

**PROGRESS REPORT
JULY 2010 – SEPTEMBER 2010**

**DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
INITIATIVES ON NATIONAL AND
REGIONAL LEVEL IN ASIA**

IMPLEMENTED BY

ASIAN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CENTER (ADPC)

FUNDED BY

ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

adpc

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

I. Program Summary

A. Background of the Program

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) agree to collaborate in efforts to promote and implement initiatives for reduction of disaster vulnerability for prevention of loss of lives and damage to properties, human settlements and critical facilities in the Asian Region. The program activities are designed to be implemented in two and a half year (2009-Dec 2011) involving countries in Asia where ADPC are involved in DRR activities with special focus on Vietnam, Bangladesh and China which are the priority countries that the Government of Norway wishes to have extensive collaboration with regarding DRR”.

Main objectives of the overall program are to:

- i) enhance ADPCs capacity to become a center of excellence for DRR in the region
- ii) foster increased collaboration and knowledge sharing on disaster prevention among the most high risk prone countries in the region and
- iii) initiate innovative solutions for DRR on national level where there are special needs

Six thematic areas were identified as priority areas in fulfilling above objectives within the scope of the collaboration between MFA & ADPC.

Theme 1: Capacity Building of National Focal Points for Effective Dissemination of Natural Hazard Early Warning (in Bangladesh, China and Vietnam)

Theme 2: Regional program on capacity building to achieve better preparedness regarding public health issues, including psycho - somatic stress conditions in disastrous situations (a continuation and extension of the previous program, PHEMAP)

Theme 3: Regional program on best practices for early warning of landslides in a changing climate, RECLAIM III (a follow up project RECLAIM I and II)

Theme 4: Earthquake risk assessment for Myanmar

Theme 5: Regional program for pre-disaster natural hazard loss estimation

Theme 6: Sub-regional workshops to strengthen the capacity of national disaster management agencies on subjects jointly agreed upon by ADPC and MFA

B. Project Overview

Project title	Theme 1: Natural Hazard Early Warning
<p>Major activities in the reporting Period (July – Sep 10)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visited National Focal Points of Bangladesh (Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) & Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) to assess the progress of the project activities 2. Develop partnership with Bjerkness Centre for Climate Research for getting technical guidance for project implementation. Climate Scientist Dr.Senaka participated in “WRF Lecture Series” organized by Bjerkness Centre for Climate Research, Bergen, Norway as a capacity building activity of the ADPC staff. 3. Simulation studies of past cyclone events in Bangladesh, China and Vietnam 4. Rainfall data collection in Bangladesh and Vietnam.
<p>Planned major activities in Oct – Dec 2010</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stakeholder Workshop on “Atmospheric, storm surge & hydrological Modeling” is scheduled to be held during 09-10 November 2010 with the participation of National Focal Points in Bangladesh, Vietnam & China and a group of international technical experts 2. Visit the National Focal Point of Vietnam in November 2010 to assess the project activities. 3. Visit the National Focal Point of China in December in 2010 for discussion on collaboration 4. Participation in WB conference in S.Korea and sharing the project experience related to EWS in partner countries 5. Preparations for the Modeling training planned in February in partnership with BCCR
Project title	Theme 2: PHEMAP and Psychosocial Workshop
<p>Major activities in the reporting Period (July – Sep 10)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The 10th Inter-regional Training Course on Public Health and Emergency Management in Asia and the Pacific (PHEMAP-10) have been organized in collaboration with the Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH), as the local partner agency in Vietnam, and the WHO Regional Offices for Southeast Asia and the Western from 23 August to 3 September 2010 in Hanoi, Vietnam. <p>The course gathered 30 participants including the public health managers and officers who are directly managing public health emergency from 13 countries in Asia and the Pacific, namely: <i>Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.</i> The goal of</p>

