

Natural Hazards Management in Bangladesh-An overview

Dr. Aslam Alam

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National Program Management Expert, Comprehensive Disaster Management Program (CDMP), Ministry of Food and Disaster Management Dr. Aslam Alam, in his presentation defined hazard and disaster from different point of views. He highlighted the major hazards in Bangladesh such as flood, cyclone, tornado, storm surge, drought, river bank erosion, etc. and said that every hazard is not disaster. He said that the Disaster management vision of the Government of Bangladesh is to reduce the risk of vulnerable people to a manageable level. On the other hand, mission of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management is to achieve paradigm shift from relief providing practice to risk reduction culture. He also presented a Comprehensive Disaster Management Model for Bangladesh which includes definition and management of risk environment, evacuation, emergency relief and rehabilitation aspects. He added that the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management has seven strategic goals for disaster management.

He presented a nine-point Regulative Framework on Disaster Management. In this framework there is a Standing Order on Disaster (SOD) which creates the opportunity to establish disaster management committees for playing active role during the disaster. Dr. Aslam identified major Disaster Management Institutions in Bangladesh and Local Level Committees under SOD. A Comprehensive Approach of three key elements on disaster management and that the Mainstreaming Strategies from National level to Community level were highlighted on the presentation. A brief on Community Risk Assessment-Bangladesh was put forward by Dr. Aslam Alam through his presentation. He ended his presentation terming the community-based Cyclone Preparedness Programme as a successful one.