Component 4.
Regional Networking and Information Dissemination

4.1. Introduction

A large part of the success of PROMISE will be measured by the ability to replicate the outcomes of the demonstration projects in other vulnerable cities and areas within the target countries and the region.

The Information and Networking (I&N) strategy in the work plan period focuses on capturing successful examples, practices and processes emerging from implementation of city demonstration projects and identifying ways for packaging these in a variety of media for wider dissemination to different groups interested in urban disaster preparedness and mitigation practices. The focus is also on strengthening and institutionalizing networks and partnerships built during the implementation of program activities at regional and national levels.

4.1.1. I&N Strategy during the PROMISE Phase I

I&N component of PROMISE aims to build public and private networks as a forum for exchanging information and experience on urban disaster management, with the goal of replicating successful urban disaster mitigation and preparedness practices from the demonstration projects throughout the region.

Since five of the city demonstration projects viz. Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam have commenced the activities under Program Phase I only in January 2006 and after, the role of I&N component during the nine months period of program implementation, in capturing and disseminating disaster mitigation knowledge to various groups (municipalities, city governments, administrators, bureaucrats, etc) interested in promoting mitigation and preparedness at community, city and national levels becomes very new and challenging. In the light of this, the work-plan focuses on developing methodologies and tools that will help the program in capturing, building and disseminating the knowledge on urban disaster mitigation and preparedness to various target groups. The I&N Strategy therefore focuses on strengthening the networks and partnerships built during the implementation of city demonstration projects by partners and regional program activities by ADPC to better facilitate the knowledge on urban disaster mitigation and preparedness throughout the region.

The I&N strategy intended to be adopted by PROMISE has a two-tiered approach:
- Regional I&N Strategy, and
- Country I&N Strategy

At the regional level, the strategy is to develop, maintain and support systems that would remain in place even after the activities supported by the PROMISE in the region discontinues. In other words, this means institutionalization of specific networking events (such as WGM, meetings, discussions, etc) and information products (such as working papers, case studies) and tools (electronic newsletter web-site, listserv, etc) for sharing and exchanging knowledge on urban disaster mitigation and preparedness. This, in the long term, would help ADPC to further enrich its existing knowledge base on urban disaster mitigation and preparedness, which would prove to be of immense help to cities, municipalities and urban communities of the region by getting access to the knowledge base.

At the national level, the strategy is to identify and capture specific components and elements (documents, reports, lessons learned, successful urban disaster mitigation and preparedness practices, public awareness campaigns, etc) from each of the city demonstrations that would enrich the regional knowledge base and strengthen the "network" on urban disaster mitigation and preparedness facilitated by ADPC. Also, the networks built at national levels during the course of implementation of city demonstration projects needs to be strengthened and oriented to become integral part of the regional network based at ADPC. In doing this, whatever necessary tools, needs assessment, capacity building, etc are required to be put in place, are to be identified and strengthened at national levels. The USAID has a partner network and PROMISE will continue to build partnerships with such partners to expand the network and some of the information products may include the experience of such partners involved in national level urban disaster mitigation and preparedness practices.

4.1.2. Description of Proposed Networking Activities & Tools

Regional Lessons Learned Workshop: A forum for networking and interacting to share and exchange information/knowledge on 'lessons learned' emerging from implementation of city demonstration projects. This will be a regional workshop with participants from national governments, various donor agencies, city government officials and others interested/involved in disaster mitigation.

Publication of Disaster Mitigation Primer on Integrated Flood Risk Management: This serves to promote replication of the methodologies and results framework, to provide a reference for practitioners, academics, city government officials and others interested in working on urban flood disaster mitigation and preparedness.

Working Papers and Process Documentation: These serve to promote the research capacity of PROMISE partners and its consultants and also capture the best practices from the city demonstration projects. The working papers will be published in a variety of formats, such as hardcopy, CD-ROM and would also be available as PDF files on the AUDMP web site.

Videos: An information product aimed to promote the accomplishments of PROMISE as a means towards replication. The videos will serve as stand-alone products and would be very effective in reaching out to various target groups and for promoting PROMISE activities in the country projects.

Development and updating of PROMISE Web site: The PROMISE website has been established and is being continuously updated to reflect the current status of the program. The PROMISE website serves as one of the tools for information sharing and networking by PROMISE on urban disaster mitigation and preparedness, and for other purposes such as replication of lessons learned, best practices, etc.

PROMISE List Serve: Started as a follow-up of the 5th Working Group Meeting in Cambodia of AUDMP in 2001, it will be continue to serve as a networking tool for PROMISE partners. The list serve provides an interactive on-line tool for generating, sharing and disseminating information related to urban disaster mitigation and preparedness. Also, for professionals in Asia and globally concerned with urban disaster management to interact and network.

