



Quarterly Newsletter of
SAARC
Disaster Management Centre
New Delhi

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Disaster Management on positive curve for SAARC Region

Disaster Management pertinent issues of the SAARC region are evolving and are being addressed positively. The Member States have been participating, learning and contributing constructively in many national, regional and global forum. The entire discipline has made a shift from response centric to proactive risk reduction. Analysis indicates that much progress in disaster risk reduction has been achieved in the South Asia region over the last one decade. Countries in the region, as an outcome of these ex-ante investments have been able to bring down the mortality rate inflicted due to disasters. The most encouraging aspect is that the mortality rate is showing downward trend which is just not by chance but is being achieved due to huge efforts of the Member States taken in this direction.

But, as we have to progress and make society better, it is important to look at it critically. What we are realizing now is that at the same time, there has been increase in disaster related economic loss and damage and the number of affected people and livestock. Also, there is an increase in exposure to hazards. Much of this can be attributed to the economic growth of the region which is forcing private and public sector investments in hazardous area such as the low lying flood prone area or Tsunami/ cyclone prone coastal area or earthquake prone areas. Hence the challenge is not over yet over.

HFA 1 is coming to an end in 2015 and the Member States in the region are drafting their national priorities for the HFA 2. SDMC is also engaged in drafting the regional position paper for HFA 2. This will determine our activities and commitment for the region. SDMC has completed its DRR-CCA integration study and has been able to develop a road map for future action. I am sure SDMC perspective plan will incorporate the current global, regional and Member States concerns for reducing the underlying risk factors of development. These are the few initiatives taken by SDMC in this quarter to support as building blocks for the future.

I am grateful to all the Governing Board Members and the Programme Committee for having supported and guided SDMC in achieving positive outcomes. This has helped SDMC to play a lead role in CCA, DRR and sustainable development integration not only in the South Asia alone but across the region as well. I am sure with the support of Member States, SDMC will be able to come out with a very good regional position paper on HFA 2 which will have adequate focus on CCA- DRR and sustainable development priorities framework of action for the region. This will enable Member States to focus its priorities both at local, provincial, national and regional levels.

8th Governing Board Meeting of SDMC



The Eighth Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC Disaster Management Centre was held in New Delhi on 30 – 31 October 2013. The opening of meeting started with Welcome Address by Director, SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC), Prof. Santosh Kumar. He expressed sincere thanks and gratitude to Mr. R.K. Srivastava, Chairperson of 7th Governing Board of SDMC & his successor Mr. G.V.V. Sarma, Joint Secretary (Disaster Management), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, for their consistent support, motivation and encouragement in conducting activities of SDMC as per the approved protocol for SAARC Regional Centres since 2011. He welcomed the distinguished Members of the Governing Board, namely, Dr. Mohammad Daim Kakar, Director General, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA); Mr. Munir Chowdhury, Joint Secretary (DM), Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief, Bangladesh; Mr. Namgay Wangchuk, Director General, Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs of the Royal Government of Bhutan; Mr. G.V.V. Sarma, Joint Secretary (Disaster Management), Ministry of Home Affairs; Ms. Sripriya Ranganathan, Joint Secretary (SAARC), Ministry of External Affairs, India; Mr. Tirtha Raj Wagle, Counsellor, Embassy of Nepal, New Delhi; Mr. Abrar H. Hashmi, Counsellor, High Commission of Pakistan, New Delhi & Ms. S.M. Mohamed, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management, Government of Sri Lanka. He also welcomed Mr. Singye Dorjee, Director (ENB) of SAARC Secretariat, who despite his busy schedule attended this meeting. In his opening remarks, Director, SDMC thanked the SAARC Member States for extending their cooperation and

regular support to the Centre. He also thanked the international partners for their contributions in the endeavors of SDMC.

