

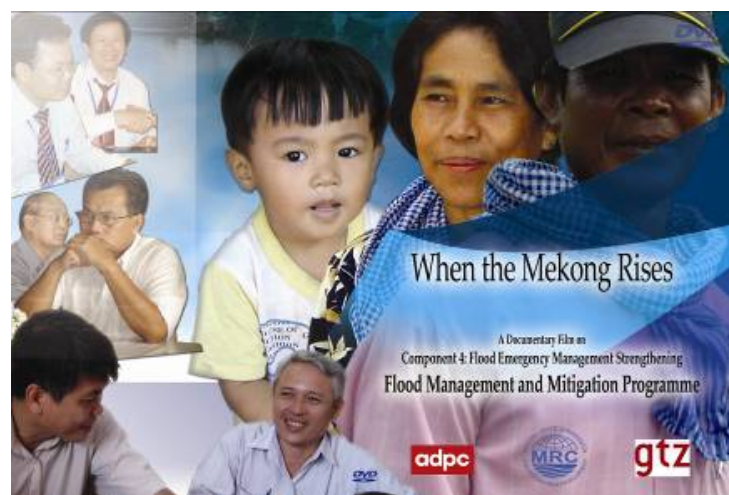


ADPC activities update March-May 2009

Greetings from Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Bangkok, Thailand.

- Activity updates come to you as ADPC is rolling out its third introductory course on *GIS for Disaster Risk Management (GDRM-3)* in Bangkok, Thailand from 11-22 May 2009 for an international group of 21 participants from 12 countries. Most of the disaster related data are spatial in nature and therefore, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) play an important and significant role in disaster risk mitigation, preparedness and response. The training focuses on applications of spatial data in hazard and vulnerability assessment to facilitate management practitioners to take decisions, based on available data in the various phases of disaster risk management.
- ADPC is conducting a *Regional Training Course on Climate Risk Management* for a delegation of senior officials from Bangladesh Government from the 18–22 May 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. The course will cover climate risk management, the process, climate-society interactions, historical impacts on societal systems: climate as a resource and as a hazard, climate forecast products, climate risk assessment, climate induced DRR modeling and community-based participatory climate risk management.
- The Mekong River Commission (MRC) Secretariat launched the documentary film, “*When Mekong Rises*” at the *Annual Mekong Flood Forum (AMFF-7)* on 13 May 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The documentary film, “*WHEN THE MEKONG RISES*” presents the story of Mekong floods and the initiatives by MRC, that help people to reduce their risks due to the negative impact of flooding in the lower Mekong basin through its Flood Management and Mitigation Programme (FMMP). The video captures some of the exemplary moments of flood



preparedness and emergency management activities carried out by its partner, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre under the GTZ-BMZ funded project. The description and lessons learnt are presented as seen and analyzed through the eyes of participants and beneficiaries of the program.

- ADPC was invited to join the *International Study Tour* to Hue, Central Vietnam from 4-9 May 2009, organized by the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF), London and the UN-Habitat. The site of the visit was the Development Workshop, France (DWF) project "Preventing typhoon damaged to housing", recipient of the World Habitat Award 2008.
- In the wake of the *swine flu outbreak*, ADPC continues to provide regular updates and advisories through its website and list serve communications.

New activities

- Population of secondary cities in Thailand varies along with contributions to national economy, be it the tourism, industrial or the agricultural sector and each with a strong local commitment and initiative for combating carbon emissions and climate change consequences. Although present actions do not reduce the environmental pollution, it intends to help to reduce future impacts, which is the primary objective of the "*Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN) in Thailand*", a program, that ADPC will undertake to build climate change resilient communities with a focus on poor and vulnerable groups by creating robust models and methodologies. The proposed study will make an assessment of the status of impacts of climate change in five selected cities in Thailand, evaluation of data availability for study on previous events and trends, study of potential exposures to future climate change scenarios, identification of source agencies and outlining areas for further qualitative and quantitative assessments.
- ADPC will establish a research and administrative support team for '*Early Warning and Community Preparedness: Strengthening the Technology-Community Interface*'. As part of the project, an e-discussion forum on last mile early warning system in collaboration with Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Raks Thai Foundation (CARE), Macquarie University and various agencies in Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia has been established. To take part in this exciting new initiative of "*Online Dialogue on Early Warning*", visit www.adpc.net/odew. The dialogue will facilitate knowledge and information sharing on 'Better early warning systems'. The dialogue runs from 13 May to 30 Jun 2009. For any enquiry, or technical problem, please drop a mail to odew@adpc.net.
- ADPC will carryout the *phase II of the Regional Consultative Committee Program on Mainstreaming Disaster Reduction into Development in Asia*, which will promote safer development and good governance in RCC member countries; will contribute to realizing the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and advancing priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The current phase of the program designed for implementation over 5 years until 2012, have five key components,
 - Partnerships for Mainstreaming of DRR into National Development Planning processes
 - Priority Implementation Partnerships on Mainstreaming DRR into sectoral development

