



PROMISE PROJECT

Sri Lanka

NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

Implemented By:

The Asia Foundation

Submitted To:

ADPC

**Reporting Period:
November 2009**



The Asia Foundation

A. Activity Summary

The activities for the month of November 2009 are as follows:

Project Component 1

Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment and Development of City Hazard Map

Inception meeting with City Officials to obtain consensus to the work plan

- **Activity 1: Project Inception Meeting- 13th November 2009 at Samanmal Hotel Matara**

Project inception meeting was held on 13th November 2009 at the Samanmal Hotel, Matara to explain the project plan and to obtain consensus. This meeting was organized jointly by Matara Municipal Council, the Asia Foundation, National Building Research Organization and Disaster Management Center of Sri Lanka. The following guests from the city political authority, city officials, Ward based community leaders and District and Divisional Secretary and the officials of the Disaster Management Centre have attended on the invitation by Hon. Mayor of Matara, Mr.Upul Nishantha.

Ms.Athukorala- District Secretary, Matara , Mr.Thusitha.P.Wanasinghe,- Divisional Secretary, Mr.R.K.R.R.Ranaweera, Municipal Commissioner, Mr. N M S I Arambepola, representing ADPC, Mr.Kishan Sugathapala- Human Settlement Planning Division of NBRO, Mr. S.M.K.B.Nandarathne -Director , Training & Public Awareness Division -DMC were among the guests and about 50 participants comprising 15 - Ward officers, 14 - Government Officials Community Service Assistants and 15 - Citizen Committee members have attended for the event.

Detail presentations on the project followed by a discussion were held.

Project Component 4

Advocacy for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction

- **Activity 2: National Symposium on Disaster Risk Reduction**
- National Symposium on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in the Colombo Hilton to mark the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) under the patronage of Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Disaster Management & Human Rights in collaboration with UNDP and ADPC.

An inaugural session followed by three technical sessions were held during the day including the Key note Speech by Dr. R. K. Bandhari, former CTA in NBRO on "Disaster Free Sri Lanka – Vision, Strategy and Action Plan".

Scientists and other eminent experts presented papers under the following three different themes:

- Strategy for Building Safer Shelter and Human Settlements
- Importance of Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Local Government Sector

- Approaches for Landslide Disaster Risk Reduction and Making Communities Resilient
- **Activity 3: National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee, Disaster Risk Reduction Core Group Meeting on 30th November 2009 at the Committee Room E, BMICH**
- National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee, Disaster Risk Reduction Core Group Meeting was held on 30th November 2009 at the Committee Room E, BMICH. The meeting was chaired by Major General Gamini Hettiarachchi (Retd), Director General, Disaster Management Centre (DMC). Mr. Piyal Ganepola, Program Manager- PROMISE, The Asia Foundation, made a presentation on the activities planned under the current phase of the program at Matara. The other partners of DMC, including ADPC presented their plans for the year 2010.

B. Activity Reports

- **Activity 1 Project Inception Meeting**

Proceedings of the PROMISE-MMC Inception Meeting- 13th Friday November 2009 at 9.30AM Samanmal Hotel, Matara

Inauguration

Compeer, K D Ratnayaka, Community Development Officer

Meeting started with lighting of traditional oil lamp by

1. Matara Mayor-Mr.Upul Nishantha
2. Mr. N M S I Arambepola, Director ADPC
3. Mr.Kishan Sugathapala- NBRO-Head, Human Settlement Planning Division
4. Mr. S.M.K.B.Nandarathne -DMC-Director , Training & Public Awareness Division
5. Ms.Athukorala- District Secretary, Matara
6. Mr.Thusitha.P.Wanasinghe- Divisional Secretary
7. Mr.R.K.R.R.Ranaweera- Municipal Commissioner

Followed by 1 min silence to commemorate war heroes

Participants

- 15 - Ward officers
- 15 - Citizen Committee members
- 14 - Government Officials Community Service Assistants (List is Attached)

Welcome Speech

Welcome speech was done by the Hon. Mayor, Matara Municipal Council Mr. Upul Nishantha. He emphasized the importance of disaster preparedness and explained what has other countries done based on his experience in visiting other countries. He gave an introduction that this project to be implemented in Matara Municipal Area by the Asia

Foundation with the technical support of NBRO and in collaboration with DMC, funded by an extension project of PROMISE, UDRM Group of the ADPC.

DMC Speech

Director Training and public awareness of the DMC Mr. S M K B Nandaratra in his speech gave a basic introduction to DMC and disaster management act as well as DM plan. He also emphasized DMC role and the technical input in preparedness and public awareness.