	<p>PHEMAP Course is to help governments to develop more effective policies, administrative procedures and technical guidelines for health sector emergency management.</p> <p>2. The Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Emergencies Training Program in Bangladesh is a new initiative in partnership with ADPC, The Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee (BRAC) and the Center for Crisis Psychology (CCP) Norway. The 3 partner-agencies conducted a series of consultation and planning meetings to discuss the concept paper, project framework, agency focal persons, proposed timeline and project deliverables.</p> <p>Goal of the initiative is to develop the knowledge attitude, and skills of local health care providers in managing the psychosocial impacts of emergencies or disasters in order to enhance community resilience.</p>
<p>Planned major activities in Oct – Dec 2010</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation and planning meetings through email discussions, teleconferences and face-to-face meetings in organizing MHPSS training program 2. Identification of ADPC, BRAC and CCP experts (both internal and external) who will be able to provide guidance and services in the development, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of the MHPSS Training Curriculum taking into considerations the identified Components of the Program. 3. Conduct of a 5-day MHPSS Curriculum Development Workshop: to be attended by the internal and external experts, main focal persons from the 3 partner agencies either in Bangkok or Manila. 4. Identification and selection of the first 30 participants for the MHPSS 101 Course to be conducted in January 2011 in Bangladesh. 5. Finalization of the MHPSS Training Program
<p>Project title</p>	<p>Theme 3: RECLAIM III</p>
<p>Major activities in the reporting Period (July – Sep 10)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meetings with RECLAIM country partners for collection of materials for two working group papers such as Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. 2. Discussion with two coordinators/working group leaders on data collection and development of two working papers 3. Compilation and review of two draft working papers on <i>setting threshold limits for early warning for landslides</i> and <i>best practices for implementation of landslide EWS</i> 4. Visit to Bangladesh to discuss possible collaboration with Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB) in organizing 2nd Regional Meeting

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Arrangements for the 2nd Regional Meeting to be held in Bangladesh 6. Meeting with NGI experts on the arrangements for the 2nd regional meeting and finalization of working group papers
<p>Planned major activities in Oct – Dec 2010</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalization of 2 draft working papers on <i>setting threshold limits for early warning for landslides</i> and <i>best practices for implementation of landslide EWS</i> 2. 2nd Regional Meeting to be held in Dhaka Bangladesh during 1 – 3 December 2010 including a field visit in partnership with GSB. The meeting would expect to have participants from 12 RECLAIM partner countries and few international experts from the world. The objective of the meeting would be to discuss the outcome of activities during the 2009/10 and to review two papers developed by coordinators. Also the team would discuss whether the methodology developed for setting threshold limits for landslide early warning can be applied to other country situations. 3. Half day landslide conference on 30 November prior to the regional meeting – this has been initiated in order to raise the awareness of local stakeholders in landslide risks and mitigation options.
<p>Project title</p>	<p>Theme 4: Earthquake risk assessment for Myanmar</p>
<p>Major activities in the reporting Period (July – Sep 10)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 16-20 August 2010, a training workshop on Earthquake Vulnerability Assessment and Action Planning was successfully held at a facility of the Myanmar Engineering Society. Close to 40 Myanmar participants attended the workshop. Participating agencies: Yangon City Development Committee, Mandalay City Development Committee, department of Public Works, Building Inspection, Mandalay university, Dawei university, Yangon Technological university, and several private companies. 2. On 24 August 2010 ADPC, led by Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Executive Director paid a formal visit to the Myanmar Ministry of Transport in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, to clarify any questions the Myanmar government might have had on the proposed project. The meeting was very successful that the deputy minister verbally agreed to expedite the approval process. 3. September 2010, the submitted proposal was approved by the Ministry of Transport. Later it was officially legalized by the Attorney General of Myanmar, and then being prepared for the submission to the Foreign Affairs Policy Committee. 4. On 20 September 2010, the Director General and assistant directors of the department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) and another delegate from the Ministry of Transport visited ADPC as a follow up