Mr. Singye Dorjee, Director (ENB), SAARC Secretariat, conveyed the greetings and best wishes of H.E. Mr. Ahmed Saleem, Secretary General of SAARC, for the success of the Governing Board Meeting. He also welcomed the Governing Board Members and thanked SDMC for the warm hospitality and arrangements made for the meeting. He expressed his appreciation to the outgoing chair, Mr. R.K. Srivastava and his successor Mr. G.V.V. Sarma for guiding the work of the Governing Board over the past two years. He also welcomed the new chair of the 8th Governing Board of SDMC Ms. S.M. Mohamed, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management, Government of Sri Lanka. In his remarks, he underlined the important role of the Governing Board to support and guide the development of the centre to fulfill its vision and mandate. He emphasized that the programmes of SDMC 2014 should be in the harmony with the administrative and financial rules of SAARC Regional Centres. He informed Governing Board about the signing/renewal of MoU's with Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), UNISDR, UN Environment Programme.

The opening remarks by outgoing Chairperson, Mr. G.V.V. Sarma, Joint Secretary (Disaster Management), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India welcomed all the distinguished Governing Board Members and urged them to safeguard the region against natural and man-made disasters. As South Asia is a fast growing region, it is to be protected from the natural and man-made calamities. The political, social and economic awakening is required for making development resilient. Collective risks in the region have multiplied and addressing it region wide is imperative. Recently, notable disasters in the region like Cloud Burst, Uttarakhand (India); Earthquake in Baluchistan (Pakistan), Building collapse in Dhaka (Bangladesh), Cyclone Phailin in East Coast of India and floods in the region. The region incurred huge human, infrastructure and financial losses. In this context, mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in development planning is



vital. In this regard, SDMC has to play a larger role in providing innovative solutions for integrating DRR and climate change adaptation. G.V.V. Sarma emphasized the need for dedicated programmes to address the risks of disasters in the region. At the regional level, coordination mechanism may be set up for addressing the issues on the subject. In line with Rules 3 (i) and (ii) of Procedure for the Governing Board of SAARC Regional Centre, the

outgoing Chairperson handed over the chair to the Hon'ble delegate from Sri Lanka, Ms. S. M. Mohamed, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management, Government of Sri Lanka, who was unanimously elected to Chair 8th Governing Board Meeting.

In her opening remarks, the Chairperson welcomed the distinguished members of the Governing Board and complimented SDMC for facilitating the 8th the Governing Board for the new role and responsibility entrusted to her. She mentioned that in the changing environment and rising trend of disaster in the region SDMC can play significant role in reducing the risks of disasters in an effective manner. She invited all the Member States for proactive participation and co-operation. She highlighted that various lessons can be drawn from the recent disasters in the region. The Chairperson requested the distinguished Members to review the activities and suggested that SDMC should work for making it a vibrant centre. She declared the meeting open for discussion.

Policy Dialogue on Cooperation Connectivity and Inclusive Development in South and South-West Asia, 28-29 Nov 2013, New Delhi



Prof. Santosh Kumar, Director, SDMC participated in the conference on behalf of SAARC

Disaster Management Centre, New Delhi. The two-day event organized by UNESCAP brought together Government officials, policy makers, substantive experts, academia and civil society representatives from South and South-West Asia to review the most pressing challenges faced and ways to address them through regional cooperation. Recommendations highlighted at the Dialogue included harnessing countries' complementarities through regional cooperation and accelerating the development of sub-regional connectivity infrastructure. The discussion points were energy issues, food security and gender equality among others.

International Conference on Humanitarian Logistics (ICHL-2013), 2-3 December 2013 at IIM-Raipur

Professor Santosh Kumar, Director, SDMC participated and presented his views in International Conference on Humanitarian Logistics (ICHL): 2013 during December 2-3, 2013 organized by Indian Institute of Management at Raipur, India. The conference was to provide an essential update on natural and manmade disaster, future trends, disaster response, preparedness and governance issues. Identify strategic issues in humanitarian logistics including logistics planning, coordination and delivery systems, in good condition, in the quantities required, and at the places and time they are needed.

