

ADPC announces the winner of the iPrepare competition in Bangladesh

Media Release

29 October 2014

DHAKA, Bangladesh – Asian Disaster Preparedness Center's (ADPC) national iPrepare essay competition to raise university students' awareness on preparedness to natural disasters has come to a close in Bangladesh.

Through the competition, ADPC aimed to increase the students' knowledge regarding natural hazards such as earthquakes, storms, and floods, and the measures that can be taken to mitigate the impact of disasters in Bangladesh – one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world.

Supported by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and conducted in cooperation with Asian University for Women, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, Daffodil International University, Khulna University and University of Dhaka, the campaign trained university students on basic disaster preparedness measures and encouraged the students share the knowledge with their communities.

During the launch ceremony at each university in September ADPC gave a presentation introducing basic preparedness strategies to the students, who were then responsible for exploring preparedness strategies within their own communities. Their findings were presented in research papers and videos. Nearly 100 submissions were received during the competition.

The winning presentation, a video report submitted by Ms. Rezoana Hossain Khan and Mr. Sajjadul Alam from Daffodil International University, highlighted disaster preparedness methods practiced by local people at Kuakata beach in Southern Bangladesh.

Regional awards were given to the best report from each university and all students were recognized for their contribution to the iPrepare campaign and helping to build safer communities.

"This project gave us the chance to learn more about flooding and its affects. Our goal was to increase our knowledge about disaster preparedness and we hope to be able to contribute in developing our country when we return," said Thany Thao, who won the Asian University for Women regional award along with her partner Y Soun Phann, who are both international students from Cambodia.

The iPrepare campaign gave students outside the disaster risk management discipline the opportunity to increase their knowledge on disaster preparedness and build community awareness while exploring community preparedness strategies already in place.

"[Disaster preparedness] is not a specialized area, but disasters affect all segments of the population, and all students should have knowledge on this area. Many students are coming together to join hands and their motivation was not to win, but being committed to contribute to society," said Dr. Manbuba Nasreen, Director and Professor, Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies at the University of Dhaka.

All iPrepare reports are available at www.adpc.net/iprep



NOTE TO EDITOR:

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 making Asia-Pacific safer by strengthening disaster resilience at all levels.

Established in 1986, ADPC is an independent non-governmental organization. With headquarters located in Bangkok, Thailand, ADPC has country offices in Bangladesh, Lao PDR and Myanmar. ADPC's well-established networks with government line agencies and strong partnerships with regional organizations and development agencies provide the foundation for their work.

ADPC deploys disaster risk management (DRM) information and systems to reduce local, national and regional risk across Asia-Pacific. Its portfolio focuses on DRM capacity building, improving DRM for cities and climate change, mainstreaming DRM into national and local development, improving DRM 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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