

Hyderabad Declaration

of

1st WORLD CONGRESS ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

WCDM - 2008

*Under The Aegis of
Government of Andhra Pradesh and NDMA, Government of India*



Organized by

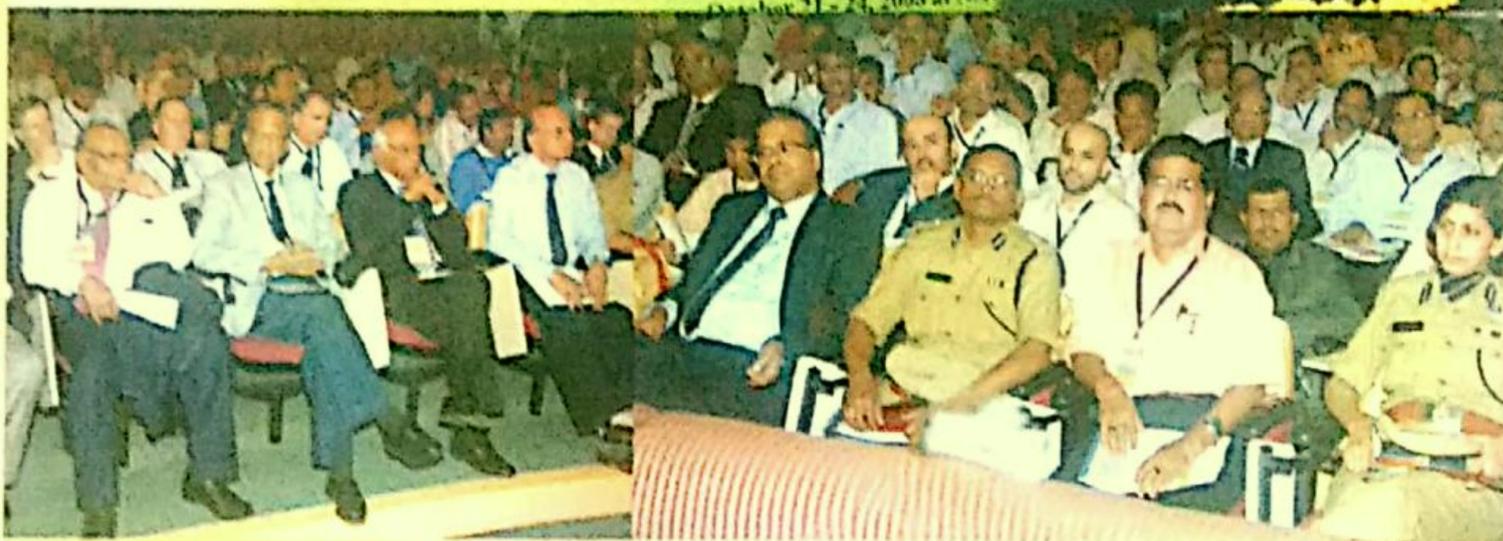
DMICS

Envisioning Disaster Free Society



1st World Congress on Disaster Management WCDM - 2008

October 21-24, 2008 at NAC



ORGANISED BY



CO-HOSTS



Govt. of A.P.



NDMA

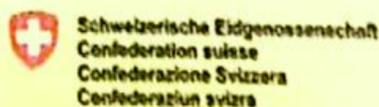
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BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF THE WCDM-2008

Disaster Management, Infrastructure and Control Society (DMICS) an NGO Research and Development Organization exclusively committed in bringing greater awareness on Disaster Management, both natural and man made organized a historical World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM) from 21-24, October-2008, at Hyderabad. This Global Congress is first of its kind in India. The objective of the Congress has been to network national and International resources and expertise, bring them to a common platform for effective and efficient Disaster Management.

Bharat Ratna, His Excellency Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Former President of India, has been the Chief Guest and delivered the inaugural address. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Andhra Pradesh Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, has presided over the congress. The keynote address was delivered by Gen. N.C. Vij, Hon'ble Vice-Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority NDMA, Govt. of India. The Guest of Honor of the Congress was Lt. Gen. (Dr) J. R. Bharadwaj, Hon'ble Member, NDMA Govt. of India. Shri Dinesh Kumar, IAS, Commissioner, Disaster Management, Government of AP. Smt. Aruna Bahuguna, IPS, Director General, AP State Fire and Emergency Services, Government of AP, were also present at the conference.

