



Disaster Management Community



Community Update

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From the Resource Team

Dear Members,

The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR-13 October) was organised across the world and in many states of India to create awareness and to sensitize public on the importance of reducing risks against disasters. The goal of IDDR for 2015 was "Knowledge for Life" and the theme was based on "*traditional, indigenous and local knowledge which complement modern science and add to an individual's and societies' resilience*". On the occasion of IDDR Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, United Nations said "Traditional and indigenous knowledge is the indispensable information base for many societies seeking to live in harmony with nature and adapt to disruptive weather events, a warming globe and rising seas". The full text of his message can be read at <http://www.un.org/en/events/disasterreductionday/2015>.

The Government of Himachal Pradesh, UN Disaster Management Team and United Nations Volunteers program jointly organised awareness programs with youth on adopting traditional knowledge with modern science to Risk Reduction. The Jharkhand State Disaster Management Authority organised programs in schools to mark the IDDR.

The National Disaster Management Authority observed 29 October as Risk Reduction Day and for the occasion it has highlighted 3 important steps in safeguarding self and family members: 1) Get to know the hazards, vulnerability and risks of your areas. 2) Know the Do's and Don'ts beforehand. 3) Construct buildings as per building codes. NDMA has published number of IEC/ICT materials and Guidelines, which can be downloaded from <http://www.ndma.gov.in/en/>.

The 7.5 magnitude earthquake on 26 October 2015 in the Hind-Kush region of Afghanistan (SW of Jarm) at a depth of 196 Km rattled many parts of Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Indian states of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir. The frequency of disaster events (Nepal and Afganistan-2015), calls for integration of traditional and indigenous knowledge with modern science for building a culture of preparedness to reduce risk and to enable individuals and societies to be resilient.

The Community Update # 137 covers information from across the world, community news, welcoming new members, upcoming World Conference on Disaster Management-2015 at Visakhapatnam in November and knowledge about the traditional and indigenous knowledge from Odisha, Kerala and other parts of the country.

Thank members for their contribution to the Community Update # 137 and request to share topics for query/discussion/research in the community that could be taken up for identifying knowledge gaps.

With warm regards,

G. Padmanabhan and Mahendra R,
Resource Team, DM Community of Practice,
UN Solution Exchange.

Members Postings

Recently Held - Workshops and Conferences

From, [Victor Igbokwe](#), UN Volunteer, New Delhi.

The State Government of Himachal Pradesh in collaboration with United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT), celebrated the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) 2015 in Shimla, with the objective of raising awareness on the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge, to complement scientific knowledge in disaster risk management and to highlighted approaches for "promoting volunteerism" in implementing the Sendia framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The program was organised on 12 and 13 October 2015 in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

The Honourable Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh and Chairman State Disaster Management Authority, Mr. Virbhadra Singh inaugurated the event on



13th October. Senior Government officials of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), and United Nations were present for the program. The event commenced with a solidarity march from the Chief Minister's residence to the City Centre.



organized conference and presentation of papers, solidarity march and demonstrations on emergency and rescue missions by NDRF, Police and Firefighters.

From, [Sanjay Srivastava](#), SPO, GoI-UNDP, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi



International Day for Disaster Reduction programs were held on 13 October 2015 in Kasturba Gandhi girls High School, Anganda and Namkum; Xavier Institute for Social Sciences Rural Camp. The program reached out 600 children and 30 teachers. The programs talked about Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

Adaptation; about various Hazards, the Do's and Don'ts actions to be taken during disasters and conducted mock fire drill in all the 3 locations. The

Community News

Consolidated Replies

The PDF Version of the Consolidated Reply "**DISCUSSION: Recommendations to the World Humanitarian Summit- Experiences; Examples**" can be read by clicking [here](#).

New Query

A new query titled "**DRR and CCA in the New Education Policy - Examples; Advice. Reply by 6 November 2015.**"

To respond to the query, please click [here](#)

From Our Partners

National Institute for Disaster Management, New Delhi is conducting number of training programs, events and online courses. For more details please visit <http://nidm.gov.in/default.asp>

UN News for India and Bhutan

The UNIC October 2015 newsletter covers views and news related to Sustainable Development begins with Education, Countering Terrorism, and Work force for the Future, International Peace and Non-Violence. For more news click on the site http://www.unic.org.in/items/Newsletter_October2015.pdf

Update your Profile!

Request members to share the latest contact details to enable us to be in contact. Please [click here](#) to update your contact (*Your Name, Organisation, Email Id and Mobile Number*).

Membership

Thank Someshwar Das, Vrindanath, Saurabh Dalal and K S Hosalikar for joining the community. Welcome all of them to the DM Community of Practice and look forward for your active participation.

We request members to spread word within your network, about Disaster Management Community of Practitioners, UN Solution Exchange and request them to become members of the community or ask them to write to: se-drm@solutionexchange-n.net.in

Announcements

program was facilitated by Mr. Manoj Singh, DDMO, Ranchi; Kamal, Poonam. T. Surin- Community Based Organisers and Sanjay Srivastava, State Project Officer, DRR program, Government of Jharkhand.