	<p>meeting to the meeting had in Myanmar in August. During this meeting, the project advisory committee and Myanmar resource agencies for the project were reviewed and approved by DMH. Additionally, a draft Memorandum of Understanding between ADPC and DMH for future cooperation was agreed upon.</p>
<p>Planned major activities in Oct – Dec 2010</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A training workshop on Seismic Loss Estimation will be conducted during 18-22 October 2010 in Yangon. This is the last part from a series of 3 training workshops (i.e., hazard, vulnerability, and loss estimation) aiming at providing the participants with technical skills necessary to carry out the seismic loss estimation. The majority of the workshop will be hands-on exercises. 2. Preparations for the seismic hazard assessment(collection of base data) 3. Building partnership with Advisory Group members and resource agencies identified during the meeting with Ministry. Conduct initial discussions with them for commencement of hazard assessment work. 4. Follow up on government approval in order to start the main work
<p>Project title</p>	<p>Theme 5: Pre-disaster natural hazard loss estimation</p>
<p>Major activities in the reporting Period (July – Sep 10)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2nd Steering Committee Meeting to review the draft materials and methodology on loss estimation was held on 12th & 13th July in Bangkok. The meeting was participated by members from Bangladesh, Philippines and Sri Lanka including technical specialists from Deakin University as a project partner in developing the methodology. Members could agree upon the proposed methodology framework and provided valuable comments on draft training materials. 2. Revision of materials and development of methodology on loss estimation 3. Presentation on project approach to World Bank technical specialist Mr. Roberto Jowel to obtain his comments and suggestions to improve the approach
<p>Planned major activities in Oct – Dec 2010</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalization of draft materials and methodology as per the comments received from steering committee members 2. Obtain comments from technical specialists in finalizing methodology . 3. Preparations for the curriculum adaptation and material review meeting to be held early January 2011
<p>Project title</p>	<p>Theme 6: Sub-regional workshops</p>
<p>Major activities in the reporting</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Held meeting with UNOHCA to discuss the opportunity to collaborate in several key areas for capacity building of emergency response for China, Bangladesh and Vietnam. A Concept note has been drafted in

<p>Period (July – Sep 10)</p>	<p>consultation with UNOCHA and discussions are progressing in order to see the working mechanism.</p> <p>2. Planning for the high level meeting with government representatives of Bangladesh, China, Vietnam and MoFA, UNOCHA, ADPC in Inchon, South Korea on the sideline of the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction on 27 October 2010</p>
<p>Planned major activities in Oct – Dec 2010</p>	<p>1. High level meeting between the government representatives of Bangladesh, China, Vietnam and MoFA, UNOCHA, ADPC in Inchon, South Korea on 27 October 2010.</p> <p>2. Planning for the stakeholder meeting to be held in China in collaboration with UNOCHA on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of space- based information for disaster response and preparedness activities • Sharing of experience of implementation of end to end EWS • Capacity building and exchange of experience in successful disaster response management

C. Key Achievements under the grant

1. Development of partnership with key technical agencies in Norway to aid capacity building of ADPC staff. New opportunities to attend technical workshops and trainings – One of the ADPC climate scientists could attend the WRF Lecture Series organized by Bjerkness Centre for Climate Research (BCCR), at Bergen, Norway.
2. Strengthen the partnerships with NGI and opportunity to obtain technical guidance for project implementation (such assistance was available to ADPC in two risk assessment projects implemented in Nepal and Laos with financial assistance from WB and UNDP)
3. Opportunity to expand the scope of Public Health in Emergencies work in to Psychosocial response to disasters - as per the feedback and requests from participants attended the Psychosocial workshop conducted under Theme 2, ADPC got the opportunity to organize Psychosocial response to disasters focus on children in Bangladesh as an extension to the current program which will later have the opportunity to roll out in China and Vietnam as well. This creates a new avenue for ADPC in Public Health in Emergencies work
4. Having the inter-regional PHEMAP Course in another country (outside of Thailand) was considered to be a good decision made by the PHEMAP Steering Committee – by doing so, the Committee were also acting on the recommendations made by the participants at the PHEMAP Evaluation workshop in April 2010: to rotate the conduct of the inter-regional course to the 11 countries having National PHEMAP programs.

In addition, the PHEMAP Steering Committee identified a local partner agency in Vietnam, the Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH) wherein most of the staff involved

in the course administration and facilitation of some of the modules/sessions were alumni of the PHEMAP Inter-regional courses. This also contributed in building the in-country capacity of the PHEMAP alumni.