SAARC Regional Training Programme on Children Safety including Children with Special Needs in South Asia



SAARC Disaster Management Centre organized a SAARC Regional Training Programme on Children Safety including Children with Special Needs in South Asia from 6-12 November 2013 India. In total 44 participants participated including 8 participants from SAARC Member States and various departments of the provincial government, State Disaster Response Force, Fire & Emergency Services, Directorate of Health Services, Directorate of Social Welfare, Directorate of School Education and Civil Defense. The purpose of the training programme was to unpack the Regional Framework for Care, Protection and Participation of Children in Disasters and develop clear action plan based on the roadmap identified.

The inaugural ceremony was conducted under the chairmanship of the Honorable Vice Chancellor Talat Ahmad. The Chief Guest was the Honorable Vice Chairman of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), India Mr. M. Shashidhar Reddy. Mr. Muzaffar Ahmed, Honorable Member (NDMA), India was Guest of Honour. Professor Tasawoor A. Kanth (University of Kashmir) was Coordinator of the Training Programme and Ms. Yashika Sharma, Training Assistant (SDMC) of the programme. Mr. Ray Kancharla, Vice Chair, DRR-CCA Global Working Group of Save the Children International. Mr. Ray Kancharla from Save the Children presented the message of the Director of SAARC Disaster Management Centre and also set the context of the

training. The SAARC Regional Framework for Care, Protection and Participation of Children in Disasters is currently the one and only such framework in the world.

Participants also had two field visits:-

1)- Exposure Visit to Abhinav Gupta School for Special Children: The participants appreciated the visit to the School where hearing impaired and visual impaired study. The school is situated in a prime location, but is vulnerable in terms of structural strength as well as challenging for evacuation.

2)- Field visit to Disaster Hit Area: Delegates from all the SAARC Countries along with the local participants visited the earthquake hit town.

Professor Santosh Kumar, Director SDMC at Valedictory Session, said that it was very encouraging to know that participants have appreciated the programme and initiative taken by the SDMC for choosing such topics for DRR as one of the initiatives for making DRR more inclusive. He also added such training programmes help in tapping national and international experiences and the recommendation of this seven day training programme would be forwarded to the authorities in NDMA so that a robust policy planning is made effective at gross root level which will help in minimizing the loss of life and property caused by disasters like earthquake, floods, cyclones etc.

SDMC participated in International Workshop on Making Cities Resilient (MCR) Campaign and Local HFA-2 Consultation



SDMC was invited by UNISDR to participate in the MCR campaign programme and local HFA-2 consultation. SDMC also organized a training sessions on the school safety for the participants. Mr. M. P. Sethy, Senior Consultant (Knowledge Management & Capacity Development) of SAARC Disaster Management Centre, participated in the Workshop. Dr. S. K. Das, was invited by SDMC as resource person who took sessions on behalf of SDMC on skype from India. The workshop engaging the cities from the SAARC Region also had participation from Iran and Korea as part of the "Making Cities Resilient Campaign: My City is Getting Ready" from 10-13 December, 2013, in Incheon, Korea. The Workshop aimed to examine the state of play of efforts made to protect cities and local communities from disaster risk and climate change and to identify opportunities for promoting political commitment, social demand and local/city level implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

The workshop was organized by United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction - Global Education and Training Institute (UNISDR – GETI) for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Incheon, Korea in close partnership with Korean National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Korean National Disaster Management Institute (NDMI), Korea Society of Hazard Mitigation, Korea Water Resources Association and SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC). High level officials from 27 cities from Republic of Korea and 14 from

SAARC member states and Iran participated in the workshop.

The workshop provided knowledge and information for the participating cities to better engage in HFA-2 Consultation at the local level, equipped with city to city exchange of experiences. It facilitated sharing of knowledge, best-practices and experiences in implementing MCR Campaign, specially the 10 essentials among participating cities. A special ceremony was held for new Korean cities to sign-up for the MCR Global Campaign. The programme also included a training on application of the "Tools For the Assessment of School and Hospital Safety for Multi-hazards in South Asia", developed through the partnership of SDMC, UNISDR and UN Habitat. The Outcomes of the workshop are:

1. Newly signed 27 Korean Cities and Local Governments having received and equipped with basic knowledge and understanding of the MCR campaign strategy, tools as also implement the 10 essentials.
2. Recommendation to HFA-2 on urban risk management, local action, critical infrastructure safety with special focus on school safety.
3. Sharing of experiences and good practices in the areas of implementation of MCR 10 essentials, safety of critical infrastructure, school safety and risk sensitive urban planning.
4. Effective strategies for promoting political advocacy, and partnership/networks among participating cities.

Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction visits SDMC



Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction along with Ms. Madhavi Ariyabandhu, Regional Programme Officer, UNISDR, visited SAARC Disaster Management Centre, New Delhi, on 18th Dec 2013. It was an introductory visit with the aim to sought way ahead in the collaborative programming between both the organisations. UNISDR has signed MoU with SAARC in 2008 (currently being renewed for 5 years). Under this MoU, the Flagship project being implemented at SDMC is the South Asia Disaster Knowledge Network (SADKN) financed by GFDRR. Further, SDMC is also the focal point for HFA, conducting consultations for HFA2 focusing on DRR-CCA-SD integration and School Safety, for UNISDR. Currently all UNISDR work with SDMC was supported with GFDRR till 2013, but now options are being sought for ensuring further support.

The meeting was participated by Mr. Sanjay Agarwal, Director, DM Division, MHA, UN Division, MEA, Govt. of India and SDMC team comprising of Director, SDMC, Senior Consultant, Mr. M.P. Sethy and Consultant, Ms. Vandana Srivastava. On arrival Ms. Margareta Wahlström, was welcomed by the full SDMC team, which was followed by brief introduction and a group photograph. A presentation was made by the Director, wherein the SAARC Charter was reiterated and attention was drawn to the 20 point Declaration 2011. The Centre's activities and concerns were appraised and the way SDMC has addressed these concerns was also shared. Director SDMC also thanked UNISDR for their support in developing SADKN (South Asia Disaster Knowledge

Network), and also in its operationalisation. UNISDR also helped in initiating a dialogue forum for HFA – 2 Consultative processes through the online portal. The focus of discussion was on the way ahead between the two organizations by Strengthening SADKN (specially for M&I of HFA-2), Policy Planning & Capacity Development, Resilience Building : Climate Change Adaptation & DRR, Institutional Strengthening in terms thematic technical support (expert inputs), Strengthening Regional Response Mechanism, HFA 2 : Implementation with focus on School Safety & Hospital Safety and adopting Global Best Practices in above mentioned area, with focus on conceptualization and replicable models for the region. SDMC has developed its vision 2020 for addressing regional issues related to disaster risk reduction and also is developing prospective plan for the region, which will encompass development of DRR and CCA issues in an integrated manner for making the region disaster resilient. SDMC also discussed about the proposed DRR Conclave where various stakeholders will be brought on a single platform to affirm the regional action points and cooperation mechanism for the region. The DRR Conclave is likely to be organized in Jan–Feb 2015. UNISDR has been requested to be the partner in this endeavor. In the present year i.e. 2014, SDMC plans to develop an input for the World Conference. In response Ms. Margareta Wahlström, appreciated the efforts of the Centre and welcomed the structured approach adopted for addressing the concerns of the Centre. She further said that the present challenge is to locate means to continue the support.

SDMC Celebrates 29th SAARC Charter Day



SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC), New Delhi, since its inception in 2007 has been celebrating the SAARC Charter Day every year with zeal and zest. Keeping up to the tradition, this year SDMC, celebrated 29th Charter Day, on 8th December 2013 with full fervor. It was celebrated at the Conference Hall of SDMC, New Delhi. To commemorate the occasion a panel discussion on “Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): from Risk to Resilience”- South Asia perspective, was organized. The entire programme was scheduled for 2 hrs but due to enthusiasm and active participation it continued for an extra hour. The panelists for the discussion were

individuals of eminence from their respective fields.

