

## **Report of RECLAIM Workshop**

### **Background**

Regional Capacity Enhancement for Landslide impact Mitigation (RECLAIM) programme of Asia is implemented in seven countries: Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. RECLAIM programme is implemented by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) collaboration with Geotechnical Institute as the technical partner.

The main long term objective of the RECLAIM project is to reduce the landslide disaster vulnerability of human settlements, Infrastructure and critical facilities in the targeted countries in Asia.

To fulfill the project objectives, ADPC and NBRO jointly initiated to organized two regional level Seminar on 04<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007 in Kandy and Galle .

### **Approach**

The main objective of the RECLAIM seminar in Sri Lanka, to share the experience in landslide mitigatory techniques that have gathered during reason past by the stakeholders. To conduct the seminars were selected two landslide prone district from Southern and Central provinces were selected.

Workshop in Kandy which was selected from central province mainly focused on government and non government stakeholders and Galle workshop mainly focused government and academia involvement in landslide disaster management.

Also, Intended participants of the workshops are drawn from the public sector officials working in the field of disaster management and other development activities. Human settlement Division (HSD) jointly with Landslide Studies and Service Division (LSSD) of NBRO select participant from the following institutions.

- District Secretary office
- Disaster Management Centre (DMC)
- Road Development Authority (RDA)
- Urban Development Authority (UDA)
- Department of Building
- Municipal Council

Due to the un-planned infrastructure development informal landuse practices can be seen at local, regional and national levels. With this reason RDA, UDA, Department of building and local authorities were selected as participants. Since, we have noted the importance of awareness among the planners and decision makers at the local level we address the Landuse Planners, Planning Directors District Secretaries and Divisional Secretaries. DMC is a national level coordinator of the disasters and hence, was invited DMC.

To have a good combination of theoretical, practical and international in the seminar agenda resource person were selected from agencies directly involved in landslide mapping and mitigation. For this, resource person from NBRO both from Landslide Studies and Service Division and Geotechnical Engineering Division were related FINCO Engineering Sales Directorate limited were selected to give the new technologies available and to discuss the present work the do in landslide mitigatory.. Also to get the international views resource person from ADPC and one of the well respected Landslide experts in the region Dr. RK Bhandhari was selected. Further to get the academia involvement for the seminar and to get inputs on theoretical knowledge on landslide, resource persons from Ruhuna University and Moratuwa University was obtained.

ADPC was kind enough to get down Dr. R.K Bhandhari, Head- Centre for Disaster Mitigation and Management of VIT University in India as the key note speaker for both seminars. Dr. Bhandhari, one of the important person, who was instrumental in establishing NBRO and also he was the key person who introduce the landslides work to NBRO. His practical and professional knowledge with international experience were revealed in the both key note addresses.

### **Workshop in Kandy**

Kandy is the main city and world heritage city in the central province. Central province is the most critical area affected by landslides. With increase of population and development activities in the hilly area the occurrences of the landslides are increased. With this, Kandy was selected as one location to conduct the “Landslide Mitigation” seminar under the RECLAIM project. Also here we consider (Not only Kandy District) Badulla, Nuwara Eliya districts when participants are selected.

At the Kandy workshop we scheduled the agenda for three session; Inaugural session, Technical session 1 (Landslide and Landslide Mitigation) and Technical session2 (Landslide disaster management).

In the inaugural session keynote address by Dr. RK Bhandhari delivered an important presentation under the topic of “Lessons from landslide Disasters and Strategy for Safer Development”. Here participants were given up to date knowledge by Dr. Bhandari with his practical and professional knowledge. On the other hand in the technical session one (landslide Management) Mr. NMSI Arambepola, Director-UDRM and programme manager PROMISE, ADPC share his knowledge under the topic of type and causes of landslide where he describe the types of landslides in Sri Lanka and other Countries and also the cause of landslide in different conditions. Then Mr. RMS Bandara from NBRO explained about present status of the Sri Lankan landslide and its studies. This session gave an idea about identified landslide in Sri Lanka and present status of mitigation work.

In the technical session two (Landslide Disaster Mitigation) the lesson about landslide mitigation, how to reduce landslide threat were discussed by Dr. Asiri Karunawardhana who is the Head – Geotechnical Engineering Division of NBRO and Dr. Udeni Nawagamuwa , Senior Lecture from Civil Engineering Department, University of Moratuwa.

Also considering value of Gabion walls and Geosynthetic as a mitigatoy method for landslide was done by Mr. Janaka Kasthuriarachchi, Civil Engineering from FINCO Engineering Sales

Directorate limited. As mentioned earlier the recent work done by FINCO was presented to the forum.

### **Workshop in Galle**

Seminar in Galle was organized jointly with the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna. Main objective as mentioned earlier was to get the academic involvement in the landslide mitigation process. Seminar was held at the university auditorium and for the keynote speech all final year student were invited. Here also three sessions were conducted like Kandy seminar. But here specially discussed how to use hazard zonation map prepared by NBRO as a mitigatory method.

### **Conclusion**

RCLAIM seminar provided a platform to discuss the issues that related to landslide reduction between decision makers, planners etc. Also participants identified and discussed their inter institutional issues. Specially in developing Activities implemented by government agencies. Other hand that platform was use to share the inter regional experiences. Therefore we believe knowledge of the landslide mitigations was enhance through this seminar. Participants of some organisation were not seen in the Galle seminar and it was noted to invite them in further project.