ADPC Presentation

Mr. N M S I Arambepola, Director ADPC, in his presentation explained the audience that the importance in disaster preparedness and shared the experience on similar projects carried out in the other countries in this region while introducing the ADPC role in disaster preparedness and disaster risk management. He has shown in his presentation reduction of vulnerability of urban communities through enhanced preparedness and mitigation of hydro meteorological disasters in urban areas in other countries and involvement of urban communities in those projects.

Presentation of Matara Drainage Study

Prof. Sohan Wijesekara of University of Moratuwa presented an overview of the completed storm water drainage study by his team. It was a comprehensive study on the urban drainage. The purpose of inclusion of this presentation in this program is to educate the city officials of Matara about outputs and the recommendations of the study, so that they will be used in the mitigation activities proposed by the PROMISE Matara. In his presentation he pointed out that the lack of proper drainage system in the area has lead to a disastrous situation and becoming a very serious hazard unless timely actions are not taken.

TAF Presentation

Presentation on introduction to the PROMISE Matara project was done by Mr. P Ganepola, Program Manager of the Asia Foundation. Proposed activities on this project were discussed in details while convincing the audience that the involvement and role of communities and other stakeholders in the area to the success of the project.

NBRO Presentation

Mr. Kishan Sugathapala, Head/Human Settlements of the NBRO has presented their technical inputs provided to the PROMISE project implemented for Kalutara MC Area. He also made an introduction to the National strategy for disaster management for urban authorities and the work carried out by the NBRO on this also explained. He further explained the hazard map prepared for Kalutara. Contents in the proposed hazard map for Matara and role of the community on the preparation of this map were also discussed.

Discussion

Mr. M D Sumathipala, Director UDA pointed out that a draft land-use plan for the Matara has been prepared and forwarded to minister for his approval. However it was mentioned that disaster management concept has not been considered in the draft and suggested to include the recommendations of the drainage study and DRR concept in to the plan. Mr. Kapila Mannapperuma, Municipal Councilor also proposed to MMC to request UDA to consider these for inclusion. Mr. P Ganepola expressed his views on the process and the procedure to follow in the revision.

During the discussion following proposals and issues were also raised by the members and requested to consider these during this project.

- 1 Lightening risk due to communication towers constructed recently
- 2 Poor drainage system and flood in the area
- 3 Substandard community construction work in the area and to adopt standard methods whenever possible.
- 4 Request also made to DMC to rehabilitate the 10 acre land permanently stagnated by water in Madawatta area.

Discussion was ended around 1.30 pm and was followed by lunch.

Activity 2 National Symposium on Disaster Risk Reduction

- National Symposium on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in the Colombo Hilton to mark the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) under the patronage of Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Disaster Management & Human Rights in collaboration with UNDP, ADPC and co-sponsored by Geo-informatics International, Asia Power, The Asia Foundation, CECB, Ruwan Construction and LT & CC.

An inaugural session followed by three technical sessions were held during the day including the Key note Speech by Dr. R. K. Bandhari, former CTA in NBRO on “Disaster Free Sri Lanka – Vision, Strategy and Action Plan”.

Scientists and other eminent experts presented papers under the following three different themes:

Technical sessions

Technical session I – Theme -Strategy for Building Safer Shelter and Human Settlements and the session has chaired by Prof. Emeritus Willie Mendis, University of Moratuwa and session key note address was delivered by him.

Mr. Sunil Jayaweera and Ms. Savitha Gunarathne; Scientists of the NBRO and Mr. Piyal Ganepola Program Manager , the Asia Foundation presented their technical papers in this session.

Technical session II – Theme Importance of Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Local Government Sector Mr. N M S I Arambepola, Director

Urban Disaster Risk Management in ADPC chaired this session and session addresses also delivered by him.

Mr. H.D.S. Premasiri-Scientist NBRO, Mr. Sudaraman Siripala, Managing director-Geo Informatics International, Mr. Missaka Hettiarachchi- Programme Manager, WWF-EFL-AMROS Partnership, Environmental Foundation limited presented their technical papers during this session.

Technical session III- Theme- Approaches for Landslide Disaster Risk Reduction and Making Communities Resilient. Session was chaired by Prof. Kapila Dahanayake and delivered session keynote address considering Landslide Hazard Zonation as a Tool for Land Use Planning in the Hill Country with Special Reference to a Selected Areas in the Upper Watershed in Sri Lanka.

Mr. H.R. Maduranga- Scientist, NBRO presented a paper on Design of the Surface & Sub Surface Drainage Systems at Johnston Estate Resettlement Site – Nuwara Eliya.

Activity 3

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C. Next month activities Planned

- First ward level community workshops for hazard map on 19th December 2009 at Welegoda Sudarshanarama Temple, Matara
- Other Ward level community workshops for hazard map

D. Issues encountered and solutions

None