Working Group Meetings: A forum for PROMISE city demonstration project and other partners to network, to share experiences, information, etc. This is an annual event providing an opportunity to look back at the program and plan for future activities.

Briefing Notes: This product is compiled during the Working Group Meeting every year to inform the meeting participants of the status and accomplishments of the PROMISE. It also serves as a reference resource for various discussions both during and after the meeting.

Safer Cities Case Studies: Started during AUDMP, ADPC has presented to date 15 city level practices to capture better practices of urban disaster mitigation and preparedness. More case studies will be developed and added to the existing list of case studies.

Urban Disaster Mitigation & Preparedness Guidebooks: Will serve as a guide for city officials, urban communities and other stakeholders working in the field and will contain a series of volumes to present different aspects of urban disaster mitigation and preparedness.

Materials to be developed by REGIONAL Program Staff of ADPC

(a) *Development of PROMISE Brochure:* The PROMISE Brochure has been developed to incorporate the updates on the program. It is one of the information products under I&N component of PROMISE aimed for distribution to various target groups.

(b) *Updating Presentation Slides*: The set of PROMISE Presentation Slides is being revised every quarter to incorporate the latest updates on the program. The PROMISE staff and other ADPC staff members use this set of slides during various conferences and meetings to provide information about the program.

(c) *PROMISE branding strategy*: has been developed in line with the ADPC and USAID branding strategies to achieve consistency in material production and publication to provide more visibility for program implementing partner and donor agency. This has been circulated widely for usage in publications display at various occasions and would also be supplemental to the existing ADPC displays and publications under the program.

(d) *Calendar of Events*: Ongoing calendar of events including activities at regional and national levels will continue to appear in the ADPC website under "What's new". This is being made available in advance on the web site and is being updated regularly to reflect the latest updates on various activities under the program.

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(e) *Monthly Electronic Urban Disaster Management Newsletter:* This product serves to promote the accomplishments of the PROMISE to stakeholders within and outside the region and to inform the project partners of each other's activities. This is produced monthly and is distributed by email.

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(f) *Quarterly Reports*: The quarterly reports serve as a tool to monitor and evaluate the progress of the city demonstration projects and regional activities within the "results framework" of PROMISE. This ensures the relevance of activities under the PROMISE working towards the goal of the program.

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4.2. Status Report on Development of Information Products and Networking Events

For this initial phase of the program when the program partners are beginning to implement projects in their respective cities, the strategy was to provide inputs to enhance the knowledge capital required for successful disaster urban risk mitigation and preparedness, and other bridges to organizations with the ability to disseminate the lessons learned during this program. Specifically, this involves:

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1. Organizing a Regional Planning Meeting to present the project concepts

2. The creation of networks that connect the partners with strategic institutions

3. Developing and packaging the available information and program achievements in a variety of media for wider dissemination to different groups interested in urban disaster preparedness and mitigation practices

4. Developing a knowledge base on the subject of governance and disaster risk reduction, and

5. Organizing the Annual Working Group Meeting as a venue for partners to share their experiences.

In addition, some information products of the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP) are still maintained and distributed to the program partners and their project partners. These products serve as a resource and forum for partners, and more are lined up to be developed and published this year.

Organizing a Regional Planning meeting to present the project concepts

The meeting which was attended by nominees of the program implementing partners of city demonstration projects and regional program staff helped to conceptualize the program goals, objectives, and intended results. The program partners have developed Phase I proposals based on the outcome of the meeting.

Program for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia (PROMISE)
First Annual Working Group Meeting (WGM), 2-4 October 2006

4.3. Information Products

Monthly Electronic Newsletter

"Disaster Mitigation in Asia" is the monthly electronic newsletter maintained by PROMISE. Now on its 39th issue, the newsletter is sent to more than 2,000 subscribers. This electronic newspaper posted on adpc-announce@yahoogroups.com provides a forum for sharing:

(1) Updates on the activities of PROMISE partners

(2) News updates from the South and Southeast Asian region related to hydro-meteorological disasters, disaster risk reduction and development efforts

(3) Calls for submission for publication in journals and calls for abstracts for conferences

(4) Announcements of upcoming training programs and conferences related to disaster mitigation; and

(5) Online resources related to disaster risk reduction and governance.

Website

The Promise website will be used to reflect the current status of the program. At the moment, the website reflects the program concept, objectives, and demonstration city profiles. After the Working Group Meeting, the working papers and other documents have been uploaded. The ADPC website has also undergone a revision, and the PROMISE newsletter is now posted as a webpage.

In addition, the AUDMP web pages are still available as a valuable resource on urban disaster mitigation.

Urban disaster mitigation & preparedness guide books will serve as a guidance to city officials, urban communities and other stakeholders working in the field and will contain a series of volumes to present different aspects of urban disaster mitigation and preparedness.

