cyclone	1991	138,866	15 million



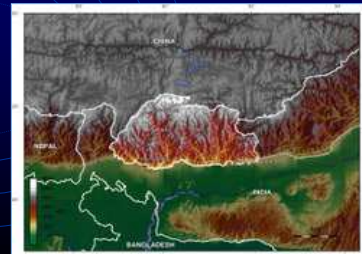
Bhutan



Area – 47,500 sq.km
 Population – 2.23 million
 Density – 45 per sq.km
 Urbanization – 8.2%

Major disasters

Event	Year	Dead	Affected
Flood	2000	200	1000
Flood	1994	22	600
Wind storm	1994	17	65,000



India



Area – 3,287,590 sq.km
 Population – 1,102.6 million
 Density – 329 per sq.km
 Urbanization – 28.1%

Major disasters

Event	Year	Dead	Affected
Quake	1993	9475	1 million
Cyclone	1999	10086	15 million
Quake	2001	13805	1.8 million
Tsunami	2004	12405	3.5 million



Myanmar



Area – 678,578 sq.km
 Population – 50,51 million
 Density – 75 per sq.km
 Urbanization – 25.1%

Major disasters

Event	Year	Dead	Affected
Cyclone	1968	1070	500,000
Quake	1995	250	100,136
Flood	1997	90	137,418

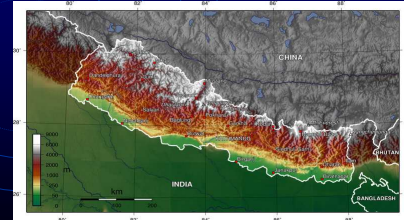
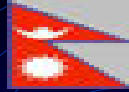


Nepal

Area – 65,610 sq.km
 Population – 18.9 million
 Density – 288 per sq.km
 Urbanization – 21.1%

Major disasters

Event	Year	Dead	Affected
Quake	1934	9040	215,884
Quake	1988	709	301,016
Flood	1993	1048	553,268
Landslide	2002	472	265,865



Sri Lanka

Area – 65,610 sq.km
 Population – 20.6 million
 Density – 298 per sq.km
 Urbanization – 30.9%

Major disasters

Event	Year	Dead	Affected
Tsunami	2004	35,399	1 million
Cyclone	1978	740	1 million
Flood	1989	325	1.2 million
Flood	2003	235	695,000



Thailand

Area – 513,000 sq.km

Population – 65.44 million

Density – 126 per sq.km

Urbanization – 31.6 %

Major disasters

Event	Year	Dead	Affected
Tsunami	2004	8345	0.5 million
Cyclone	1962	769	15 million
Flood	1988	664	5 million
Flood	1996	231	4.2 million



Issues and challenges

- Huge loss of life and property in disasters in Bay of Bengal region are not acceptable by any standards
- Disaster management not a relief but an important issue of development
- Enormous scope for improvement of disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures
- Effectiveness of non-structural measures
- Training, capacity building, experience sharing, awareness generation can make a big difference
- Countries would stand to gain by more cooperation among each other

Part II

Possible areas of regional cooperation on disaster management in BIMSTEC region

BIMSTEC: a bridge between SAARC and ASEAN

- BIMSTEC is a sub-region which links South Asia with South East Asia
- It connects two regional groups: SAARC and ASEAN
- 5 BIMSTEC members (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) belong to SAARC while 2 (Myanmar and Thailand) are from ASEAN

ASEAN milestones

- ✓ ASEAN Agreement for Facilitation of Search of Aircrafts/ Ships in Distress and Rescue of Survivors 1972/1975
- ✓ ASEAN Declaration on Mutual Assistance on Natural Disasters 1976
- ✓ ASEAN Agreement on Food Security Reserve 1979
- ✓ ASEAN Agreement on Trans-boundary Haze Pollution 2002
- ✓ ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management 2004-10
- ✓ ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response 2005

ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response 2005

- ✓ General obligations
- ✓ Risk Identification and Monitoring
- ✓ Prevention and Mitigation
- ✓ Early Warning
- ✓ Preparedness
- ✓ Technical cooperation
- ✓ Scientific research
- ✓ Standby arrangements
- ✓ Joint emergency response
- ✓ Exemptions from taxation, duties etc en respect of assistance
- ✓ Transit of personnel, equipment for assistance
- ✓ Rehabilitation
- ✓ ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance

SAARC milestones...

- ✓ Study of Causes and Consequences of Natural Disasters in South Asia 1990
- ✓ SAARC Meteorological Research Centre at Dacca 1995
- ✓ SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre at Male 2004
- ✓ SAARC Disaster Management Centre at New Delhi 2006
- ✓ SAARC Comprehensive Framework on Disaster Management to be adopted in 2007

BIMSTEC strengths

- It's a new initiative; it can learn from experiences from both ASEAN and SAARC
- Countries of the region have accumulated experiences and many best practices to further develop the areas of mutual cooperation
- Scientific and technological progress can make the process of cooperation easier
- Gains made in the economic front can be the basis of cooperation through private-public partnerships
- Decision making process in BIMSTEC is less cumbersome

Issues for discussion

- What should be the BIMSTEC approach of regional cooperation on disaster management?
- What should be the framework?
- What should be the specific areas of cooperation?
- What should be the implementation arrangements – legal, institutional and financial?
- What should be the roadmap?

Thank you