

Town-Watching Event

A workshop on Trainers Training Programme on Community-Based Hazard Map Development was held at the Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM) on 28-29 November, 2007. It was jointly organized by the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM) and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) with the logistic support of Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center (BDPC). The aim of the workshop was arranged on Trainers Training Programme on Community-Based Hazard Map Development which aims at raising awareness of community on various types of natural disasters such as storm surge, flood, cyclone as well as Tsunami and that on the value of disaster reduction as a strategy of capacity building through development of community based hazard map.



The workshop started with theoretical speeches by Bangladeshi and Japanese experts on natural disasters and disasters risk management. After the speeches, the methodology to develop hazard map for raising community risk awareness was presented to the participants

On the second day of the workshop, arrangement was made for “Town Watching” which was intended to train the trainers on the community-based hazard map development. Participants were taken to ‘Shakhari Bazar’ area of old Dhaka. They were divided into four groups at Shakhari Bazar each group consisting of 4-5 members. Each of the members was assigned a specific role: group leader, photographer, note-taker, presenter at the final presentation. At the Town Watching Programme:

- An idea about disasters was given to the community people of Shakhari Bazar.
- Group members developed a community-based hazard map manually integrating their observations and findings on a large-scale base map.
- Each group discussed such issues as “What are the potential problems in Shakhari Bazar?”, “What are the possible countermeasures against the local

problems like risky buildings, complex network system of utility services, sewerage and drainage blockage, etc?” “What kind of countermeasures should local Government and community take?”and “Who should be responsible for implementing particular countermeasures?” Then one representative from each group presented the results of his or her group’s discussions to an audience of all the other groups, so that all could share in each other’s findings and suggestions.

Participants identified that most of the people of Shakhari Bazar lacked awareness about disaster such as Earthquake, Cyclone, etc. and many children, women and some elderly people did not know anything about disaster specially Earthquake. Even after the super cyclone SIDR, they had not become aware about the devastating effect of disaster. Many



people already learnt how to live with vulnerability. Through separate presentations the groups identified the problems of the Shakhari bazar and gave their recommendations at the end of the town watching programme. By discussing with the community people, the participants learnt about the vulnerability, risk and capacity of the area. They also tried to develop four hazard maps according to their findings from the sight visit.

From this Town Watching programme participants got the opportunity to:

- raise awareness about the risk, vulnerability etc of the community people of Shakhari Bazar.
- develop a concrete image of disaster reduction activities
- share opinions arrived at from various viewpoints

There was a video documentation on Town Watching programme. The program ended with distribution of certificates among the participants which was followed by a vote of thanks.