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Paper No. 6

**PRINCIPLES, CONCEPTS AND
TERMINOLOGY OF DISASTER
MANAGEMENT**



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1


A presentation to
the Medical Disasters and Preparedness
Workshop on Disaster Management
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by

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2



ADPC Definition of DISASTER:

- An event, either man-made or natural, sudden or progressive, the impact of which is such that the affected community must deal with it through exceptional measures.

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3

Definition of Management

21

Types of Disasters

1. Natural

- a. cyclone
- b. flood
- c. earthquake (and related seismic events, land slides, etc.)
- d. tsunamis
- e. volcanic eruptions
- f. drought (also man-made)
- g. forest fires, either open area or urban (also man-made)



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2. Man-made

- a. civil conflict
- b. displaced people, refugee events
- c. environmental degradation
- d. industrial, technological hazards
- e. nuclear, gaseous, chemical contamination
- f. famine
- g. drought
- h. fires and explosions
- i. building collapses



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RECIPE FOR A DISASTER:

Hazard x Vulnerability = Potential for Disaster


Hazard
And
Vulnerability
Equals

.....
Potential for Disaster (Risk)




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The extent to which ...






HAZARDS can be eliminated or diminished,

VULNERABILITIES can be lessened or mitigated, ... determines the extent of a disaster.




The difference between an **EMERGENCY** and a **DISASTER** is a matter of **AWARENESS** and **CAPABILITIES** to address a risk.






Current Prospects

1. Where do Asian and Pacific countries stand now ?
 - a. Disasters are a fact of life in the region.
 - b. People are becoming less fatalistic than before.
 - c. Still many people impoverished and the population is increasing. Hence, there are more vulnerable people



Current Prospects (Continuation)




- d. Relatively unsophisticated emergency services.
- e. Better organized institutions, and improving communications
- f. Increasingly self-reliant
- g. Growing awareness of relationship between disasters and development, but conflicting budgetary priorities.
- h. Growing awareness of benefits of regional & international cooperation.

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Current Prospects (Continuation)

2. Thinking Ahead - new types of hazards and vulnerabilities

- a. New types of hazards and increasing vulnerabilities.
- b. Growing opportunities for awareness and preparedness through training and collaboration.



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Current Prospects (Continuation)



3. The Future Prospects in Asia

- a. Disasters of geologic origin to continue at same (as suggested by historical cycles that may apply)
- b. More, and more severe, climatological disasters.
- c. Increasing populations & land use demands will lead to more environmental degradation.
- d. More people in hazard-prone areas.
- e. Increasing industrialization will lead to more technological accidents.
- f. New variants to emerge.

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Disaster Management

A. Definition

An applied science consisting of a continuing process of systematic observation, analysis, and dissemination that allows for the conscious structuring of a series of events or conditions, by the timely and informed application of resources.



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Objectives of Disaster Management

1. To prevent avoidable loss of life.
(to ensure the safety of those people most at risk)
2. To minimize human suffering.
(improve the effectiveness of emergency response)
3. To alert and inform the public and authorities of prevailing risks to their collective well-being and to encourage the initiatives necessary to mitigate them.
4. To minimize property damage and economic loss.
5. To speed recovery and rehabilitation... toward development.
(re-establishment & improvement of social, economic, and environmental systems after a disaster)

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ESSENTIAL PRE-REQUISITES FOR EFFECTIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT








- Legal basis 
- A clear Government policy statement 
- An organizational structure
- Human resources to make things happen 

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The Actors ...





- The affected people (who should be the starting point)
- The government including all its resources including MCDA
- The donors
 - multi-lateral
 - bi-lateral
 - businesses
- The NGO's
- The media





Motives of Various Actors

- ... humanitarian
- ... political
- ... economic
- ... strategic
- ... self-interest



Disaster Management Skills

- Socioeconomic
- Political
- Technical
- Local Knowledge
- Managerial
- Inter-Personal/Organizational



A disaster manager is:

- a good *general* manager
- understands disasters
- understands contingency planning
- is a good *crisis* manager
- is a leader



