

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.

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 focused 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 focused 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 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.

4.2. Program documents developed at regional level

- 1) **PROMISE Brochure:** The PROMISE Brochure has been developed to promote the program. It contains a basic description of the goals, objectives and components.
- 2) **Presentation Slides:** PROMISE presentation slides are 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 briefings to provide information about the program, and generate interest in its outcomes.
- 3) **PROMISE branding strategy:** The branding strategy was 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.
- 4) **Calendar of Events:** Ongoing calendar of events including activities at regional and national levels will continue to appear in the PROMISE webpage 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. PROMISE regional courses are also posted in the ADPC home page.

4.3. Status Report on the Development of Information Products

4.3.1. PROMISE Program Information Products

PROMISE Web page

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, practices around Asia, etc. It is used to reflect the current status of the program. The following table is the index to what it contains. The website is found here: <http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/Default.asp>.

Section	Sub-section	Content	Link
Home page	none	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • What's New • Table of Contents 	http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/Default.asp
Overview	none	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview • Program Goals • Program Objectives 	http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/OVERVIEW/Program%20Goals%20and%20Objectives%20.asp
<u>City Demonstration Projects</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Profiles • Country Partners • HVR Assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant 2006 WGM presentations • City Profiles • Contact information of country partners • PDF files of participatory risk assessments done in Chittagong, Da Nang and Dagupan 	http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/PROGRAM%20COMPONENTS/Component1/Component1.asp
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Course on Governance and Disaster Risk Reduction • Regional Course on Hydro-meteorological Risk Management and Community Preparedness • National Training Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant 2006 WGM presentations • Regional course descriptions • Training events schedule for national courses • Training reports • Brochures 	http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/PROGRAM%20COMPONENTS/Component2/Component2.asp

**Program for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia (PROMISE)
Second Working Group Meeting (WGM-2), 15-17 July 2008**

Advocacy for Mainstreaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippines demo project • Sri Lanka demo project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant 2006 WGM presentations • Philippines demonstration project details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Workshop report • Sri Lanka demonstration project details 	http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/PROGRAM%20COMPONENTS/Component3/Component3.asp
Regional Networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional I&N Strategy • National I&N Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional I&N Strategy • National I&N Strategy • Relevant 2006 WGM presentations 	http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/PROGRAM%20COMPONENTS/Component4/Component4.asp
Monitoring & Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Status Report • Quarterly Status Report • Working Group Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Status Report • Quarterly Status Report • Working Group Meeting documents 	http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/MONITORING%20&%20EVALUATION/Monthly%20Status%20Reports/Default-Monthly_Status%20Reports.asp
Information Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly E-newsletter • Safer Cities • DRM Primer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Disaster Mitigation in Asia</i> e-newsletter, issues 31 to 60 • <i>Safer Cities</i> numbers 16 to 21 • Primer volumes 1 and 2 	http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/INFORMATION%20RESOURCES/Monthly-Enews/Monthly-Enews.asp

PROMISE Listserv:

Started as a follow-up of the 5th Working Group Meeting in Cambodia of AUDMP in 2001, it will 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. The listserv has been changed to adpc-announce@adpc.net; the original listserv found at adpc-announce@yahoogroups.com was transferred to the new one and is kept as back-up.

Monthly Electronic Newsletter

“Disaster Mitigation in Asia” is the monthly electronic newsletter maintained by PROMISE. Now on its 60th issue, the newsletter is sent to more than 2,000 subscribers. 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. It contains:

- (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.

For Issues 51 to 59, the e-newsletter featured a special section on online resources on the countries under the Good Urban Governance in South Asia (GUGSA) project or PROMISE program (both funded by USAID). The featured countries were (in order): Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. The online version is found here:

<http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/INFORMATION%20RESOURCES/Monthly-Enew/Monthly-Enews.asp>.

Safer Cities Case Studies

Started during AUDMP with a documentation of 15 city-level practices, PROMISE has continued the series to capture successful practices of urban disaster mitigation and preparedness. A new category on "Governance" was created, with its own style guide. The updated style guide is uploaded on the *Safer Cities* web page, and was circulated to program partners. Six more case studies were developed and added to the existing list of case studies; four of the case studies are on the experiences of the country projects (see Section 1.5). The new publications under the series are:

- 1) "Guidelines for Safer Cities: Case Studies on Mitigating Disasters in Asia and the Pacific," October 2007
- 2) Safer Cities 16: "Cooperation between Local Authority and Communities Reduces Flood Disaster Risk in Dagupan City, Philippines," April 1997
- 3) Safer Cities 17: "Good Governance and Post-Tsunami Recovery in Patong," Thailand, June 2007
- 4) Safer Cities 18: "The Boy Who Cried, "Wolf!" or Why a Community-based Alert System is a good idea," Sri Lanka, June 2007
- 5) Safer Cities 19: "Promoting Safer Housing Construction through CBDRM: Community-designed Safe Housing in Post-Xangsane Da Nang City," Viet Nam, November 2007
- 6) Safer Cities 20: "Community Based Early Warning System and Evacuation: Planning, Development and Testing," Philippines, March 2008
- 7) Safer Cities 21: "Community Empowerment and Disaster Risk Reduction in Chittagong City," Bangladesh, June 2008

The case studies are found here:

<http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/INFORMATION%20RESOURCES/Safer%20Cities/Default-Safer%20Cities.asp>.

