

**Concept Note for the thematic Session on
“Involving Communities, Civil Society, and NGOs in disaster Management”**

Second India Disaster Management Congress (IDMC), November 4—6, 2009
Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi

A. Introduction

A session on “Involving Communities, Civil Society, and NGOs in Disaster Management” during the second IDMC to lead discussions on disaster, development, and governance issues is planned to be held with a panel of 14 individuals from NGOs, universities, and training institutions and research organizations. The topic is at the center of civil society organization’s work in India with vulnerable communities and government institutions, including UN and international organizations. Experiences from past disasters have revealed the importance of involving local communities and civil society organizations for effective knowledge management and use of India’s DRR resources to prepare generation next. A similar thematic session on “Disaster Management and Role of NGOs” during the First IDMC, held during the November 29-30, 2009. Under this thematic session, more than 21 papers were prepared, presented, and analyzed with concrete recommendations to support the national disaster management framework, and implementation of the 2005 Disaster Management Act and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.

B. Context

“The First India Disaster Management Congress (IDMC), hosted by the National Institute of Disaster Management from November 29-30, 2006 in New Delhi, is a major step in recognition that disasters pose a serious challenge to human security in India”¹. In the last several years there have been significant developments related to national commitments for DRR, including development of National Disaster Management Framework, the enforcement of the Disaster Management Act in 2005, establishment of National Authority for Disaster Management (NDMA) and State level authorities, and a range of DRR research, networking, and capacity development initiatives by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and United Nations supporting the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. Similarly, a wide range of CSO initiatives have led local DRR actions and concrete knowledge building initiatives, including recovery support to disaster hit communities in different parts of India. While these important strides are being made on DRR policies and actions in India, it is important that the wider civil society organizations and vulnerable communities are involved in these processes.

C. Objectives

Key objective of the session is to lead a dialogue among participants on the critical topics of improving Disaster Risk Management in India by involving communities, Civil Society, and NGOs. The panel will look into critical DRR participation issues arising from case studies such as 2001 Gujarat Earthquake, 2004 Tsunami, 2005 Kashmir Earthquake, and 2007-08 Bihar Floods. The session will also include and address other key topics such as knowledge architecture of disaster management

courses in higher education, including desirable enabling environment and future outlook for this architecture for greater participation. In addition, the session will address key issues pertaining to the DRR education and trainings in India, including Civil-Military cooperation. The panel aims at sharing and discussing evidence-based strategies to improve community and CSO participation in Disaster Management in India.

D. Sub Themes

The session will include the following sub themes to discuss and explore ways and means of increasing the involvement of civil society organizations and communities in the disaster management.

1. Participatory approaches in disaster management
2. Implementation of the Sphere Project in India
3. Use of media by coastal women and children to tackle disasters
4. 2001 Gujarat Earthquake Recovery Experiences
5. Tsunami Recovery Experience of Farmers' Federation
6. Capacity building for disaster risk reduction
7. 2005 Kashmir Earthquake: community recovery and civil-military cooperation
8. Cyclone preparedness experience in Bangladesh
9. Safer schools: findings from the 2008 research study on Auditing School Safety
10. Scientific awareness about disaster risk reduction
11. Participation of youth in disaster management
12. Findings from 2009 regional disaster micro-insurance evaluation

E. Expected Outcome

It is expected that the session will increase the level of awareness about the current disaster management issues in India and channel fresh ideas and energy towards more collaborative actions to support Indian agenda on disaster reduction.

Session Plan: Involving Communities, Civil Society, and NGOs in Disaster Management
Second India Disaster Management Congress (IDMC), November 4—6, 2009
Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi

Introduction

The thematic session on “Involving Communities, Civil Society, and NGOs in Disaster Management” will be held during the second India Disaster Management Congress on 5th November 2009 at *Vigyan Bhavan*, New Delhi, India. The session will include a keynote address from a renowned person in this field followed by oral presentations by the selected delegates. The key purpose of the session is to lead a dialogue among participants on the critical topics of improving Disaster Risk Management in India by involving communities, Civil Society, and NGOs. The delegates will share and discuss evidence-based lessons and strategies to improve community and CSO participation in Disaster Management in India. It is expected that the session will increase the level of awareness about the current disaster management issues in India and channel fresh ideas and energy towards more collaborative actions to support Indian agenda on disaster risk reduction.

