

First South-South Citizenry Based Development Academy on

Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction

Resilient Communities of Gujarat taking Disaster Risk
Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Actions

Location: Bhuj City, Kutch District, Gujarat State, India

January 26–30, 2010



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Towards a disaster free India



Introduction

Disasters continue to wreak havoc in various parts of the world, especially in the poor and developing countries. In response, Citizenry-Based Development Organizations (CBDOs)¹ develop innovative approaches to cope with recurring disasters. In South Asia, CBDOs have tremendous experience on community resilience and knowledge to mitigate adverse impacts of natural disasters. They are together with Non Government Organizations (NGOs)² at the forefront in promoting Disaster Risk Reduction through advocacy and concrete actions on the ground. However, there is a very limited space for these CBDOs to discuss, share and learn from each other and the academic fraternity in the region. Their lateral links are of great value but often under resourced. Regional and international conferences and meetings are gatherings of mostly international, regional and national figures. Unfortunately, these are not the ideal venues for CBDOs to share and learn. The “**South-South Citizenry- Based Development Academy**” is conceptualized to initiate this local, lateral, direct dialogue of sharing and learning between those who matter the most in reducing risk and making development safer. This Academy is meant to continue the aim of the Training and Learning Circle, a South-South Collaboration between the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) and the Philippines' Center for Disaster Preparedness, facilitated by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and funded by the ProVention Consortium.

1 These are village or community level organizations, established for specific purpose such as reducing disaster risks at the localities. They are progressive organizations that strive to integrate disaster risk reduction with development work.

2 NGOs are registered and formal organizations. Oftentimes they assist in building Citizenry Based Development Oriented Disaster Organizations. Both the CBDOs and NGOs are considered Civil Society Organizations.

The “**South-South Citizenry- Based Development Academy**” is derived from the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation's three Global Platforms: namely; Global South-South Development Academy; Global South-South Development Expo; and Global Asset and Technology Exchange. The Citizenry-Based Development Academy is the local translation of these three global platforms to bridge the gap between global and local efforts in the area of disaster risk reduction.

Objectives of the South-South Citizenry Based Development Academy

The main objective of the South-South Citizenry Based Development Academy (SS CBDA) is to strengthen abilities of young academics, researchers, and CBO/Community leaders in Asia and the Pacific to understand community resilience against natural disasters and to interpret diverse viewpoints on disaster risk reduction by:

- Sharing knowledge and showcasing community based DRR practices and South-South development solutions, including strategies for scaling across and scaling up good practices.

Host Country

India, having the most number of vulnerable population and having a huge number of citizenry based organizations is one of the most appropriate locations of the **First South-South Citizenry-Based Development Academy**. The January 26, 2001 Gujarat Earthquake will never be forgotten. The 2001 earthquake recovery efforts and lessons are shared with other Southern communities and yet the demand continues from Aceh in Indonesia to Khulna in Bangladesh to Kabul in Afghanistan. Thus, the academy will be held in the Kutch District of Gujarat in India. Kutch is one of the districts most affected by natural disasters (droughts, cyclones, earthquakes etc.). It is also however a district with a vast amount of local know-how and strong resilience capacities. Communities in Gujarat are best known for their cooperative resilience and tradition of active volunteerism.

Academy Organisers

The academy is organized by the AIDMI in partnership with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in United Nations Development Programme, Regional Centre in Bangkok. The academy organizer is assisted by a Steering Committee comprising representatives from the following organizations.

- Chair: Dr. P. G. Dhar Chakrabarti, National Institute of Disaster Management, India
- Ms. Zenaida Delica Willison, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in United Nations Development Programme, Regional Center in Bangkok
- Ms. Reema Nanavaty, SEWA, India
- Ms. Jesu Rethinam, SNEHA, India
- Mr. G. Padmanabhan, UNDP, India
- Mr. Hasmukh P. Sadhu, AIDMI, India

Learning Methods for the First South-South Citizenry Based Development Academy

The objective is to link theory and practice, involving the use of a wide range of tools, lectures, case studies, in-depth field trips, individual projects, and presentations. Participants will have the opportunity to visit community projects and interact with people implementing those projects. The final schedule will be available in January 2010. The Academy will be structured around five case studies on Community Resilience. Facilitators are drawn from the organizing institution (AIDMI) and a range of academic and civil society organizations from India. The organizer continue to try change or modify the present programme at any time to achieve better impact and greater results.



Learning Outcomes

The expected learning outcomes for the participants of the First South-South Citizenry Based Development Academy on Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction include:

- In-depth understanding of 2001 Gujarat earthquake community response and recovery actions
- Improved understanding of risk identification and examination of community managed approaches to reduce disaster risks
- Sharpened analytical and problem-solving skills
- Intellectual interaction with a wide-section of lecturers and fellow participants from around the world from diverse academic and professional backgrounds
- Social interaction with fellow participants from diverse cultural backgrounds



Language

Medium of instruction and academy materials are in English but most of the working language will be in Gujarati by local communities.

Target Audience

The Academy is primarily intended for young professionals, researchers, academics, and CBO/Community leaders specializing in natural disaster risks. Interested young or junior participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka and can apply.

Applications

The deadline for receiving applications from young academics/researchers is January 5, 2010. A detailed CV and two references are required. For their application to be considered, candidates should be accompanied by a CBO/Community leader. Provide a profile of the leader (who must have passport and visa for visit to India). A good knowledge of both oral and written English is required (not necessary for a CBO/Community leader). A Maximum number of 50 participants from 25 organizations will be accepted, with roughly 34 from India and the rest from the South Asia. The following documents are required:

- Completed application form
- 400 word profile of CBO/Community member
- A Power Point Presentation (Max 15 slides) on Community-based project or initiative you wish to share
- Copy of ID card (driving license, voter's card etc.) or passport and 2 passport photos of both the representatives

Application forms can be downloaded from the <http://www.aidmi.org>. Completed forms should be sent together with relevant documents to: bestteam@aidmi.org attention Mehul Pandya.

Selection Criteria

The academy organizers are committed to achieving geographical diversity and promote gender balance. The applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria and applicants will be informed about their selection by January 5, 2010.

- Relevance of the applicant's professional background;
- Demonstrated interest by the candidate in issues of regional concern;

- Quality of case selected for Power Point Presentation; and
- Experience and achievements of CBO/Community leader

Travel and Accommodation Support

The cost of food, accommodation, and local travel for the entire stay will be covered. Please note that all domestic travel support for Indian participants will be provided by UNDP India and international travel support will be provided by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in United Nations Development Programme, Regional Center in Bangkok.

Please note that all the selected participants are expected to arrive in Bhuj by 16:00hrs in the evening of January 26, 2010 and depart from Bhuj on December 30, 2010 by 14:00hrs. All the participants will be staying at the Hotel Prince on twin sharing basis during the academy period.

Hotel Prince, Station Road, Bhuj-370001

Email: princad1@bsnl.in

Tele: +91-2832-220370/256355

Fax: +91-2832-250373

Access: 1km from Railway Station, 2km from Airport

Cuisine: Gujarati, Indian, Continental

Amenities: Tele/Fax facilities, Cable TV, 24hrs room services, Laundry, Doctor on Call, Money exchange etc.

Academy Requirements

In addition to regular presence and active participation in academy activities, participants are required to complete the evaluation forms towards the end of the programme. Health and accident insurance is obligatory for all participants.

Recognition

Participants who successfully complete the academy requirements mentioned above will receive a Certificate of Participation.

For further details please contact:



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