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. The book was first developed and published online under AUDMP, and PROMISE contributed to its printing. This primer and the first volume can be found here:

<http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/INFORMATION%20RESOURCES/PRIMERS/Default-PRIMERS.asp>.

Urban disaster mitigation & preparedness guide books

The books will serve as 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. The draft text of the first two books are annexed to the Briefing Notes.

Additional information products

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 links to the AUDMP pages are maintained at the PROMISE, UDRM and ADPC home pages. The publications and other program outputs are disseminated through the ADPC website: <http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/INFORMATION%20RESOURCES/PROMISE/Default.asp>.

In addition, the PROMISE team has written articles about the program for various publications:

- "Community Risk Mapping," by Gabrielle Iglesias. *GIM International*, 21(12), December 2007, p. 49: http://www.gim-international.com/issues/articles/id1032-Community_Risk_Mapping.html
- "Emerging risks and approaches for reducing vulnerabilities of the urban built environment," Gabrielle Iglesias and N.M.S.I. Arambepola. *Asian Disaster Management News*, 13(2), May-Aug. 2007, pp. 1-4: http://www.adpc.net/v2007/IKM/ONLINE%20DOCUMENTS/downloads/2007/Sep/Newsletter_May-Aug.pdf
- "Cities at Risk: a case for better planning, management and policies," Gabrielle Iglesias and Lowie Rosales, *Habitat Debate*, 3(12), Dec 2006, p. 7: http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/5168_56398_ClimateChangeArticle5.pdf

4.3.2. PROMISE Country Project Information Products

The country projects developed their own information products. Some were paid for under project funds, some by their partners, and some by interested organizations. The following is a list of information products by country project:

PROMISE-Bangladesh

- 1) Presentation slides on the country project
- 2) Photo documentation of project activities, ADPC missions, and study visits by other organizations
- 3) GDRR national training, September 2007 (uploaded to the PROMISE web page): http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/PROGRAM%20COMPONENTS/Component2/Course/2007/GDRR-BD_trainingreport.pdf
- 4) 2007 Wall calendar with safety messages
- 5) 2007 Pocket calendar
- 6) Online *UNISDR Highlights* article "Small-scale hydro-meteorological disaster risk reduction projects in Bangladesh," August 2007, p. 3: http://www.unisdr.org/eng/public_aware/highlights/2007/ISDR-highlight-August-2007.pdf
- 7) Online ADRRN article on PROMISE-Bangladesh, "PROMISE – Bangladesh: Building Capacity of the Vulnerable": <http://www.adrrn.net/event10.asp>

PROMISE-Pakistan

- 1) Presentation slides on the country project
- 2) Photo documentation of project activities, ADPC missions, and study visits by other organizations
- 3) Project Brochure
- 4) Roles and responsibilities of Disaster Management Committees

PROMISE-Philippines

- 1) Presentation slides on the country project
- 2) Photo documentation of project activities, ADPC missions, and study visits by other organizations
- 3) Project promotional video
- 4) News articles
- 5) Local television coverage
- 6) National television coverage
- 7) Training reports (uploaded to the PROMISE web page)
 - Barangay disaster risk management training:
http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/PROGRAM%20COMPONENTS/Component2/BDRM_Dagupan.pdf
 - GDRR national training, June 2008:
<http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/PROGRAM%20COMPONENTS/Component2/Course/2008/Report%20covering%20the%20First%20National%20Course%20on%20Governance%20and%20DRR.pdf>
- 8) GDRR national training brochure (uploaded to the PROMISE web page):
http://www.adpc.net/v2007/Programs/UDRM/PROMISE/PROGRAM%20COMPONENTS/Component2/Course/2008/Philippines_NationalCourse_GDRR.pdf
- 9) 2007 Wall calendar with safety messages, winning slogan and winning poster of the 2006 Academic Olympics, emergency phone numbers
- 10) 2008 Wall calendar with flood alert warning levels and responses, emergency phone numbers
- 11) Bookmark with safety message, emergency phone numbers
- 12) Project stickers for the equipment and small-scale disaster mitigation projects
- 13) UNISDR case study on PROMISE Dagupan – “Mainstreaming Community-Based Mitigation in City Governance,” *Building Disaster Resilient Communities: Good Practices and Lessons Learned*. UNISDR and UNDP: Geneva, June 2007, pp. 46 to 48. Available online here:
http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about_isdr/isdr-publications/06-ngos-good-practices/ngos-good-practices.pdf
- 14) Oxfam GB video documentary on Barangay Mangin’s CBDRM experience and flood simulation exercise under PROMISE-Philippines, “Strength in Numbers: The Barangay as Building Block”
- 15) UNISDR and Kyoto University publication case study – “Combining Indigenous and Scientific Knowledge in Dagupan City Flood Warning System,” *Indigenous Practices and Lessons Learned for DRR*, Lorna Victoria, 2008 (in press).

