



Consultation Workshop on developing Capacity Building Strategy through the establishment of Disaster Management Training Centre in Myanmar

Background:

Myanmar is at its historic crossroad towards a decentralized governance system and market oriented economy and over the past 18+ months, the Government has embarked upon series of reform programme's with an objective to transform Myanmar into a modern, developed country. Experiences from all over the world shows that during the course of development process and rapid transformation, development interventions tends to intervene in translation of physical exposure to natural hazards and exacerbate preexisting vulnerabilities into natural disaster risks and events (UNDP, 2003).

Despite its exposure to hazards such as floods, earthquakes, cyclones, drought and tsunami etc and high degree of vulnerability (Physical, Social, Economical and Environmental), in the past, Myanmar has been experiencing low intensity, small scale disaster events; however in the recent years it has experienced major disasters such as 2004 tsunami, 2005 landslides in the mountainous region, Cyclone Mala in 2006, Cyclone Nargis in 2008, Cyclone Giri in 2010, Tarlay Earthquake in 2011, Floods in 2011 and 2012 and Thabeikkyin Earthquake in 2012. By far Cyclone Nargis which struck Ayeyarwady and Yangon Region has been the most devastating natural disaster event in the country. While it is envisaged that reform process in the country will drive economic growth and development, however there are high chances where natural disaster events can set back development as well as development interventions without taking into account of hazard risk and vulnerabilities can exacerbate disaster risk given the country's geographic setting and its exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards and future risk posed by climate change.

Past and Ongoing DM Capacity Building Initiatives:

Since 1977, the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) has been conducting Disaster Management Course to build capacity of Government staffs at various levels in Disaster Management¹. Aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in 2008, there has been a paradigm shift in government's strategy to address disaster risk reduction as part of recovery and reconstruction efforts. Realizing the importance of addressing Disaster Risk Reduction as a priority, cross sectoral and development issue, the Government of Myanmar has launched "Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR)" with a goal *'To make Myanmar Safer and more Resilient against Natural Hazards, thus Protecting Lives, Livelihood and Developmental Gains'* in 2009 and endorsed an updated plan in 2012 in line with the reform process. Among 65 priority projects "Expansion Plan for Disaster Management Training" is one of the priority projects under MAPDRR and currently, the Relief and Resettlement department with technical assistance from Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) has completed the initial review and updating of DMC course curriculum and it is in the process of rolling out of DM Course in the country.

Towards Establishment of Disaster Management Training Center:

Taking note of future need, MAPDRR has also identified "Establishment of Disaster Management Training Center" as a priority activity to provide technical support on Disaster Management to Ministries, Departments and other institutions at Region/State and lower administrative levels. It has proposed for upgrading the existing Disaster Management Training Unit of RRD to be the key entity for creating a National Disaster Management Training Center in Myanmar. In addition to training functions, following roles have been identified for the Training Center;

¹ In addition to RRD, Department of Health, Department of Traditional Medicine, Fire Services Department, Ministry of Education and other agencies has been conducting Disaster Management courses.

1. Act as the technical advisory body to Sub-Committees of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee.
2. Collaborate with similar institutions in ASEAN and other countries for research and development.

Currently, the Government is in the process of endorsing a comprehensive Disaster Management Law with new institutional arrangement to provide impetus for Disaster Management in Myanmar. With the new legal and institutional framework, there is a need to translate the above legal and policy frameworks into practical action and support implementation through development interventions and complementary DRR measures. This in turn requires adequate capacity and technical know-how among various stakeholders at all levels to successfully carry out their functions vested by the law.

Recently, the Government has approved the land for establishment of Training Center in Hinthata Township, Ayeyarwaddy Region and Relief and Resettlement Department is in the process of securing funds for construction of the center. In addition to the physical infrastructure, there is a need to have a clear strategy on human resource (HR) and capacity building (CB) in various thematic areas of Disaster Management as the current DMC course serves only as a foundation course for Disaster Management.

Considering the need to develop a comprehensive strategy to address human resource development and capacity building on Disaster Management in Myanmar, the Relief and Resettlement Department, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is currently in dialogue with various stakeholders including line Ministries, UNs, INGOs, Local NGOs, ASEAN member states, Donors and Bilateral Partners to develop long term strategy and support.

Objectives:

Taking note of above, the Relief and Resettlement Department is organizing a *“Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on developing Capacity Building Strategy through the establishment of Disaster Management Training Centre”* in Myanmar.