This WCDM event was organized by DMICS, Hyderabad, under the chairmanship of Dr. Prahlada, distinguished scientist, Chief Controller, DRDO, Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India, Chairman, Steering Committee. Dr. Dhar Chakrabarty, IAS, Executive Director, NIDM, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, Chairman, International Committee. Justice P. Rama Krishnam Raju, (Retd.), Judge, High Court of AP, Chairman, Organising Committee. Justice V. Bhasker Rao, (Retd.), Judge High Court of AP, Chairman, Reception Committee. Prof. D.N. Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, JNT University, Hyderabad, Chairman, Technical Committee, and S. Ananda Babu, Convenor.

Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, National Disaster Management Authority NDMA, Govt. of India were among the co-hosts.

National Institute of Disaster Management NIDM, Govt. of India, Indian Space Research Organization ISRO, Government of India, JNT University, Hyderabad were among the key Prime-Associates.

The fact that 50 nations including UN Organizations like UNISDR, SDC, UNICEF and UNFPA participated and deliberated on various themes of the Disasters signifies the global scope of the Congress.

Hyderabad declaration presents the essence of the deliberations and recommendations and will be a guiding document for follow-up actions with regards to the various resolutions passed at the Congress apart from valuable information for various governments across the globe.

Apart from Hyderabad declaration, there is a detailed compilation of Abstracts/ Proceedings of the congress available at DMICS office for the benefit of Public & Private Organizations, Universities, Academic Institutions, R&D Organizations and General Public which will be useful as a Compendium of Reference & Research.

SYNOPSIS

- India being a large country with diverse geographical and topographical features is prone to natural disasters of all kinds.
- Apart from the geographical features, especially the long coastline, the political and economic worldwide scenario also makes it pertinent for India as a country to be prepared to meet and combat any type of disaster.
- Towards this, the 1st World congress on Disaster Management was convened in Hyderabad which elicited response from various governmental, non governmental, national and international bodies.
- During various presentations, it became apparent that though India has a fair amount of experience in relief and rehabilitation work following a spate of disasters, both natural and man-made, there are still glaring loopholes in our preparedness. Towards making India a prepared country, the following measures need to be taken.

GENERAL

- All agencies involved in disaster risk mitigation, relief and rehabilitation work are working in isolation; There is no central agency/database of all such forces available.

Suggested Action:

Establishment of a National Critical Information and infrastructure protection centre. The main tasks of this centre will be to:

- Document and regularly update availability of resources. This list should be available to all nodal agencies to enable timely allocation of resources in order to minimize relief and rehabilitation time and again. Human resources should include armed forces, railway employees para military forces, police, scouts & guides, NSS and NCC cadets, public and private organisations' employees and volunteers.
- Develop an integrated system to empanel, train and empower these outfits.
- To assist in setting up a network to enable multi-laboratory co-ordination and collaborative research.
- Separate and comprehensive SOP's or DISASTER CODE OF CONDUCT to be designed, developed and imparted to various organizations.
- To set up feedback and co-ordination mechanism between different bodies involved in rescue and relief operations.
- To ensure that among various institutions involved in generating assistance, there are clear-cut roles and responsibilities, so that there is no overlapping of efforts and critical areas do not get ignored.

- EMRI to be enlarged and developed to cover all parts of the country. Highlights of the programme should include hi-tech GPS integrated communication system, well maintained and fully equipped fleet of ambulances and emergency response vehicles, country wide and well manned toll free number.
- As a part of efforts to shift from relief and rehabilitation to mitigation and preparation, advance warning systems and damage assessment simulation models to be given prime importance at research and development establishments.

DEVELOP RELIABLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

- Timely and correct information is absolute fundamental need for any successful operation. The importance of factual and continuous flow of information to media to avoid rumors is a must in times of disaster. There needs to be regular and continuous communication between general public and officials, apart from surveillance and dissemination of essential information to first responders.

Suggested Action:

- To improve early warning systems through a denser network of observation posts.
- Amateur Radio networks to be encouraged as an alternate means of emergency communication network.
- To create a 'hands & eyes' network among local communities as first responders and emergency spotters.

ENHANCE AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

- All stakeholders to be sensitized through a nationwide community preparedness and awareness programme.
- Investment should be directed towards enriching the community knowledge and use of technology.
- Disaster Management should be incorporated into developmental projects to build disaster resilient structures.
- To work towards attracting more youth into the national framework of DM by offering DM as a lucrative and rewarding career option.
- To assist in developing curriculum and train the trainers for conducting courses to be introduced in management institutes on Disaster Management.
- Efforts to be made to harness the knowledge gained through experiences of different public and private companies working for disaster relief into one unified centralized assessment centre. Best practices from each instance and learning thereof to be

compiled and documented at a central database management centre. Efforts should be made towards building a culture of Technology Enabled Services (TES).