Please see the outline developed for _urban disaster mitigation & preparedness_ **_guidebooks under Outputs._**

OUTPUTS

1. _PROMISE Brochure_

2. _Web site-home page of PROMISE_

3. _Quarterly reports_

4. _Urban disaster mitigation & preparedness guide books - Outline_

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Handbook Series on Disaster Risk Management for Urban Governance

The outline of these series is given below.

<u>HANDBOOK 1</u>: **General Aspects of Disaster Risk Management**

1.1   Introduction
1.2   Basic Concepts and Terminology of Disaster Risk Management
      1.2.1   Hazard and Disaster
      1.2.2   Vulnerability and Capacity
      1.2.3   Elements at Risk
      1.2.4   Response, Relief, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation
      1.2.5   Mitigation and Risk Reduction
      1.2.6   Disaster Risk Management
1.3   Disaster Risk Management Framework
      1.3.1   Traditional Disaster Risk Management Cycle
      1.3.2   Upgraded Versions of the Disaster Risk Management Cycle
      1.3.3   Expand-Contract Model
      1.3.4   Crunch-Release Model
1.4   Hazard Assessment
      1.4.1   Types of Hazards
      1.4.2   Quantitative and Qualitative Assessment Methods
      1.4.3   Hazard Mapping
1.5   Vulnerability Assessment
      1.5.1   Types of Vulnerability
      1.5.2   Vulnerability Indicators
      1.5.3   Vulnerability and Poverty
      1.5.4   Basic Issues in Vulnerability Analysis
      1.5.5   Identifying Vulnerable Groups
1.6   Risk Assessment
      1.6.1   Risk Types according to Social Groups
      1.6.2   Risk and Coping Strategies
      1.6.3   Risk Management Process and Framework
      1.6.4   Risk Matrix
1.7   Conclusions

<u>HANDBOOK 2</u>: Urban Environment and Disaster Risk Management

<u>HANDBOOK 3</u>: Mobilizing Stakeholder Support for Disaster Risk Management

3.1 Introduction
3.2 Community-based Participatory Approaches
  3.2.1 Concept of Community
  3.2.2 RRA, PRA, PLA
  3.2.3 Commonly used PRA Tools and Materials
  3.2.4 Community Disaster Risk Assessment
  3.2.5 Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)
  3.2.6 Assessing Capacity of Community Organizations
  3.2.7 Community-based Infrastructural Development
3.3 Public Awareness
  3.3.1 Definitions of Public Awareness for Disaster Risk Management
  3.3.2 Objectives of Public Awareness Building
  3.3.3 Decision-making on Public Awareness Achievement Goals
  3.3.4 Social Marketing
  3.3.5 Needs and Challenges in Public Awareness Building
  3.3.6 Key Aspects of Public Awareness Programs
  3.3.7 Cultural/Environmental Descriptors
  3.3.8 Tools and Options for Creating Awareness
3.4 Mobilizing Political and Institutional Support
  3.4.1 Key Stakeholder Organizations and their Roles
  3.4.2 Quantitative and Qualitative Assessment Methods
  3.4.3 Sustainability Criteria for Disaster Risk Management Programs
  3.4.4 Social, Political and Economic Feasibility
  3.4.5 Role of Leadership
  3.4.6 Marketing Ideas and the Media
  3.4.7 Forging Partnerships and Coalitions
  3.4.8 Institutionalization as a Key to Implementation
  3.4.9 Sources of Financial Support
3.5 Conclusions

<u>HANDBOOK 4</u>: Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management

4.4. Developing New Networks and Strengthening Existing Networks

The program activities under Phase I has had involvement of many national and regional level partners. The Regional Program staff and also national partners have attended many forums at International, regional and national levels.

Under Phase II, program partners attempt to expand the existing network to other organizations that will expand the outreach of the program.

For this purpose, the networking partners of the program can be classified into three groups:

- Organizations that conduct research and/or maintain datasets on hazards, vulnerability indicators, and/or monitor risk reduction activities by the public and private sector; and

- Organizations that conduct training and information dissemination activities.

- Organizations involved in humanitarian activities or post-disaster activities in urban areas supported by USAID and USAID partners

Specialist knowledge is found in research institutions whose activities generate data, improvements on current disaster mitigation practices, innovative approaches and relevant knowledge. Program partners have agreed upon Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) for such institutions to provide a technical support base for the benefit of both the partner and the city government at their demonstration project sites. However, demonstration projects can also generate data on risk reduction, new ideas, innovative practices and different perspectives, and the network could give research institutions access to these real-world learning laboratories. For the next phase, this network formalized by MOU will be encouraged to develop into a community of practice that will facilitate social learning of new governance practices and vulnerability reduction practices so that in the end, disaster risk due to hydro-meteorological disasters is reduced.

Institutions that specialize in providing training on public administration at the local government or local authority level are seen as vital for the dissemination of new ideas on governance and disaster risk reduction.

4.5. National Level Partners

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