The objectives of the workshop is to

1. Present RRD’s ongoing capacity building initiatives, future plan for the DM Training Center;
2. Share experiences of National / Regional DM Training Institutes or Centers from the region in human resource development and capacity building;
3. Discuss, provide inputs and recommendations on scope and strategy of proposed DM Training Center;
4. Map long term human resource and capacity building needs;
5. Document good practices from the region which can be adapted in the context of Myanmar.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Feedback on the proposed DM Training Center and its future plan and strategy ;
2. Document good practices from the National / Regional DM Training Institutes or Centers;
3. Recommend priority areas for human resource development and capacity building on Disaster Management in Myanmar;
4. Action Plan for human resource development and capacity building with possible commitments for further support;
5. Establish network and partnership with National and Regional Training Institutes or Centers for long term human resource.

Agenda: Refer to Annex A for tentative agenda

Venue: Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw

Date: 2- 4th July 2013

Participation:

The workshop will bring together around 60 professionals and experts in the field of Disaster Management from the following organizations:

1. Experts from various departments from National, State /Regional level, Academic Institutes, Training Institutes, Professional Bodies;
2. Representatives of National Disaster Management Centers / Institutions, ASEAN etc.
3. Members of DRR WG, Donors and Bilateral Partners in Myanmar;

Language of the workshop:

Presentations and discussion will be in English with simultaneous translation into Myanmar for local participants.

Financial support

Within the limited financial resources available, RRD with support from its partners will be financing invited experts representing National Disaster Management Training Center(s). This includes a round trip ticket with most direct and economic fare, room and board expenses during the duration of the event.

Partner Agencies:

Workshop is being supported by Technical Working Group comprising of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), SEEDS ASIA and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC).

For Any Further Information on the workshop contact:

Upon receiving confirmation by 14th June, 2013, RRD will send the logistics note for experts. For any further details, please contact Mr. Chum Hre, Director hchumhre@gmail.com and Ms. Phy Lai Lai Htun, Deputy Director, Relief and Resettlement Department phyulailaitun@gmail.com.

Annex A: Agenda (DRAFT)

Day -1	
Morning Session	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Registration2. Opening Session H.E. Dr. Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Union Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (tbc)3. RRD's ongoing initiative on capacity building programme/ future plan for DM Training Center
Afternoon Session	National Training Institutes Experience (<u>tentative to be confirmed</u>) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana (BNPB)- Indonesia2. Department of Disaster Prevention and Management – Thailand (DDPM)3. National Institute for Disaster Management – India4. Civil Defense Academy – Singapore5. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) / USFS6. China (NDRCC)

	<p><i>Suggested Presentation Points (not a exhaustive list):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Vision, Mission, Objectives</i> 2. <i>Administrative and Management Structure</i> 3. <i>Human Resources/ staff and faculties</i> 4. <i>Infrastructure and facilities and Information Technology</i> 5. <i>Courses Offered and details (target group: senior, mid, community level, duration: short/ medium-term course, certificate-course, structure)</i> 6. <i>Budget and Ongoing Partnerships with any regional and international agencies)</i> 7. <i>Others</i>
Day -2	
Morning Session	<p>Regional Training Institutes Experience (cooperation with countries)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ASEAN Secretariat 2. AHA Center 3. Disaster Reduction Learning Centre (Japan/JICA) 4. Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) 5. Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (RIMES) 6. Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) 7. Asian University Network 8. World Bank Institute 9. ADB Institute
	<p>National Training Centers- Myanmar Experience</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agriculture Training Center 2. DRD Training Center 3. MOC Training Center 4. MoE Training Center
Afternoon Session	<p>Session-1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Feedback on Vision, Mission and Objectives of DM Training Center <i>Presentation (Open Discussion)</i> <p>Session-2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Scope of DM Trainings – <i>Courses to be Offered</i> <i>Thematic Areas</i> <i>Target group: senior, mid, community level,</i> <i>Duration: short/ medium-term course, certificate-course, structure)</i> <i>Group discussion and Presentation</i>
Day -3	
Morning Session	<p>Session-3 (Plenary session)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Identifying possible cooperation and support for human resource development on DRM (Infrastructure, Technical Assistance, Training Aids, IT facilities) <i>Presentation and Discussion</i>
Afternoon Session	<p>Way forward and Wrap Up Closing</p>