

Disaster Reduction: For Safer Communities in Asia

Training For Disaster Managers at the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), which has been active in the field of disaster management training and consultancy throughout Asian and Pacific regions since 1986, believes that training is a key element of effective disaster management. Academic programmes, distance learning, new teaching materials and hands-on emergency training for first responders will become available at ADPC as of 1996. Details are discussed below.

Inter-disciplinary disaster management training programmes

The Disaster Management Course (DMC) is the flagship of ADPC training programmes. Offered twice annually, it runs for five weeks and aims to increase the skills of mid-level management personnel. It focuses on preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response, recovery and rehabilitation. Links with national and regional development programmes are also emphasized.

The Advanced Disaster Management Course is a two-week course for ADPC alumni and practicing disaster managers with extensive experience. The latest concepts of disaster management are presented and the experiences and expertise of participants are shared in this intensive annual workshop.

In addition to the above courses, ADPC also offers a two-week Crisis Management Course, which aims to establish a firm conceptual understanding of crisis management. It includes realistic exercises and simulations and addresses the skills part-time disaster managers will need to respond effectively in an emergency.

The management of technological hazards

Recognizing the fast development within this region, and the attendant increase in the level of technological risk, ADPC has developed a special course in the management of technological hazards. This is an intensive, two-week course for those involved in the management of, and response to, the technological hazards associated with industrial and economic development. The focus is again on

prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

For engineers and planners: Seismic and Cyclone Hazards Mitigation

The Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Training Course on Seismic and Cyclonic Hazards Mitigation is a four-week course giving its participants - persons with technical background - an opportunity to upgrade relevant techniques and knowledge in the field of disaster prevention and mitigation.

For urban planners: Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Project

ADPC has just commenced an Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Project that will demonstrate disaster-resistant building and infrastructure planning methods that will minimise the effects of natural disasters in urban areas. Activities to be undertaken at regional, municipal and national levels include national demonstration projects in selected cities,

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FORTHCOMING ADPC TRAINING CALENDAR

Fourth Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Course- Seismic and Cyclone Hazards Mitigation	28 January - 26 February 1996	Bangkok, THAILAND
Advanced Disaster Management Course	1 - 15 March 1996	Bangkok, THAILAND
Management of Technological Hazards	8 - 19 April 1996	Bangkok, THAILAND
Disaster Management Course 21	21 May - 22 June 1996	HONG KONG
Crisis Management Course	3 - 14 July 1996	Bangkok, THAILAND
Disaster Management Course	22 October - 23 November 1996	Bangkok, THAILAND

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policy seminars and training, information dissemination and networking, and collaboration with implementing institutions.

Distance learning programmes

There is a shortage of tertiary education disaster management courses in the Asian region. Also, many disaster managers cannot spend time away from their primary employment long enough to obtain basic qualifications. ADPC will fill this gap by offering through distance learning, in co-operation with Australian institutions and the Asian Institute of Technology, the Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma programmes in emergency and disaster management. This programme is scheduled to be implemented by early 1996.

Emergency training for first responders

ADPC is currently collaborating with an

established ambulance service to develop a range of courses suitable for ambulance workers, fire fighters and rescue workers. The first course, to be conducted in the second half of 1996, will address the management requirements of providing ambulance services in Asia. Later courses will focus on the needs of persons serving as ambulance officers in the same region. Courses offering instruction on more advanced levels of pre-hospital care will be developed progressively in 1996.

Also, road accident rescue services must be developed as one of management strategies. ADPC will offer a pilot basic road accident rescue course in May 1996 to assist in the development of suitable services. The training will concentrate on road accident rescue but will also be useful in other rescue situations such as collapsed buildings or mass transportation accidents.

UNITAR Plans for Training for Disaster Reduction in the Sahel Countries

Purpose: UNITAR's training programme, in co-operation with all UN agencies and other bodies involved in disaster management, aims, through appropriate training, to improve management of disasters, to reduce their impact and to organise faster and more efficient rehabilitation, resulting in saving of human lives and reducing material losses.

General: Based on a 1987-88 worldwide survey, UNITAR concluded that any training programme must be adapted to the type of disaster to be "managed." Priority was given to Sahelian countries, often stricken by droughts, locusts, epidemics and floods. Following 1988 and 1989 studies, a training programme was agreed upon, and funding was obtained from the Swiss government, which made it possible to start the programme in 1991.

Programme: The main objective of the programme is the training of mid-level managers involved in disaster prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation in the Sahelian countries. The first stage consists of organising, in co-operation

with specialised UN agencies, an awareness workshop for decision makers. So far such workshops took place in seven of the nine member countries.

Subsequently, seminars and training sessions have been conducted on a regional and provincial level, especially in Senegal and Burkina Faso, where the resource-persons of these seminars were officers of the national administration.

In Burkina Faso, participants have produced a manual concerning actions to be taken at the level of provincial administrations, at different stages of disasters, which will be available to all provincial officers.

Further seminars are planned in Senegal and Burkina Faso, as well as in other Sahelian countries.

Additional information can be obtained from: J. Tassin, UNITAR, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

Total amounts of surface water flowing between countries in Africa. States should co-ordinate their water management programmes if they want to mitigate drought. (WMO)