The Celebrations had participation from Embassy of Nepal, Bangladesh High Commission, Deputy Secretary (SAARC), Ministry of External affairs, Government of India, Mr. Mathew Hammill, Economic Affairs Officer, Sub-regional Office for South and South-West Asia, UNESCAP and Ms. Madhavi Ariyabhandhu, Regional Programme Officer, UNISDR, Bangkok. The forum had a judicious mix of representatives from UNICEF, UNDP as well as most of the South Asian regional Organizations like, The Energy & Resource Institute, South Asian University, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Handicap International, World Vision, India Water Partnership, and Corporate sector was represented by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) and Global Rescue.



Awaran Earthquake in Pakistan

An Earthquake took place on 24 September, 2013 with an epicentre 66 kilometres (41 mi) north-northeast of Awaran in the province of Balochistan, southwestern Pakistan. It was a magnitude M 7.7 earthquake. This earthquake was so powerful it was felt as far away as India's capital, Delhi, and Dubai. Workers in Karachi had to evacuate their offices because of the strong tremors. Baluchistan is Pakistan's largest but least populated province. The United States Geological Survey reported that the earthquake took place on Tuesday 24 September 2013 at 11:29:48 UTC at 26.971°N 65.520°E. The depth of the earthquake was reported to be 15 kilometres (9.3 mi). Pakistan's National Seismic Monitoring Centre reported the Mw 7.7 quake occurred at 16:29:49 PKT (UTC+5:00) at 27.09°N 65.61°E at a depth of 10 kilometres (6.2 mi). The earthquake reportedly lasted about a minute, causing panic in cities of southern Pakistan such as Karachi and Hyderabad.

According to NDMA Pakistan report dated 18th Nov 2013; 386 persons were killed and 816 were injured. Maximum deaths have been observed in Mashkai and houses damaged 12961 completely and 6151 partially damaged. Awaran area also witnessed 142 deaths and 12422 completely damaged houses and 4792 partially damaged. The earthquake struck a sparsely populated region of Pakistan. Most homes and buildings in the region are constructed of mud bricks and collapsed during the earthquake and aftershocks. An official in the Baluchistan province claimed that 80 percent of the homes in the Awaran district had collapsed or were damaged.



In the regional capital Quetta, some areas appeared to be badly damaged. Officials from the Baluchistan government estimated that at least 21,000 houses had been completely destroyed by the tremor, while some areas remained beyond the reach of rescue services 48 hours after the initial quake. An aftershock of magnitude 5 was felt in Awaran District on 27 September 2013, with its epicenter in Ormara. A powerful 6.8-magnitude earthquake hit southwest Pakistan on 28 Sept., killing at least 22 people. Although USGS said it was an aftershock of 24th Sept. 2013 earthquake, an official at the NSC of Pakistan classified it as a new earthquake. The quake that was felt in many cities of Pakistan and resulted in a new island emerging near Gwadar. The island is up to 200m (656ft) long and 100m wide, officials say. Such land masses have appeared before along the Baluchistan coastline, and disappeared again after heavy rains and winds.

Future activities of the SDMC: First quarter 2014

- ◆ Stakeholder Consultative Meeting on Developing an Action Plan on School Safety for South Asia Region with UNISDR in February 2014;
- ◆ Stakeholder Consultative Meeting for Development of an Action Plan on Urban Risk Reduction in South Asia Region with UNISDR in February 2014;
- ◆ Stakeholder Consultative Meeting for Building Resilience through partnerships in South Asia Region with UNISDR in February 2014;
- ◆ SAARC Training Programme in Incident Command System for Disaster Response with USFS in February 2014;
- ◆ SAARC Regional Consultation Workshop for South Asia on Developing SAARC Regional Road Map on Disaster Risk Reduction Beyond-2015 (HFA 2) with UNISDR in February 2014;
- ◆ SAARC Training Programme on Techniques for Retrofitting & Earthquake Resistant Structures in South Asia with IIT-Roorkee in March 2014;
- ◆ SAARC Training Programme on Integrated Coastal Zone Management for Sustainable Development with SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre in March 2014;
- ◆ SAARC Training Programme on River Erosion and Embankment Safety Management in South Asia with Dhaka University in March-April 2014.

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