

APPLICATION

Interested persons may apply directly but preferably be nominated by their employers, sponsoring agencies, NGOs and private organizations.

The application form is available on the ADPC website, <http://www.adpc.net> and can be submitted by mail, fax or email at tedadpc@adpc.net (See contact information).

In consideration of course efficiency and effectiveness, seats are limited to 30. ADPC will inform applicants once the nomination is accepted.

URBAN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (UDRM)

The outcome of Asia's high rate of urbanization is the result of expansion of urban populations in geographic areas which are prone to disaster impact. This has resulted in increased vulnerability of human life and infrastructure. Disaster mitigation measures to reduce vulnerability have rarely been attempted in most Asian countries, such as

- Specific hazards-resistant building and infrastructure
- Flood and landslide control measures
- Incorporation of disaster vulnerability into land use planning
- Introduction of regulatory measures in industrialized zones

Activities undertaken by the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program (AUDMP) and programme for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities of Asia (PROMISE), implemented by ADPC with support of OFDA, USAID over a decade, have demonstrated the effectiveness of mitigation measures in reducing natural disaster vulnerability at local level. Demonstration projects in more than ten countries, information dissemination and networking activities, and the regional training courses on Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction, Flood Risk Mitigation, Technological Risk Reduction and Urban Disaster Mitigation have convincingly brought to light the opportunities for high impact interventions.

Local officials in selected cities have positively responded to the initial project activities by the way of institutionalizing and incorporating disaster vulnerability considerations to their buildings approval procedures and zoning regulations. Currently, a significant high demand is apparent for Urban Disaster Risk Management (UDRM). This demand for expansion of UDRM activities has been set to improve response, preparedness capacities to reduce the vulnerability.

As ADPC has been implementing and linking diverse activities throughout the region, it has recognized the importance of enhancing the scope of UDRM through focused action which resulted in offering a course dedicated to governance and mainstreaming DRR.

ASIAN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CENTER (ADPC)

Established in 1986, ADPC is a leading regional resource center dedicated to disaster risk reduction. ADPC works with governments, NGOs and communities of the Asia and Pacific regions to strengthen their capacities in disaster preparedness, mitigation and response through training, technical assistance, regional program management, country project demonstration, information sharing and research.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Local Governance (MDRRG)





BACKGROUND

The process of development and the kind of development alternatives have created many countries at disaster risk. Absence of disaster risk reduction (DRR) components into development programmes further aggravates the negative impact on the socio-economic set-up of the country.

The development activities and DRR are two faces of the same coin which have to be dealt with unified approach. The mainstreaming DRR into development policy planning and implementation is one of the essential tools for sustainable disaster resilient development.

In many developing countries, national disaster management authority or ministry handles disaster management affairs. ADPC has observed that the activities and functional responsibilities of such institutions are seldom decentralized, or authority of such institutions has not been adequately delegated to lower levels of governments.

This needs to be viewed as a hindrance for achieving disaster resilience at community and local levels. The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center advocates strongly for decentralization of disaster management subject to local government sector to facilitate building safer communities and to support sustainable development.

While selecting the appropriate strategy that should be adopted by respective countries, it is important to identify a practical and easy approach for implementing effective advocacy campaigns for mainstreaming DRR at local government level.

A compromise for integrating DRR into local level planning and programming therefore would require organized action or series of actions and involve national level ministries and implementing local government institutions. These actions should be taken to influence people, policies, regulations, practices and systems for enforcement, in order to bring about necessary changes. Good governance for DRR exists where there is adequate space for the participation of different stakeholders, especially at the level of local governments.

The Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) was initiated by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center in 2000. It comprises of members who are working in key Government positions in the national disaster management systems of countries of the Asian region. RCC prioritizes mainstreaming of DRR in national development planning process as well as sectoral development. It identifies six priority sectors namely Agriculture, Education, Health, Housing, Urban Planning and Infrastructure and Financial services for mainstreaming of DRR. The RCC significantly focus and advocates the capacity building among the local governance for mainstreaming DRR. The proposed course also suffices the objectives of RCC and facilitates awareness building exercise in this direction to local governance.

Importance of mainstreaming of DRR is also recognized by the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) adopted at the World Congress of Disaster Reduction (WCDR), where integration of DRR in the development progress is a priority. All national policies for disaster management advocate for streamlining DRM in development process.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the course is to develop a cadre of local government professionals and development partners sensitive to issues posed by the recurrent hazards. The course intends to enhance knowledge and capacity of local urban authorities, associated NGOs and other stakeholders in streamlining disaster risk reduction in urban development. It will create opportunities for mainstreaming risk reduction as a component of urban governance. The secondary objective of the training is to build the capacity of national training partner institutions, which will make an attempt to institutionalize the capacity building program on this theme at national level. It will also help communities at risk and NGOs to support the governance and participate in creating safer urban communities and sustainable development through DRR.

COURSE APPROACH AND CONTENT

The proposed training is a blend of Concepts, principles, policies, legal action framework and strategies on governance and mainstreaming DRR presented through the discussions, case studies on good practices. The course consists of several broad issues of governance and DRR to plan for sustainable change at the local level. Under those broad issues, the course consists of the following subjects:

- Introduction to local level hazard environment and assessment
- Concepts of vulnerability to disasters
- Principles of governance for DRR

- Process of decentralization for effective disaster risk management
- Approaches for urban land administration and DRR
- Legal and institutional structures including compliance to building by-laws relevant to urban DRR
- Generating information for local DRR
- Stakeholder Analysis to promote participatory approaches in governance and DRR
- Institutionalization of community based DRR
- First responses at the municipal, ward and community levels
- Dealing with informal settlements
- Attribute of gender, ethnics, minorities and migrant population to DRR
- Case studies and good governance practices to DRR
- Action plan for a change in creating safe urban habitat

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The course is targeted at representatives of local government ministries/ departments, urban emergency services and planning functions related to risk reduction from PROMISE cities, local government training institutions who can implement the course at a national level, NGOs involved in urban community development initiatives, existing city networks, and private sectors.

COURSE FEE

The course fee is US\$ 1,500 per participant with a registration fee of US\$ 40. It is a full package inclusive of training course materials, refreshments, meals and share-accommodation. Those who want to stay in a single room are required to pay additional charge for US\$ 20 per day.

Course fee should be paid by money transfer/international demand draft (DD) or by cash at the time of course registration. Kindly confirm mode of payment. If any sponsoring agency sends five participants to the course and the fees for sixth participant will be fee waived off. Please refer to the ADPC website (www.adpc.net) for prescribed deadlines of payments.

LANGUAGE

All teaching and course materials are in English. It is essential that participants are fully conversant in English.

RESOURCE PERSONS

Resource persons are selected experts from international organizations, educational and research institutions, national and local government, disaster risk reduction practitioners and ADPC.