Date: November 5, 2009
Time: 10:00AM to 13:00PM (Duration: 3 Hours)
Session Chair: Mr. Mihir R. Bhatt, Managing Trustee, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute
Co-Chair: Ms. Zenaida Delica-Willison, South-South Disaster Risk Reduction Advisory, Regional Centre in Bangkok, Thailand
Rapporteur: Prof. P. C. Joshi, President, Society of Indian Medical Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Delhi University, New Delhi
Facilitators: Dr. Surya Parkash and Dr. A.D. Kaushik, NIDM
Coordinator: Mehul Pandya, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute

Time	Activity	Facilitation
Session Opening		
10:00-10:10	Opening Remarks by the Session Chair	Mr. Mihir R. Bhatt, Managing Trustee, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute
10:10-10:20	Keynote Address by the Session Co-Chair	Ms. Zenaida Delica-Willison, South-South Disaster Risk Reduction Advisory, Regional Centre in Bangkok, Thailand
Oral Presentations (14presentatons x 10mins = 140mins)		
10:20-10:30	Role of Communities and Formal Panchayts in Reconstruction of villages after Tsunami: An Experiment in Seventeen Gram Panchayats in Nagapattinam District	G. Palanithurai, Professor and Head, Rajiv Gandhi Chair for <i>Panchayati Raj</i> Studies, Ghandhigram University
10:30-10:40	People’s Methodology for Community Based Disaster Risk Management – An experience from Utrakhand State	Dr. Surya Parkash, NIDM
10:40-10:50	Stakeholder Participation in Managing Coastal Disasters	Dr. Arul Aram, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Science Communication, Department of Media Sciences, Anna University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
10:50-11:00	School-based Disaster Risk Reduction: Lessons from Child’s Right to Safer School Campaign and 2009 School Safety Audit in India	Vishal Pathak, Coordinator, Child’s Right to Safer Schools Campaign, AIDMI, Gujarat
11:00-11:10	Involvement of Community, NGOs, and Civil Society in Disaster Management	Ms. Jesu Rethinam, SNEHA, Tamil Nadu

11:10-11:20	Findings from 2009 regional disaster micro-insurance evaluation	Rakhi Bhavanani and Mehul Pandya, AIDMI
11:20-11:30	Community Based Disaster Management: The case of Bangladesh	Mr. S. K. Singh, of CIRDAP, Dhaka from Bangladesh
11:30-11:40	Basic and Community Policing: Foundation Stones of Response to Disaster	Raghavendra Hauradker, IPS Inspector-General of Police, Karnataka
11:40-11:50	Disaster Management: New Role for Civil Society Organisations in Changing Macro-Reality	Dr. Subodh M. Wagle, Adhunct Faculty, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, Trustee, PRAYAS, Pune
11:50-12:00	Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction in Myanmar – A Fellowship Approach	Colin Fernandes, Disaster Risk Reduction Manager, ActionAid Myanmar
12:00-12:10	People’s Partnership Power to Respond to Disasters – A Mobile Campaign by Saritsa Foundation across 12 states of India from Kanya Kumari, Tamilnadu to Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh – A Case Study	Prof Colonel N. M. Verma, Director General, Saritsa Foundation, Mumbai
12:10-12:20	Re Knitting the local Cash Flow System – Strategic Approach to Community Based and Sustainable Disaster Management	Toms K. Thomas, Chief Executive Officer, Mutual Assistance Resource Group, ECO MARG
12:20-12:30	Andhra Pradesh Relief to Development Program Initiative of Community Preparedness for Emergencies Response	K. Arup Kumar Patro, Program Officer, Focus Humanitarian Assistance India
12:30-12:40	Building Local Capacities for Disaster Response and Vulnerability Reduction – A Study on Community Resilience	Annie George, DEDROC
Open Dialogue (10mins)		
12:40-12:50	Open Discussion (Q & A)	Mr. Mihir R. Bhatt, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute
Closing Remarks (10mins)		
12:50-12:55	Key Remarks by the Session Rapporteur	Prof. P. C. Joshi, President, Society of Indian Medical Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Delhi University
12:55-13:00	Concluding Remarks by the Session Co-Chair and Vote of Thanks by the Session Chair	Ms. Zenaida Delica-Willison, South-South Disaster Risk Reduction Advisory, Regional Centre in Bangkok, Thailand and Mr. Mihir R. Bhatt, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute