



International Forum on Tornado Disaster Risk Reduction for Bangladesh – To Cope with Neglected Severe Disasters – 13-14 December 2009, Dhaka, Bangladesh Dhaka Sheraton Hotel (Dec. 13) Bangladesh Meteorological Department (Dec. 14)

Co-Organizers:

Tokyo Polytechnic University Global COE Program (TPU/GCOE)

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

Government of Bangladesh (Disaster Management Bureau, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management; Meteorological Department, Ministry of Defence)

Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center (BDPC)

International Association of Wind Engineering (IAWE),

In cooperation with:

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP, tbd), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), SEEDS, SAARC Meteorological Research Centre (SMRC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Objectives

The main objectives of the forum are to understand severe local storm disaster risks in Bangladesh, raise awareness of the risks at local, national, and international levels, and develop a strategy to reduce the risks through active interactions among renowned international experts, national and local experts, and local practitioners and decision makers. The strategy includes components of early warning system, risk and vulnerability assessment, research in meteorology, climatology, and engineering, household and community shelter, public awareness and education, finance and community planning, and governance and policy making. The outcomes of this forum will aid in helping the Government of Bangladesh to adopt policies and development planning to reduce risks from severe local storms. The outcomes will stimulate donor agencies and NGOs to conduct specific projects to reduce the disaster risks. Overall, the forum will contribute to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Severe Local Storm Disasters in Bangladesh

It is well-known that Bangladesh is prone to cyclones and floods with large amount of losses. Overshadowed by them, little attention was paid to other serious disasters in the country. Bangladesh is the most vulnerable country to tornadoes and severe thunderstorm related disasters in the world. Tornado statistics alone shows great amounts of damage in Bangladesh in the past few decades. During 1961 -96 local newspapers reported 10,766 tornado deaths. During the thirty five-year period, twenty of 199

tornadoes killed more than 100 people and seven of them killed more than 500 people. In 1996, the Tangail Tornadoes killed 700 people and the Manikganj Tornado in 1989, which might have killed up to 1,170 people, is believed to be the deadliest tornado in the world. If adding losses caused by microbursts and lightning, the annual number of deaths caused by severe storms in the country may reach 500. Still, there is no severe storm early warning system or preparedness in Bangladesh yet.

Expected outcomes

The participants agree to produce a strategy document as a main outcome of the forum. The document will cover seven chapters. Each chapter will provide sufficient information to assess the current knowledge and needs and then to show how to make progress in reducing the risks based on existing knowledge and capacity in Bangladesh with innovated strategy. Suggestions will be made on how new ideas and technology could be adopted in Bangladesh. The document will appeal donor agencies for implementation. It will be published in both English and Bengali.

Expected participants

Expected participants are tornado victims, academic institutions, United Nations and international organizations, Government of Bangladesh (at the national and local levels), non-governmental organizations, and donor agencies. The strategy document will be discussed chapter by chapter during the forum and the revised document will be adopted as an outcome of the forum.

Format

The agenda of the forum will be drafted by the Organizing Committee by the end of August 2009. The forum is tentatively scheduled to include 7 business sessions (90-minutes each) and an opening ceremony. The second announcement will have the agenda and it will be posted on the forum website http://www.iawe.org/WRDRR_Bangladesh/.

Session 1: Research in Meteorology, Climatology, and Wind Engineering

Session 2: Risk Factors, Risk Assessment, and Social Vulnerability

Session 3: Early Warning System

Session 4: Public Awareness and Education

Session 5: Household and Community Storm Shelter

Session 6: Finance and Community Planning

Session 7: Governance and Policy Making

Organizing Committee

Yukio Tamura (Chairman, IAWE, TPU)	Yuichi Ono (Vice-Chairman, UNISDR)
Taiichi Hayashi (Kyoto U)	Md. Farhad Uddin (DMB)
Tom Schmidlin (Kent State U)	Muhammad Saidur Rahman (BDPC)
Kishor Mehta (TTU)	Atsushi Koresawa (ADRC)
Masashi Kiguchi (U. of Tokyo)	Noburu Uchiyama (ADRC)
Masahiro Matsui (TPU)	Filipe D.F. Lucio (WMO) (tbc)
Shuyang Cao (Tongji U)	Tokiyoshi Toya (WMO)
Yusuke Yamane (Kyoto U)	Hideomi Oi (JICA)
Etsuko Tsunozaki (SEEDS)	M. Aminul Islam (UNDP)

Contact

Mr. Syed Shifat Ahmed
saksa86@yahoo.com
Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness
Centre
House-15 A, Road-8, Gulshan-1
Dhaka-1212
Tel & Fax +88 (0)2 986 2169

Ms. Kazuko Ando
ando@office.t-kougei.ac.jp
IAWE Secretariat, c/o Global COE Office
Tokyo Polytechnic University, 1583, Iiyama,
Atsugi, Kanagawa, 243-0297 Japan
Tel&Fax +81 (0)46 242 9658