

Improving seismic monitoring and data integration in Myanmar

Project Facts

October 2015 – December 2017



In recent history, Myanmar has been faced with disaster events that have severely impacted its people and the economy of the country. These include the 2006 Cyclone Mala, 2008 Cyclone Nargis, 2010 Cyclone Giri, 2011 Tarley earthquake, and extreme weather events that saw many parts of the country under flood waters in 2015. These disasters severely impacted the lives, property and livelihoods of the people, damaged the country's infrastructure systems, and resulted in significant economic losses.

Among all these hazards, earthquakes are considered the most threatening due to their unpredictability, making it next to impossible to give the public an early warning. Thus, an effective strategy to understand the risk and reduce earthquake vulnerability is to establish a reliable nationwide system to monitor earthquakes. This enables the country to plan appropriately and lessen potential impacts of future disastrous earthquakes.

In addition to its meteorological and hydrological services, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of Myanmar is mandated to collect and process seismic data and disseminate critical earthquake information such as magnitude and the location of the epicenter to the general public in a timely manner. Currently, however, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology's institutional and technical capacities to implement its mandate are still inadequate.

Realizing the need to enhance the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology's capacity, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and the University of Bergen in Norway, with support from the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, have been collaborating with the Department on a program on *Improving Seismic Monitoring and Data Integration Capability in Myanmar*, which is now in its third phase.



Focus country

Myanmar

Objectives

- Support the establishment of a national seismic network that integrates various monitoring stations operated by partners from different countries
- Provide technical capacity enhancement in seismic data collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination
- Enhance the operational effectiveness of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology by developing routines and protocols for processing seismic data and disseminating earthquake information – among other tasks – given current capacity and know-how
- Further develop the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology's capacity to provide seismological services by supporting more technical and scientific collaboration within the country and the region



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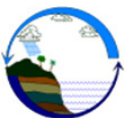


Photo by: ADPC

Project activities

- Assess the state of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology's existing seismic network and capacity to process and analyze earthquake data to identify critical needs and gaps
- Introduce modern techniques and tools to systematize and integrate the country's seismic network and improve earthquake data collection, processing, and analysis of the Department
- Develop specific protocols and standard operating procedures to enhance regular Department operations in terms of seismic data processing, archiving, and dissemination
- Conduct capacity building activities through hands-on training, knowledge and technology sharing workshops, peer-to-peer learning, and short- and long-term staff exchange programs to enhance skills and knowledge of the Department on seismic monitoring, seismic hazard assessment, vulnerability and risk analysis, etc

Project partners



Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), Myanmar
 University of Bergen (UiB), Norway
 The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (financial support)



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About ADPC

As the most hazard-prone region in the world, Asia-Pacific must proactively manage its disaster risk. For nearly 30 years, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) has been contributing in making Asia-Pacific safer by strengthening disaster resilience at all levels.

ADPC deploys disaster risk management information and systems to reduce local, national and regional risk across Asia-Pacific. Its portfolio focuses on disaster risk management capacity building, improving disaster risk management for cities and climate change, mainstreaming DRM into national and local development, improving disaster risk management systems and undertaking disaster risk assessments. To achieve its aims in disaster risk reduction, ADPC works closely with local, national and regional governments, governmental and non-governmental organizations, donors and development partners.



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