- Advocacy of Building awareness and political support for Mainstreaming of DRR into Development Policy and Planning
- Knowledge management platform for MDRD: Showcasing good practice and lessons learned
- Capacity development for Mainstreaming of DRR into Development of sectoral ministries; technical institutes; private sectors and NGOs in RCC member countries.
- To enable health facilities to prepare for and conduct exercises, a *Guide and Model Plans on exercise management in health facilities* will be developed for Ministries of Health and health facility managers, Malaysia. The initiative will also provide generic exercise plan outlines which can be adapted by Ministries of Health and health facilities according to national/local priorities and circumstances.
- The *Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER)* will be carried out with the aim to build local and regional capacities in disaster risk reduction and management through disaster preparedness training. ADPC managed the first phase of PEER until 2003, targeting India, Indonesia, Nepal, and Philippines. The second phase expanded to cover Bangladesh and Pakistan by National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), Nepal. In the third phase, the PEER-Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) Program will continue in all the PEER countries, namely, Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Philippines to enhance the preparedness capacity of hospitals and also to institutionalize HOPE Program.
- ADPC will undertake the *Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (AIFRERM)* with the aim to enhance sustainable and inclusive economic growth in flood prone areas along the Brahmaputra River in the Assam state. Three subproject sites, namely Diburgargh (Diburgargh district), Kaziranga (Golaghat district), and Palasbari (Kamrup district), have been selected based on their productive and strategic importance. These sites are identified to reduce flood and river erosion damages and to promote increased investments in urban industries, services, and productive agriculture. The expected outcome will be substantial enhanced reliability and effectiveness of flood and riverbank erosion risk management systems. Additionally, AIFRERM has set up a specific sub-component aimed at establishing a participatory framework to assist community-based flood risk management (CBFRM) needs.
- The Third Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held on 2-4 December 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The meeting was attended by more than 600 government representatives including Ministers, Senior Government Officials, and participants from regional and international organizations, scientists, academicians, and practitioners, NGOs, National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescents, civil society members and the United Nations. One key outcome of the Conference was the Kuala Lumpur (KL) Declaration outlining government commitment for action on disaster risk reduction. ADPC, as the leading member of the ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) will *develop the Regional Action Plan on the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction* as

well as earlier declarations made in Ministerial Conferences in Delhi and Beijing. The findings will be shared at the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and will call on donors to support the preparation process and implementation of the Action Plan.

ADPC in Action

- Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, ADPC Executive Director delivered the keynote address on "*Disaster Risk Management for Persons with Disabilities*" at the 2nd Disaster Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities conference in Phuket, Thailand on the 12 May 2009 and organized by the Blind Association of Thailand.
- ADPC made a presentation on *Media & Safe Disaster Coverage* at the National Seminar on Exploring Human Security and Disaster Management in Mumbai, India on the 25 & 26 Apr 2009, organized by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai.
- ADPC participated in the *training package development workshop on Pandemic Preparedness Exercise & Network for Strengthening Global Influenza*, organized by WHO Mediterranean Center for Health Risk Reduction in Tunisia from 21-24 Apr 2009. The workshop provided technical guidance and expertise in the development of the Pandemic Preparedness Exercise Training Package for ADPC to be recognized as a member of the Global Influenza Training Network and to share ADPC experiences on exercise management for communicable disease emergencies and the community based management of AHI.
- **ADPC in the news:** ADPC and National Hydro Meteorological Services (NHMS) Vietnam organized a *Seasonal National Climate Forum* in Hanoi on 21 Apr 2009. The National Forum was supported under the Strengthening Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (SMEWS) project with ways to improve early warning systems for earthquakes and tsunamis were the focus of the forum. The Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology informed the Forum that a project to install a national seismic network, with 36 stations equipped with modern technology was underway throughout the country. The National Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting Centre deputy director general, Tran Van Sap, added that another 19 stations for tsunami early warnings were being established in the Truong Sa (Spratly) archipelago. The forum to be held biannually in Vietnam would aim to prepare a plan for every season, provide short and medium-term recommendations to improve inter-agency coordination, streamline climate information and find ways to better meet the challenges of climate change. The forum received wide media coverage through the Voice of Vietnam News and other national news agencies.
- *National Workshop on Priority Implementation Partnerships on Mainstreaming DRR in the Housing Sector* was held on the 7 Apr 2009 in Sri Lanka. The workshop was implemented by the Government of Sri Lanka, under the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) Program on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development.