5. Establishment of partnership arrangements with technical agencies under Myanmar Government – ADPC had the opportunity to meet with Myanmar government officials in order to present the Myanmar Earthquake Risk Assessment project initiative which allowed us to expose the work done by ADPC in the field of disaster risk reduction in the region. This paved the way for a possible long term partnership arrangements with technical agencies (such as Department of Metrology and Hydrology) of Myanmar government with the initiation of a MoU between ADPC and DMH for future cooperation.
6. Presentation on pre-disaster loss estimation project approach to World Bank technical specialist Mr. Roberto Jowel to obtain his comments and suggestions to improve the approach. This may lead to broaden the partnership with WB to build ADPC capacity to get involved in risk assessment, pre-and post disaster loss estimation etc in future.
7. Promoting a dialogue between decision makers and professionals about the theoretical and practical aspects related to landslide early warning through development of working papers on setting threshold limits for early warning for landslides **and** best practices for implementation of landslide EWS
8. Obtain assistance of Norwegian Technical institutions in leveraging additional funding for implementation of projects in partner countries. This helped ADPC to showcase its capacity to partner with leading agencies dealing with the subject and to build the confidence and enhance the acceptance of ADPC as a leading technical resource in the region.

D. Major Problems Encountered and Subsequent Adjustments made

1. During the project implementation of Theme 1, it was observed that capacity building of atmospheric models (for downscaling global field variable) and storm surge models (for generating surge heights) is necessary for the staff members of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) as they are not equipped with the state-of-the-art technology in modeling and future climate scenario development. On the request of partner countries in order to have a dialogue on this issue, a stakeholder workshop is scheduled during 09 -10 November 2010 in partnership with BCCR and few other technical agencies to showcase state-of-the-art technology options available at present. Several modeling experts are invited to deliver presentations on atmospheric, storm surge and hydrological models. It is hoped that the participants would be able to choose the best suitable model for their countries in consultation with the experts in the field. It was also felt that technical knowhow of forecasting seasonal weather (for the benefit of farmers, water resources managers, etc.) and projecting future climate change (for assessing sectoral vulnerabilities to climate change) are not adequately transferred to Met. Agencies in Bangladesh and Vietnam. Seasonal outlooks and future climate projections are equally important as these give better guidance to well prepare for medium and long term hydro-

meteorological disasters. Therefore, it is planned to incorporate these components in the work plan.

2. Postponement of the conduct of the PHEMAP-10 Inter-regional Course

The PHEMAP Steering Committee – comprising ADPC, WHO-SEARO, WHO-WPRO and the Royal Government of Norway had earlier agreed to conduct the PHEMAP-10 Course from 14-25 June 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand.

However, due to the political unrest that beset the country (Thailand) in May 2010, the PHEMAP Program Steering Committee had reached an agreement to postpone the PHEMAP-10 Course that was planned in June 2010.

The Committee, therefore, had agreed to conduct the PHEMAP-10 Course from 23 August-3 September 2010 in Hanoi, Vietnam – one of the 11 countries actively engaging in the adaptation and implementation of the National PHEMAP Programs. Like the Philippines, Vietnam is also very active in terms of PHEMAP program adaptation in their country, having conducted 7 National PHEMAP Courses.

3. It has been planned to conduct the 2nd Regional Meeting under RECALIM III in Indonesia in order to have a field exposure of the good work done by the Geological Agency in relation with landslide risk mitigation. However it was observed that obtaining visa to Indonesia for most of the country members is a lengthy and time consuming process. Since the proposed meeting was to participated by 12 partner country members and technical specialist from some other countries, the project team together with the technical partner NGI has discussed and decided to shift the meeting from Indonesia to Bangladesh to avoid complications in obtaining visa.

Arrangements with Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB) as the local nodal agency in organizing the meeting have been already initiated.

4. Long delay of the Myanmar government in approving the project proposal on Myanmar Earthquake Risk Assessment is one of the main problems in executing the project. Clarification on the project was made when the ADPC team, comprising of Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, Mr. Arambepola, Dr. Peeranan Towashiraporn, and Mr. Tun Aung Kyaw, paid a visit to the Ministry of Transport in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, on 24 August 2010. Following the meeting, the deputy minister of Transport agreed to expedite the approval process. Irrespective of this delay, the project team has already started some activities to provide skill for local staff in carrying out Seismic Risk Assessment work.

E. Opportunities

UNOCHA has expressed its willingness to partner with ADPC to increase the capacity of emergency response for the priority countries namely China, Bangladesh and Vietnam. Initial discussions have been held between ADPC and UNOCHA on this initiative and it was agreed that further consultation will be needed and a workshop is to be organized in China in 2011 as the first event under this collaboration. The workshop will focus on the application of information technology to assist disaster risk reduction. Work done by China and other regional organizations and UN agencies will be showcased in this event.