38 Staff Training As An Element Of Post-flood Disaster Recovery And Future Disaster Reduction In China

BACKGROUND

The case study attached is derived from a detailed report to the Government of PRC concerning the development of the China National Disaster Plan and a subsequent report "A Capacity Building Program mounted for Government Staff at Provincial, Prefecture and County levels in ANHUI and JIANGSU Provinces under Project CPR/91/712". The work was carried out by UNDP appointed consultants, Colonel G.N. Ritchie, retired director of the Cranfield Disaster Preparedness Centre and Dr Liu Yanhua, a senior faculty member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing

ACTIVITIES

The case study describes a unique "action learning" training methodology and the thorough training needs analysis upon which it was based, developed in close collaboration with the responsible Chinese authorities and implemented along lines which were discussed with them and met their full agreement Besides identifying the nature of the training required at the various echelons of the provincial governments, the training needs analysis also identified those who would best benefit from the program. These were all to be experienced managers and administrators for whom a program of lectures was deemed, from the experience of Colonel Ritchie of similar work over many years to be inappropriate and ineffective

The training materials used were drawn from the training materials bank of the Cranfield Disaster Preparedness Centre (CDPC) and which had been used and developed over the previous ten years in a range of courses throughout the world mounted by CDPC and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) with which CDPC had co-operated closely over many years. These training materials were almost exclusively "action learning " material in which course participants engaged in simulation exercises, individual and group projects in which they employed their existing knowledge and experience in addressing new problems relevant to their disaster reduction, preparedness and management responsibilities. Lectures were kept to a minimum and used to impart new knowledge only, e g organization and responsibilities of UN agencies, international organizations and NGOs, MIS, analytical techniques, etc.

In preparation for mounting the training program, which was to be delivered in Chinese, the materials were translated into Chinese in Beijing under the supervision of Dr Liu Yanhua,. Additionally a team of English speaking Chinese tutors were assembled to support the training program. It had already been agreed that the training program would be delivered to small working groups each with a Chinese tutor These Chinese tutors prepared themselves for the program by reading the training material in its English version and then in its Chinese translations when these were ready. In the two weeks prior to commencement of the course the British consultant, who was well acquainted with the training material having developed much of it himself , ran a familiarization course in close collaboration with Dr Liu Yanhua, in the use of the material in the Tutorial Groups in which the courses were to be delivered.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The program was delivered separately to officials at the Provincial echelon of government and to the Prefecture/County echelons in each of the two Provinces, Anhui and Jiangsu under arrangements made by the Provincial Governments. In both Provinces the programs were actively endorsed and supported by one of the Province s Vice-Governors This was seen as a most important aspect of the programs.

The program began with the disaster management simulation exercise "Atlantis" in which the participants manned a range of functional cells at the national level (Disaster Coordinator, Internal Affairs, Public Works, Transport, Medical, Defense Forces, Social Affairs) After this exercise the participants worked in their functional departmental groups (Civil Affairs, Technical departments (Meteorology, Construction, Seismology, GIS) Agriculture and Water Conservancy, Health and Defense). In these groups they were then required to analyses the consequences of flood,

drought, and insect pest and of environmental degradation to their Province and the actions in prevention, preparedness, rehabilitation and recovery that were possible and necessary

After each exercise and project, action was taken to ensure that all were followed by a very full and comprehensive plenary de-briefing This was to ensure that the lessons, relevant to the development of the participants' disaster reduction responsibilities were drawn from the experience, and recorded for future use in development of the Provincial Disaster Reduction Plans

The very great support of the following was fundamental to the successful implementation and completion of the project. Ministry of Civil Affairs P.R.C , China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges, Provincial Government Anhui Province, Provincial Government Jiangsu Province, and UNDP China.

LESSONS

■The concept of running the training programs as an "active learning" activity, without the constant use of interpreters, proved totally successful.

■The training materials used, although not "China Specific, proved to be appropriate, flexible and capable of easy adoption to reflect Chinese conditions and problems. Copies of all the material translated and used are now held by UNDP Beijing These should be reviewed, modified as necessary and up-dated to ensure their continuing usefulness.

FUTURE

■The PRC should mount disaster awareness seminars for senior officials at national and provincial levels concerning the nature and value of disaster reduction and environmental management and of the importance of these to development strategies.

The objective being to stress the inter-ministerial, inter-departmental and inter-sectoral importance of disaster reduction planning and its relationships with economic development.

■Use the courses run in Anhui and Jiangsu Provinces as models for the development of similar multi-sectoral training programs in other disaster threatened Provinces.

■Make Disaster Reduction staff training a Priority Project for implementation of the National Disaster Reduction Plan

■Develop public information and awareness programs with the objective of developing community commitment and capacities for self-help and self-reliance in disaster preparedness

CONTACT DETAILS

Col. G.N. Ritchie
Disaster Preparedness Centre, Royal Military College of Science, Cranfield University, England

Dr. Liu Yanhua
Deputy Director, Commission for Science and Technology, People`s Republic of China.

39 A Situational Analysis Of Drought Hit Villages Of Bhilwara, India

BACKGROUND

On the basis of rainfall received in the year 2002-2003, and the extent of destruction of crops, only two blocks of the Bhilwara district of Rajasthan in Western part of India have been declared drought hit in the year 2004 These blocks are Aasind and Raipur block In Aasind block 185 villages out of 205 villages were declared drought hit while in Raipur block 36 villages out of 86 villages were drought affected The villages have faced crop destruction of 50% and above.