- ADPC participated in the World Health Day focusing on the theme “**Save lives-Make Hospital Safe in Emergencies**”. The event was organized on the 7 Apr 2009 by the Ministry of Health, Bangkok, Thailand.
- *Southeast Asia Regional Inter-agency Information sharing/coordination Meeting on Avian & Human Influenza* was organized by ADPC and Nestle, Thailand on the 2 Apr 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. The theme of the forum was Zoonotic Diseases and Natural Disasters.
- ADPC and the Indonesian National Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG) organized the *2nd National Monsoon Forum* in Jakarta, Indonesia on the 2 Apr 2009.
- ADPC met regional Model UN students from Bangkok Patana School on 21 Mar 2009 and made *presentations and held discussions on basic background of disasters*, disaster management, ADPC activities and linkages into many international issues.
- ADPC conducted *natural hazard awareness session* for 95, 9th grade students at the New International School of Thailand (NIST), in Bangkok on 10 Mar 2009. Presentations, discussion, activities revolved around disaster risk reduction efforts and initiatives in the region and Thailand, in particular.
- ADPC welcomed and made presentation on disaster risk reduction initiatives in the region for the *study tour delegation* from the BBC World Service Trust, Hanoi, Vietnam on 10 Mar 2009.
- Dasho Pendan Wangchuk, Secretary, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan visited ADPC and *Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (RIMES)* facility on 4 Mar 2009.

Training & Learning

- ADPC facilitated regional training course on *Tsunami Modeling of Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES)*, a 17-country regional cooperation on the early warning of tsunami and hydro-meteorological hazards, in Bangkok on 9-20 Mar 2009.
- ADPC announces the *first Regional Training Course on Incident Command System (ICS) for Disaster Management*, 10-16 Aug 2009 Phuket, Thailand. The course is designed to enable practitioners to operate efficiently during an incident or event within the Incident Command System (ICS). This course focuses on the management of single resources. The objectives of the ICS course is to provide participants with the in-depth knowledge on Incident Command System, describe the ICS organization appropriate to the complexity of the incident or event and use ICS to manage an incident or event efficiently. For more information or down load the brochure, please visit the ADPC website: www.adpc.net or write to tedadpc@adpc.net.
- ADPC is announcing the tentative postponement of the *ninth inter-regional Public Health and Emergency Management in Asia and the Pacific (PHEMAP-9)* Course to **24 Aug– 4 Sep 2009**, originally scheduled in June 09.

ADPC Regional Training Schedule for 2009

- **Public Health in Complex Emergencies (PHCE-8)**, 6-18 Jul, Bangkok
- **End-to-End Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (EWS-2)**, 14-25 Sep, Bangkok
- **Flood Disaster Risk Management (FDRM-10)**, 12-23 Oct, Bangkok
- **Disaster Management Course (DMC-39)**, 2-20 Nov, Bangkok
- **Climate Risk Management: Science, Institutions, and Society (CRM-3)**, 16-27 Nov, Bangkok
- **GIS for Disaster Risk Management (Advance level) (GDRM-4)**, 7-18 Dec, Bangkok

New publications & information resources

Listed are online information products from Program for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia (PROMISE):

- PROMISE quarter report [more>>](#)
- PROMISE: IEC Materials, Indonesia [more>>](#)
- Safer Cities case study #24, “Learning to Act Together: Disaster Mitigation in Hyderabad, Pakistan through Collaborative Initiatives”, written by Mr. Masood A. Mahesar. The case study on Hyderabad City reflects flood disaster mitigation and risk reduction as the starting point for urban communities to act together to resolve a common concern. The case study features community understanding, participation, engagement and learning to collectively lower flood risks. [more>>](#)
- Disaster Mitigation in Asia, April 30, Issue 67 [more>>](#)
- PROMISE Brochure [more>>](#) *and*
- Proceedings & Presentation from Briefing cum Consultation Workshops on “Initial Steps to support the Development of a Comprehensive Multi-Hazard Programme and Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction in Myanmar” [more>](#)

Please browse through ADPC website www.adpc.net for more ADPC news updates, publications, events and training details and vacancy announcements.

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