PROMISE-Sri Lanka

- 1) Presentation slides on the country project
- 2) Photo documentation of project activities, ADPC missions, and study visits by other organizations
- 3) Project Brochure
- 4) Video documentation of the Disaster Risk Reduction Plan Development Workshop, March 2008

PROMISE-Vietnam

- 1) Presentation slides on the country project
- 2) Photo documentation of project activities, ADPC missions, and study visits by other organizations
- 3) PROMISE-Vietnam webpage: <http://www.ceciasia.org/pro.htm>
- 4) News articles
- 5) Local television coverage
- 6) Bi-weekly radio program on disaster mitigation
- 7) Poster of safer construction principles

4.4. Status Report on Networking Events

The program uses the opportunity to replicate success through existing ADPC institutional linkages in the region for networking and sharing of experiences. For this second phase of the program when the program partners are beginning to implement projects in their respective cities, the strategy was The strategy is to identify and capture specific components and elements (documents, reports, lessons learned, successful urban disaster mitigation & preparedness practices, public awareness campaigns, etc.) from each of the city demonstrations that would enrich the regional knowledge base on urban disaster mitigation & preparedness facilitated by ADPC. Specifically, this involved:

1. 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.
2. Encouraging country partners to promote their accomplishments through existing networks of local authorities and with international organizations interested in disaster mitigation.
3. Organizing the 2007 Coordinators meeting as a venue for partners to take stock of mid-project accomplishments, and share implementation problems and solutions.
4. Organizing the 2008 Annual Working Group Meeting as a venue for partners to share their experiences with other stakeholders.

4.4.1. 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 national partners have attended many fora 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. 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. 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. 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.

New regional-level networking partners are:

United Nations Human Settlements Programme – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UN-HABITAT)

ACROS Fukuoka Building, 8th Floor
1-1-1 Tenjin, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka 810-0001, Japan
Tel: +81-92-724-7121; Fax: +81-92-724-7124

Habitat for Humanity, International – Asia-Pacific (HFHI-AP)

Q House, 8th Floor
38 Convent Road
Bangkok 10500
Thailand
Tel: +66-2-632-0415

Regional Programme on Building Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City
Philippines
Tel: +63-2-929-2992; Fax: +63-2-926-9712

The new national-level networking partners are:

PROMISE-Bangladesh

National Institute of Local Government (NILG)
29 Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka 1207
Bangladesh
Tel: +88-02-913-8451; Fax: +88-02-912-2809

PROMISE-Philippines

City-Net
5F, International Organisations Centre, Pacifico-Yokohama,
1-1-1 Minato Mirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama 220-0012, Japan.
Tel: +81-45-223-2161; Fax: +81-45-223-2162

PROMISE-Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance
17, Malalasekara Mawatha
Colombo-07, Sri Lanka
Tel: + 94-112-581-982; Fax: + 94-112-580-316

4.4.2. Major Networking Events

The PROMISE program and its outputs have been promoted at several networking events, both at regional and national level. The following is a list of these major networking events:

Events attended by Regional Program

Date	Place	Details
9 to 11 Nov 2006	Kunming, PR China	6 th meeting of ADPC's Regional Consultative Council (two presentations)
11 TO 17 May 2007	Amsterdam, Netherlands	15 th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine (presentation)
4 to 8 Jun 2007	Geneva, Switzerland	Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (two presentations)
9 to 13 Jul 2007	Milan, Italy	Rockefeller Foundation's Global Urban Summit (presentation)
4 to 8 Sept 2007	Da Nang, Viet Nam	PEMSEA Forum, "Addressing Coastal Security by Investing in Natural and Man-Made Hazards Prevention and Management" (keynote)
7 to 8 Nov 2007	New Delhi, India	2 nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (presentation)

Events attended by PROMISE Projects

Date	Place	Details	Project
6 to 7 Dec 2006	Bangkok, Thailand	ProVention Consortium-ADPC joint workshop on innovative Initiatives in Disaster Risk Reduction (with paper)	PROMISE-Philippines
13 to 15 Feb 2007	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	ProVention Consortium Forum 2007 (with paper)	PROMISE-Philippines
8 to 10 Oct 2007	Bangkok, Thailand	UNISDR Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop in School Education and Disaster Risk Reduction	PROMISE-Philippines
8-10 May 2008	Colombo, Sri Lanka	7 th Annual Meeting of the ADPC Regional Consultative Committee for Disaster Management	Mainstreaming DRR-Philippines