SELF- SUFFICIENCY OF COMMUNITY

- Even though the armed forces traditionally play a large part in acting as first responders by virtue of their fast mobility, ease in reaching far flung places, medical and emergency training and facilities and preparedness at all times, there is a need to lessen the burden on them so that they are better able to focus on their prime duties. Towards this, certain community actions and initiatives need to be promoted and put in place on an active basis. The role of Public Private Partnership towards this has been time and again emphasized. For more effective participation of these partnerships, a Central Crisis Management group, has to be set up for co-ordination between various local level bodies to direct task forces, to set up synergy between civil and military efforts to ensure smoother transition.

Suggested actions:

- A sound transition strategy needs to be put in place, so that when the first responder- the army in most cases moves out, there be a smooth transition with adequate self sufficiency in terms of generating electricity or alternate power supply, potable water, and security systems.
- Relief should be calibrated according to need of the hour.
- Essential relief machinery, men and materials should be geographically dispersed, tailored, pre-positioned and managed according to local needs.
- Inter-operability between units, districts, states, regions and countries should be part of standard protocol to minimize time to respond at times of disaster.
- Regular joint exercises should be conducted.
- Protocol and bureaucracy should be minimized.
- Attempt should be made to establish synergy between civil and military efforts.
- Periodic stock taking of preparedness to measure output and performance through independent audits.
- Improve and increase operational & functional, logistic, engineering efficiency through joint civil and military training and skill development exercises.
- Stress and trauma management measures for first responders to be put in place.
- Rapid response teams to be built at various levels and to be kept in readiness/on call at all times.

- Policy framework to be drafted for tapping the insurance and micro finance sector in India. Environment needs to be created to ensure a disaster risk reduction economy.
- Efforts should be made to integrate disaster risk mitigation and management into the relief programs so that when disaster related funding is withdrawn the community does not lapse back into old ways of life. Self sufficient and resilient systems to be introduced to prevent further occurrences of similar disasters.

NBC DISASTERS

NBC disasters have a multidimensional impact, to deal with them, a multi sectoral and multi disciplinary approach is needed.

Prime areas of action in case of NBC disaster is prompt recognition of incident, isolation and decontamination of affected materials and men, protection of unaffected areas. The immediate need therefore is to:

- Identify infectivity, virulence, toxicity, pathogenicity, incubation period, transmissibility, lethality and stability of various known and unknown agents.
- Set up DNA fingerprinting laboratories.
- Have enough number of NBC protection suits, including gloves, face masks, decontamination units etc.
- Prepare manuals and give appropriate training to staff to handle such disasters including safe disposal of waste, hygiene and sanitation needs.
- Clearly define health risks and set up concise SOP's for treatment of casualties.
- To set up an NBC casualty management centre with decontamination rooms complete with appropriate equipment and materials, dust filter fitted special wards, radio bio dosimetry lab, haematology lab with cell separators, bone marrow bank, marrow transfusion and stem cell harvesting laboratory and facilities. A specialised NBC medical store needs to be set up and constantly monitored and updated on regular basis as per global standards. A stockpile needs to be built at different levels and zones.
- Indigenously developed systems and devices by DRDO for detection, protection, decontamination, including 1st responder protection suits, mobile reconnaissance labs to be systematically made available and used at larger levels.

TSUNAMI, CYCLONES AND EARTHQUAKES

India's vast coastline and numerous rivers that are linked to neighbouring countries puts India's population at imminent and peculiar risks of tsunamis, cyclones, flooding,

drought and earthquakes. This was especially highlighted at the time of the recent Kosi river flooding and the havoc it caused. The Bhuj and Latur earthquakes are also grim reminders of the kind of risk any country has. Disasters are endemic to climate and geology. Climate proofing of developmental programmes is required. In fact, developmental strategy should integrate disaster mitigation. It was reiterated that policy should translate into action.

One sure way of ensuring this is by observing and adopting the autonomous climate change adaptation and disaster risk management undertaken by community on its own. This can then be turned in to a planned adaptation through technology and investment, to enrich the community knowledge. Autonomous resilience and preparedness should be combined.

