

# **Disasters in Urban Areas**

*Muhammad Saidur Rahman*

**Director,**

**Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center**

---

Mr. Muhammad Saidur Rahman, Director, Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center (BDPC), in his presentation showed pictures of some collapsed buildings of Dhaka City such as Phoenix building, Spectram Garments, building of Shakhari Bazar, etc. and briefly discussed the vulnerabilities of structures within Dhaka City Corporation. He especially emphasized on the limitations of the risk reduction measures. He divided the participants into two groups and asked them to identify the major disaster threats, causes of urban areas and their simple solutions.

Both the groups had identified almost same type of disaster threats, causes and their easy solutions. The main threats and causes identified by them were: flood, water logging, cyclone, earthquake, landslides, rising of sea level, complex utility services network, lack of awareness about proper construction, inadequate drainage system, unplanned development, growth of unplanned slum areas, violation of building code and corrupt practices in constructions.

The solutions suggested by the groups were raising awareness, implementation of building code, development of drainage system, creation of shelter, capacity building, ensuring the accountability of personnel responsible for building and infrastructure planning.

Mr. Saidur Rahman pointed out that the comprehensive approach is better than integrated action plan. He ended his presentation saying that a comprehensive approach is needed in the urban area which would cover all sorts of disaster threats and other problems related to disaster management.