OBJECTIVES

A field visit was undertaken to the drought-hit villages of Bhilwara district The objectives of the visit was to examine the situation and impact of drought on the village, to assess the status of ongoing relief works and to list out the lacunae as well as suggestive measures for effective management of Drought

ACTIVITIES

A field visit was made to the drought hit and declared villages of Bhilwara district of Rajasthan. The visit was made with the above-mentioned objectives in mind and the observations are detailed out as follows. An active interaction was also done with the administration dealing with Relief works in drought-hit areas to find out the lacunae and measures to be undertaken for effective drought management. The observations made during the visit are as follows:

■ **Village:** Mor Ka Nimbhahera: This village falls in the Aasind block of Bhilwara district It is a drought-hit village, which is located approximately 35 kilometers from the city. Farmers in this village normally sow their crops after a single spell of shower However if they don't receive rainfall in the next ten to fifteen days, they start anticipating a drought. Drought period may not be restricted to the summer months only but may be extended thereafter also. Typically, the rainfall may fill the fields with water but it may not fill up the water bodies of the region The water in the fields provides water to the Kharif crops The dry water bodies on the other hand cannot provide water to the Rabi crops, which are sown later in the year. Hence the drought situation may last throughout the year.

■ **Migration:** Drought results in migration of young and able-bodied men to the city to work in Textile and other factories. Men are also picking up dairy as a subsidiary occupation However middle aged men as well as old aged people can normally be seen sleeping at their homes or loitering away their time gambling and talking during the day They do not normally share the burden of household chores either.

Impact on Women: A drought situation resulted in the increased workload of women. Their daily routine involved getting up early in the wee hours for of the morning to perform household chores, reporting for food for work program at 6 o'clock in the morning till 1 pm in the afternoon, getting fodder and taking care of the livestock, going to far off places to arrange for drinking water and performing minor agricultural tasks. The women in this village faced health problems like malnutrition, anemia etc They tend to eat less food than men and boys of the household. Girl children were given lesser opportunities to receive education than their male counterparts Migration of men to cities and other places normally did not pose any security problems for women in this village. If there was any untoward incident involving their security, the matter was sorted out by the head and the old people of the village The villagers inflicted punishments like social boycott and physical beating to the offender Women felt secure in the village in the absence of their husbands.

■ **Relief work:** There were three food for work programs being organized in the village namely, Jamuna Sagar Project, Dharamsala Project and Dev Sagar Project The Jamuna Sagar Project involved the digging of a pond for storage of water A visit to the site of Jamuna Sagar Project revealed that out of 45 persons 42 laborers were women. They were being paid Rs.73 per day on the basis of measurement of work. 75 percent was paid in kind and 25 percent was paid in cash. BPL (Below Poverty Level) families were preferred in enrollment for the work The medical facilities were provided to the workers

as a nurse visited them regularly and gave free medicines if required.

However certain aberrations were observed in this project Firstly duplicity of labor was reported for these programs in certain cases. Secondly, certain families were preferred while others were neglected while engaging labor for food for work programs. This may have been due to the biased approach of the Sarpanch (head) of the village, as he wanted to secure his vote bank for the forthcoming elections

ACHIEVEMENTS

This study provided an overview of the situation of drought-hit village in Rajasthan It threw light on the impact of drought in the village. It highlighted the status of relief works taken up in these areas. The study also helped to list out the problems faced by the administration in Drought management and the possible suggestive measures.

LESSONS

Some specific problems observed during the field visit and which the officials at the grass root level also highlighted were as follows.

- Lack of trained manpower at the block level. The training imparted was generally theoretical
- Lack of awareness generation at the community level on how to deal with drought
- People were largely dependent on the government relief There was a general lack of confidence and will power among the masses on dealing with the situation themselves.
- Local resource mobilization of Scouts, NCC, Youth was very poor.
- Regular updating of village profiles was not being done The people did not know the contact details of important personnel at the grass root level in the wake of a disaster.
- People were largely dependent on traditional sources of irrigation. Modern means of irrigation needed to be developed to reduce dependence on rainfall.

FUTURE

Some of the suggestive measures that flew unabated from the study are as follows.

- Gender sensitivity needs to be maintained in distribution of relief material. Provisions should be made to take care of the children of women labor in "Food For Work' Programs. For e.g. Crèches can be opened for children of women who are working as labor in the relief works.
- Timely distribution of seeds should be done to the farmers by the concerned agencies. Farmers are normally forced to buy the costly seeds from the urban areas as seeds are not provided at the time of sowing
- Farmers should be made aware of plants and crops, which are drought resistant and can serve as alternative source of livelihood
- Awareness needs to be generated about the type of fertilizers and seeds to be used in drought prone years. It was observed that farmers bought high yielding seeds, which were costly and required a lot of water. In drought period the high cost of the seeds and the inability of the seeds to resist drought finally doubled up the loss of the farmer.
- Efforts should be made to encourage farmers to take up alternative sources of livelihood like dairy, goat rearing, poultry, multipurpose farming etc.

CONTACT DETAILS

Dr. Ajinder Walia

Senior Research Officer
National Institute of Disaster Management,
Indian Institute Of Public Administration campus,
I.P Estate, Ring Road, New Delhi -110002.

Tel: 011-23702432
ajinder@nidm.net
ajjiwalia@rediffmail.com