To mitigate the suffering of the masses in future, certain actions were recommended, as follows:

- Better co-ordination between oceanography and meteorology and satellite imagery departments to be set up, for advance warning and evacuation work.
- Cyclone modeling being used in AP that gives data output in the form of easily understandable tables and graphs to be made available nation wide.
- Risk identification, listing of safer, higher grounds, early evacuation systems, elevated grounds to be taken up for risk mitigation.
- Observational network to be intensified through setting up of command and observation posts, especially along coastal areas and hilly boundaries.
- Overall community awareness program to be implemented for more intelligent and effective use of water resources to bring in a policy and way of life that prevents water related disasters from happening-whether floods or drought.
- Cyclone tracking, flood forecasting and flood evacuation SOP's to be developed through flood modeling studies, which are till now earmarked only for scientific data development.
- River behavior and characteristics should be mapped and studied and a proper systematic approach should be deployed for river water management.
- Rules and regulations for dams, from their conceptualization to building and maintenance should be systemized and followed.
- Rain gauges at river catchments need to be placed and monitored on regular basis.
- Marshland development and management should be given due importance for future balance in climate, ecology and environment.

- Active plan of afforestation should be there; and efforts should also be made to identify and notify protected areas as well as to increase forest cover.
- Carbon Credits propounded at Kyoto Protocol should be actively propagated. Policy decision from government on redemption of same should be formalized and propagated among industries.

ECONOMIC DISASTERS

There is a need for collaboration between the government policy makers and corporate governance groups to evolve a common thought process.

There is an urgent need for a framework of resilience to be built so as to minimize impact and to contain the loss of faith among consumers. Small businesses should be given the benefit of experience of the bigger players through a preparedness plan. There is an urgent need to develop guidelines and standards for quick action steps to be taken at times of financial breakdown. The current guidelines need to be updated and then communicated, to all member companies.

Suggested Action:

A national economic crisis management centre with a hotline needs to be created in order to avoid rumors.

FOCUS ON NEEDS OF SPECIAL FOCUS GROUPS- WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Time and again, in times of disasters it has been observed that relief and rescue operation mechanisms swing into action promptly. While health, monetary and basic needs are mostly taken care of, there is a glaring lack of certain humanitarian and dignity aid packages- especially in the cases of the weak, infirm, women, children and other special needs groups. In certain cases, UNICEF and other NGO's have been working on this area, ensuring basic hygienic conditions for pregnant and lactating women, certain concrete actions and policy frameworks need to be worked upon to make these a basic requisite of any relief package. Right to Health is universal - even during disasters, that should be the motto to be followed.

Also, the focus needs to shift towards rehabilitation, which is a bigger need than rescue and long term. It is important for the victims to regain self respect and dignity. Focus needs to be paid to mental and trauma health care. Other initiatives can include setting up of cattle camps and fodder banks to protect and feed cattle in times of disaster.

CONCLUSION

It has been agreed upon that India is not far away from other developed countries in its smooth transition from being relief centric to a definite state of being prepared and preventive in dealing with destructive hazards, both natural and manmade. There has also been consensus to avoid political implications and connected relief packages with purely political considerations.

There is also a need to focus on new, emerging types of disasters, especially, nuclear, chemical and biological in nature.

There is a need to start people's movement.

Each sector needs to get involved as there are multiple stakeholders, hence multi disciplines are involved; it is definitely a difficult task but not impossible. What is needed is synergy, partnerships and integration for sustainable development. Resources need to be allocated depending upon the risk at each level and they should then be transferred to the local level.

We should not let hazard turn into disaster and work towards reducing risk at all levels by building awareness right from school level.

We hereby agree to adopt the following motto: "Awareness begets Precautions".

Aid, Trade, Collaborative Partnerships will be given priority and we will work towards Global Harmony, Tranquility, Prosperity.



DMICS - Milestones

<i>YEAR</i>		<i>EVENT</i>
December	1998	: National Conference on Traffic Management, Road Safety
February	2000	: National Conference on Solutions for Road Safety
October	2001	: National Conference on Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Management.
November	2003	: World Congress on Disaster Management Infrastructure and Control Systems
January	2005	: National Conference on Post Tsunami Introspection Action Plan
July	2005	: Brain Storming Session on an ideal Tsunami Warning System for Indian Ocean.
August	2006	: National Workshop on fire and Life Safety
October	2008	: First World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM)

Future Endeavours

<i>YEAR</i>		<i>EVENT</i>
September	2009	: International Conference on Global Economic Meltdown- Challenges and Prospects (GEM CP)
October	2009	: International Conference- cum- Exhibition on Fire and Life Safety (ICEFLS)
October	2010	: 2nd World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM-2010)



Envisioning Disaster Free Society

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