



ABSTRACT

UNCRD Programs on Community Based Disaster Management

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The Disaster Management Planning Program of UNCRD dates back to 1985. Its research and training projects aimed to support governments, NGOs, and academic institutions in creating partnerships with communities in developing countries for disaster management planning. The goals were to improve the capacity of communities to develop and implement disaster management plans, and to enhance public awareness of natural hazards.

The UNCRD Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office (hereafter, called Hyogo Office) was established in April 1999 in Kobe city, where the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake claimed the lives more than 6,000 people. The Hyogo Office focuses on disaster management initiatives through multilateral collaboration at an international level while utilizing the Hyogo Framework for Action, adopted at the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe in 2005 in order to establish disaster prevention as an essential component of sustainable development.

Hyogo Office carries out various projects, for example as follows, for disaster reduction, integrating where appropriate the reconstruction process in Hyogo and other disaster-affected areas in the world.

Urbanization and Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM)

The UNCRD Hyogo Trust Fund Project (HTF) undertakes action research on urbanization and community-based disaster management in Asia, in particular highly populated areas and quickly urbanizing settlements. The UNCRD Hyogo initiative aims to contribute to a substantial reduction of disaster losses of lives and social, economic and environmental assets of target communities and countries by 2015. Taking into account international and national disaster management policies at the macro level and subsequent actions at community level, the following objectives of the research are undertaken by HTF:

- To explain and demonstrate in practice the concept of living safely in the urban community;
- To enhance international and regional cooperation in the field of CBDM;
- To incorporate disaster management into development planning through community empowerment and good governance and so forth

Thereupon, UNCRD Hyogo Office implements field research, organizes community meetings, and disseminates findings, targeting Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Bangladesh.



Fig. Community based approach for dissemination and application of disaster management plans

Reducing Vulnerability of School Children to Earthquake (School Safety project)

The UNCRD is implementing a two-year project on “Reducing Vulnerability of School Children to Earthquakes” in Asia-Pacific region under project execution by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) funded by the Human Security Fund of UN-OCHA since April, 2005. The project aims to ensure that school children living in seismic regions have earthquake safe schools and that local communities build capacities to cope with earthquake disasters. The project includes retrofitting of some school buildings in a participatory way with the involvement of local communities, local governments and resource institutions, trainings on safer construction practices to technicians, and disaster education in school and communities. These activities are carried out in Fiji Islands, India, Indonesia and Uzbekistan as demonstration cases which will be disseminated throughout the respective geographical regions through regional and international workshops.

The projects includes seismic vulnerability analysis of about 10 selected schools in a project city of each country and retrofitting of some of them which cover prominent construction typology in the region. Moreover, the project includes development and wide distribution of educational booklets, posters and guidebook on teachers training and students’ drills for earthquake disaster preparedness and response. The project also develops an interactive educational tool for simple seismic risk assessment of buildings aiming to motivate households for planning seismic upgrading of their houses. Regional and international workshops on school seismic safety are planned to disseminate the success and lessons of project cities to a wider region.

Anti-seismic Building Code Dissemination (ABCD) project as the first phase of the Housing Earthquake Safety Initiative (HESI) (tentative plan)

Most developing countries have established building control systems, mainly aiming to prevent social and economic losses caused by disasters, accidents and urban problems. However, the system seldom functions effectively, because capacity building of local officials, ability of building experts, social awareness and availability of the system itself are not sufficient for implementation.

In order to achieve the “Hyogo Framework for Action”, adopted in 2005 at the UN-WCDDR in Kobe, the UNCRD is planning a three-year program titled “Housing Earthquake Safety Initiative (HESI)”. And for the first year of the HESI program, “Anti-seismic Building Code Dissemination (ABCD) project” is proposed to identify the recognition gaps among stakeholders, including governments, academic institutions, NGOs and communities.

Reference:

Recent Publications of UNCRD Hyogo Office

- 2003 -Sustainability in Grass-roots Initiatives: Focus on community based disaster management (CBDM)
- Guidelines for earthquake resistant design, construction, and retrofitting of buildings in Afghanistan
- From Disaster to Community Development: The Kobe experience (Kizuna)
- Patanka Navjivan Yojna (PNY, India): Towards sustainable community recovery
- Proceedings of ACTAHEAD International Workshop: CBDM concept to reality
- Proceedings of International Workshop 2003: An earthquake-safer world in the 21st century III
- 2004 -Proceedings of International Symposium: Community legacy in disaster management, 7 Feb. 2004
- Proceedings of UNU-UNCRD Thai Regional Workshop: Ensuring flood security, 28-30 July, 2004
- 2005 -Sustainable Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM) Practices in Asia, - A User’s Guide -
- UNCRD Tapestry: Defining the past and building the future of CBDM
- UNCRD Digest: CBDM activities abridged 2002-2005
- Proceedings of UNCRD at UN-WCDDR 2005: Activities of UNCRD during UN-WCDDR, 18-21 Jan. 2005

Those publications can be download at; <http://www.hyogo.uncrd.or.jp/publication/index.html>



ABSTRACT

Education for Disaster Preparedness in Primary School in Thailand

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School education is one of the key elements in long-term disaster risk reduction strategies as it is clearly revealed by the awareness survey conducted by Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) in some tsunami affected countries. (See http://www.adrc.or.jp/publications/Srilanka_survey/en/Index.html)

During the planning workshop on Public Awareness and Education held in Bangkok, 7-8 September 2005, organized by UN/ISDR, relevant organizations discussed the concrete projects to be carried out immediately. As a result of the meeting, it was reached to a consensus that ADRC carry out the “Education for Disaster Preparedness in Primary School Project” to be supported by UN/ISDR and UNESCO/IOC.

The project aims to (1) strengthen disaster preparedness in primary school, (2) build teachers capacity on disaster education and (3) disseminate the correct knowledge about tsunami to the school children and their families. The main activities are defined as follows; (1) compiling and analyzing existing tsunami educational materials, (2) developing a side-reader for students as well as a teachers’ guide consulted by both experts of disaster management and education, and improved them through the pilot classes, and (3) conducting a seminar to explain the teaching know-how about tsunami disaster and its preparedness.

The main feature of the project is a development of the teacher’s guide. Tsunami disaster education requires teachers with the broader range of knowledge, from geography to individual preparedness. Therefore, it has been aspired by school teachers to describe the key issues they have to teach their students as well as the teaching know-how about tsunami disaster. Furthermore, the structure and contents of materials are based on the analysis of many existing textbooks and consultation by experts, they have become more sophisticated and generalized enough to replicate in other countries with the minor revision by tailoring to the target countries such as pictures and photos. This project is still going on and author will present the activities which have already been carried out so far and the plan of next step.