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৩২ বর্ষ, ৪র্থ সংখ্যা।
সেপ্টেম্বর-অক্টোবর, ২০০৬



প্রযুক্তি সিঁড়ি



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প্রযুক্তির পিঠে অওয়ার হবো নাকি প্রযুক্তির তলানী কুড়াবো?

20 years of commitment to safer communities and sustainable development through disaster risk reduction

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center celebrating its 20 year anniversary in 2006 has been a pioneer in some of the significant changes in paradigm, concepts, and practices, paving the way to reduction of the impacts of natural disasters. ADPC responded dynamically to the paradigm shift in disaster management, readily and actively adjusting its operational strengths to address the evolving developments in disaster risk management by structuring its technical focus on the following disaster risk management thematic areas:

Climate Risk Management works to reduce societal and physical vulnerabilities of communities to climate risks through the application of weather and climate forecast information at all time scales. Activities include the development of institutional mechanisms and capacity building of partner institutions to generate, interpret, translate and communicate climate forecast information with sufficient lead time to enable communities and governments to anticipate and manage risks instead of responding to recurring disasters.

Community-based Disaster Risk Management works to identify national, provincial and community disaster risk management needs, providing strategic advice and developing strategic solutions to build national, provincial and community capacities, developing community-based disaster risk management processes, designing and delivering multi-level/multi-focus training.

Disaster Management Systems works to strengthen and build the capacities of national, provincial and local disaster management systems, and promoting regional cooperation by supporting and enhancing the effectiveness of existing mechanisms.

Public Health in Emergencies works to develop capacities for managing health outcomes of communities at risk. A range of capacity building and training programs have been developed and implemented with partners to address continuing and

emerging challenges in health emergency management at regional, national, sub-national and community levels, such complex emergencies, epidemic and pandemic preparedness, nutrition in disasters, psychological support, hospital emergency planning and emergency medical services.

Urban Disaster Risk Management aims at reducing human, social and economic losses in cities resulting from disasters by building stakeholders capacity, facilitating structural and non-structural interventions, and through effective emergency response planning process.

Rational End-to-End Multi-hazard Early Warning System (EWS) program bridges the technological and societal components of warning and integrates early warning with preparedness, prevention, mitigation, and response within a multi-hazard framework. The program aims to establish regional capacities for tsunami prediction and watch provision, as well as research support in severe weather forecasting; strengthen national capacities in early warning, disaster management planning, warning response, and local risk reduction; facilitate exchange of information, best practices, and lessons learned; and undertake research in all aspects of the end-to-end warning system.

Education and awareness through community capacity development is one of ADPC's core competence. These have been demonstrated through its project implemented in collaboration with local authorities. Some of the examples are listed below

Under the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP), awareness on urban hazards has been demonstrated in several countries such as; Tongi and Gaibanda Municipalities in Bangladesh, Vientiane City in Lao PDR, Ratnapura and Nawalpitia Municipalities in Sri Lanka, Hatyai province in Thailand and in Cambodia.

Pioneering work on developing community based risk communication strategies in Lao PDR, Cambodia and

Vietnam was implemented under the Disaster Reduction Program for Cambodia, Lao and Vietnam (DRPCIV) project in 2002. Substantive work has also been done on community level action planning and risk communication under a sponsorship from Asian Development Bank in Uttarranchal and Uttar Pradesh states in India and in Cambodia and Vietnam under "Capacity Building for Flood Preparedness Planning in the Lower Mekong Basin using Flood Information Products" project with the Mekong River Commission (MRC).

The Flood Emergency Management Strengthening under Component 4 of the MRC's Flood Management and Mitigation Program works on competence of civil authorities at various levels, emergency managers and communities in flood preparedness and mitigation for Emergency management systems in the Riparian countries more effectively dealing with Mekong floods in the 4 Mekong countries of Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR and Thailand, in close collaboration with Mekong River Commission (MRC), with funding support from GTZ (Federal Government of Germany)

Capacity Building for Planning and Implementation of Flood Preparedness Programs at Provincial and District levels in the Lower Mekong Basin (Phase II) works on enhancing capacity for undertaking planning and implementation of flood preparedness programs at the provincial and district level in selected provinces of the Lower Mekong Basin, funded under the Fourth DIPECHO Action Plan for South East Asia

Community Self Reliance and Flood Risk Reduction is designed to assist the Government of Cambodia, non-government organizations (NGOs) and local leaders become better prepared for extreme flood events, and to build capacity at the community-level for flood disaster prevention and mitigation. The key outcome will be the adoption of improved participatory flood risk management principles by village development councils and targeted vulnerable communities in the provinces of Takeo, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng and Kandal.

Community based disaster risk management is a specific focus under the Partnerships for Disaster Reduction in Southeast Asia (PDRSEA), a project being implemented in seven Southeast Asian

countries since 2001 with financial support from DIPECHO. The program has focused on developing technical capacity of professionals through designing and conducting various training courses, facilitating sharing of experiences, across countries and organizations through newsletters, websites and email list serves. The program has provided support to national networks and led efforts towards regional networking. Practical tools for practitioners have been developed to support community action; e.g. the CBDRM Field Practitioners Handbook. Recently the focus of program has been on Institutionalizing Community Based Disaster Risk Management in the government policy, planning and implementation. In this regard the program is working closely with the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) and practitioners. Regional level workshops were held with the ACDM and CBDRM practitioners. In the next phase the program is going to focus more on the national, sub-national and local levels in helping the government departments develop strategies and action plans to support community action.

ADPC's Community Based Disaster Risk Management Course (CBDRM) emphasize on following aspects.

- Institutionalization of the community based disaster risk management in the policy, planning and implementation of the government ministries and departments and the that of the donors in target countries;
- Implementation of innovative programs to explore new dimensions in the CBDRM practice;
- Development of frameworks and tools to support the work of decision-makers and practitioners;
- Development of databases and publications to map the CBDRM practices in various regions;
- Development of new training tools to enhance the capacity of practitioners;
- Development of new training tools to enhance the capacity of practitioners;
- Continued support to the ACDM and other regional entities for promoting CBDRM practices.