

COMPREHENSIVE TSUNAMI DISASTER PREVENTION (CTDP) TRAINING COURSE

2nd JUNE-11th JULY, 2008

FINAL REPORT

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Individual Action Plan

1.1 In the interim report submitted in the fourth week, I had outlined my action plan towards promoting tsunami countermeasures. Needless to say that the Japanese experience in the field of disaster mitigation including tsunami is meticulously planned and well managed. The experience gained during this training programme is quite amazing. However, the countermeasures adopted by Japan to mitigate tsunami disaster can not be applied in toto in our country due to various reasons such as socio-economic, geographical, topographical etc.

Every country has its own administrative set up and individuals working there have also been given a specific role within that set up. Upon my return to the country, I would like to apprise the Government of the following issues relating to disaster mitigation in particular tsunami:

- (i) disaster mitigation and preparedness are as important as the response, relief and rehabilitation
- (ii) countermeasures have to be a combination of institutional, structural and non-structural measures
- (iii) institutional and community capacities to be enhanced
- (iv) awareness among the citizens particularly among the vulnerable section of society is most important and may be taken up on a priority basis
- (v) effective participation of residents in the planning and implementation of disaster related activities may be ensured.

As I have been placed in a division dealing with externally aided programmes, my job involves supervision of UNDP programmes in India. Given the sphere of work, my proposed course of action would revolve around the following focus areas:

- (i) there is a need to shift the focus from response, relief and rehabilitation to mitigation;
- (ii) specific plans for the hazard prone areas;
- (iii) enhancement of institutional and community capacities;
- (iv) participation of the community in the mitigation process;
- (v) awareness campaign on a very large scale needs to be initiated; and
- (vi) priority to the projects on mitigation.

UNDP's development assistance to India is channelized through Country Cooperation Framework which is co-terminus with India's five year plan. The priority areas of cooperation are finalized in accordance with the Government's priorities and goals during the plan cycle. The last programme cycle was for the period 2003-07. Government of India has entered into a new programme cycle with the UNDP which has become effective this year and will remain in force till December, 2012. 'Crisis prevention and recovery' was one of the priority areas during the previous programme cycle. This is one of the priority areas in the present cycle also.

The following programmes were undertaken during the previous cycle and are still in operation:

- a) post Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme (TRP)
- b) Disaster Risk Management Programme(DRMP)

While the first programme deals with the post tsunami rehabilitation of the people in the affected areas, the second programme is all about enhancing the capacities of institutions at the national, state and the local level and the communities. DRMP aims to contribute towards the social and economic development goals of the National Government and also enable the State Governments to minimize loss of development gains from natural disasters and reduce vulnerability. It is being executed in 169 most hazard prone districts of 17 states. The focus of the programme is on awareness generation and education, training and capacity development for mitigation and better preparedness in terms of disaster risk management recovery at community, district and state levels, and strengthening of state and district emergency operation centres for accurate and timely dissemination of warning. A wide representation of women has been envisaged in the project. The programme components include capacity building of disaster management teams, training, awareness programmes, drills etc.

Both the above programmes are coming to an end on 31.12.2008. In the future programmes which will be coming in a few months under the current programme cycle, my effort would be to utilize the knowledge acquired through this training course in the area of tsunami mitigation.

1.2 Schedule of action plan

The following areas, visualized by me at this stage, consist of my individual action plan (attached as Annexure 3 with the country action plan):

- Receipt and examination of UNDP projects under the thematic area "Crisis Prevention and Recovery"
- Strengthening of institutional set up
- Preparedness of communities

As the country programme has started this year only, new projects under the approved thematic areas are yet to be received. It is expected that in the coming few months, the same would be received. Once the projects/concept notes under the thematic area 'Crisis prevention and recovery' is received, the same would be examined. If necessary, consultations with originating line Ministry/Departments as well as the UNDP would be made to ensure that the project objectives are in line with the Government's priority areas. After examination, the project would be approved. The project period, generally, is for five years.

Expected time schedule - six months to one year

After the approval of the project, the activities envisaged under it will start. The activities relating to strengthening the capacities of institutions at the State and local level will be taken up because unless the capacities of institutions are not enhanced, communities can not be prepared for disaster reduction.

The strengthening of the institutional capabilities could be done by mainstreaming the disaster management planning process in the state and local plans.

Expected time schedule - two to three years

Once the institutional arrangements are in place, steps for community preparedness would be taken. The proposed initiative would create widespread awareness about risk from natural disasters and the need for enhanced preparedness at community and institutional levels to mitigate their impact. Once the programme is complete, evaluation studies would be conducted to see the impact of the initiatives taken.

Expected time schedule -four to five years