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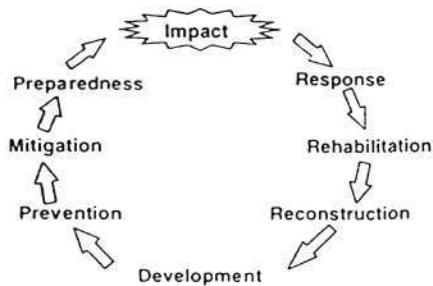
Geographic Focus of Disaster Management
- The Community Increased responsibilities
 contra increased resources

- Self
- Community
- District
- Province
- Country
- Region
- International - IDNDR as example




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THE DISASTER SPECTRUM






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Prevention


Measures taken to prevent a disaster from occurring, if possible. (To impede a hazard so that it does not have any harmful effects)






Mitigation


Measures taken prior to the impact of a disaster to minimize its effects (sometimes referred to as structural and non-structural measures).





Preparedness

Measures taken in anticipation of a disaster to ensure that appropriate and effective actions are taken in the aftermath.



Response



Actions taken immediately following the impact of a disaster when exceptional measures are required to meet the basic needs of the survivors.



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Rehabilitation



Actions taken in the aftermath of a disaster to

- 1) assist victims to repair their dwellings,*
- 2) re-establish essential services and*
- 3) revive key economic and social activities.*



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Reconstruction



Permanent measures to repair or replace damaged dwellings and infrastructure and to set the economy back on course.



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Essential Elements in Disaster Management

Information–Awareness–Initiative–Response–Application

THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF EFFECTIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ARE PRECISELY THOSE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE UNDERTAKEN AND PURSUED AT THE TIMES WHEN THERE IS NO DISASTER

Unfortunately, that is also the time when it is hardest to engage people or (policies) to concentrate their attentions and resources on these important functions.

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Key Requirements

- Awareness
- Initiative
- Commitment
- Expenditure
- Information
- Participation
- Institutionalization
- Operational structure

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Concepts & Trends in Disaster Management

1 Changing Definition of the Problem

- Increasing (types and frequency) of risks.
- Increasing technical knowledge.
- Proliferation of "man-made" rather than natural hazards.
- Standardized "systems" framework of the disaster cycle.
- Identification and shifts in the context of vulnerability.

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Concepts & Trends in Disaster Management (cont'n.)

2. Changing Expectations of the Need for "counter-disaster" actions, awareness, training
- a. Rising public expectations.
 - b. Recognition, as a system, of the importance and continuity of training - to a wider audience.

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Concepts & Trends in Disaster Management (cont'n.)

3. Changing Concepts of Response to disaster problems:
- a. From emergency response to a greater consideration of root causes.
 - b. From post-disaster assistance to pre-disaster preparedness
 - c. From readiness to mitigation.
 - d. From dependency to self-reliance.
 - e. From rapid outside aid to integral inside aid.

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Concepts & Trends in Disaster Management (cont'n.)

3. Changing Concepts of Response to disaster problems
- f. From individual aid to restoration of services
 - g. From individual assistance to community support
 - h. From relief to development.
 - i. Recognizing crisis management as a specialty.
 - e. From "ad hoc" to "specialized and professional"

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Concepts & Trends in Disaster Management (cont'n.)

4. Changing Roles and Responsibilities

- a. From emergency agency to everyone's responsibility.
- b. From donor to victim accountability.
- c. Rise in public awareness and interest.



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Concepts & Trends in Disaster Management (cont'n.)

5. Summary of these changing attitudes

- a. Fatalism ----- Higher expectations.
- b. Dependency ----- Self-Reliance.
- c. Response ----- Counter-disaster.
- d. Specific threat ----- All hazards
- e. Top-down ----- Community-based
- f. Ad hoc ----- Planned development approach
- g. Single agency ----- Inter-disciplinary

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Five Pre-requisites for Effective Disaster Management

- Sustained awareness
- Finance
- Human Resources development
- Institution building
- *political will*



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A Thought to Ponder

"The art of war teaches us to rely not on the likelihood of the enemy's not coming, but on our own readiness to receive him; not on the chance of his not attacking, but rather on the fact that we have made our position steadfast."

Sun Tzu., China, 500 B.C.

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