From [Tanushree](#), *Consultant, Airports Authority of India, New Delhi.*

Airports Authority of India and UNDP organised an inception workshop on 27 October 2015 for enhancing preparedness of Airports for disasters. The



workshop focused on co-ordination and communication between various unit operating in the Airport, if emergencies are declared inside and co-ordination with Civil Administration if Air Accidents occur outside the airport. What are the business continuity plan in place in case emergencies

and disasters? The workshop was attended by senior officers from various airports across the country. The workshop was held under the guidance of Chairman of Airports Authority of India.

Upcoming Events

Conference

From [Mahendra. R.](#), *UNDP, New Delhi*

2nd World Congress on Disaster Management-2015

The 2nd World Congress on Disaster Management-2015 is organised by Government of Andhra Pradesh and DMICS from 19th to 22nd November 2015 at Visakhapatnam/Vizag, Andhra Pradesh. To know more about the event, request to visit the Website: <http://www.wcdm.info> or contact convenor at convenorwcdm2014@wcdm.info ; drsananadababu@wcdm.info or click on the link [event website](#) for more details.

International Conference on Disaster Management and Civil Engineering. April 12-13, 2016 Kyoto (Japan)

The 2nd International Conference on Disaster Management and Civil Engineering (ICDMCE'2016) will be held from April 12-13, 2016 at Kyoto (Japan). It is aimed for the scientists, scholars, engineers and students from the Universities all around the world and the industry to present ongoing research activities, and to foster research relations between the Universities and the Industry. For paper submissions [Click here to download Call for Paper/leaflet for this conference](#) . For any query please write editor@urcae.org or contact Prof Dr. Kazuaki Maeda Chubu University, 1200 Matsumoto, Kasugai, Aichi 487-8501, JAPAN. E-mail: kaz@isc.chubu.ac.jp, kmaeda@gmail.com, kaz@acm.org; <http://edu.isc.chubu.ac.jp/kaz/>. **Submission Deadline: Nov. 20, 2015.**

Resources

From [Joe George](#), *Institute of Land and Disaster Management, Kerala*

KAVU - an ecological haven: A model of respecting the order of nature in Kerala.

From [Satya Prakash Mehra](#), RSNH, Rajasthan, India

The Rajputana Society of Natural History (RSNH), is a registered NGO working on the interdisciplinary aspects of conservation and environmental protection through community mobilization and sensitization in the rural areas of Rajasthan. We seek Volunteers/ Interns (who need practical experience/exposure) to work on the aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) especially for floods and drought (water stress conditions) in rural areas of Rajasthan with primary focus being Bharatpur area.

For more details please contact Satya Prakash Mehra at 09414165690 or write to drspmehra@yahoo.com

Sendai Framework for DRR

The Sendai Framework for DRR (SFDRR) contains multiple direct references to the need for a strong focus on communities and indigenous peoples:

- 7. "While recognizing their leading, regulatory and coordination role, Governments should engage with relevant stakeholders, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, poor people, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, the community of practitioners and older persons in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards."
- 24. (i) "Ensure the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices, as appropriate, to complement scientific knowledge in disaster risk assessment and the development and implementation of policies, strategies, plans and programmes of specific sectors, with a cross-sectoral approach, which should be tailored to localities and to the context;"
- 36. (v) Indigenous peoples, through their experience and traditional knowledge, provide an important contribution to the development and implementation of plans and

The blending of land, religion, myth, culture and civilization harmoniously together in a small space brimming with greenery, it is christened as *Kavu*. It is a natural space seen near traditional homes in Kerala. These small verdant patches, deemed sacred in the culture and tradition of Kerala and is home to



The dense greens spread of the Chammakavu grove

numerous herbs, plants and trees preserving a special gene pool. *Kavus* help in soil and water conservation besides preserving its rich biological wealth. The ponds and streams adjoining the groves are perennial water sources. These are the last resorts to many of the animals and birds for their water requirements, especially during summer. Groves enrich the soil through its rich litter composition and also home for many of

medicinal plants and scared flowers. The ecosystem provided by the concept of *Kavu* is worth imitating. The document can be read at

<http://solutionexchange-un.net.in/ftp/drm/resource/Res30101501.doc>

From [Seema Mohanty](#), Odisha Disaster Management Authority, Odisha.

Photo Essay – Indigenous Kitchen Gardening



From [Vijayalakshmi](#), Saferworld Communications, New Delhi.

mechanisms, including for early warning;

Consolidated Replies on indigenous Knowledge

Using Traditional Folk Media in Disaster Risk and Vulnerability Reduction – Experiences.-2008.

(Shares good practices and lessons learnt of using traditional folk media in minimizing disaster risk and vulnerability reduction from across India) The Consolidate Reply can be downloaded by clicking on the link provided <ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/drm/cr/cr-se-drm-21080801.pdf>

Translating Traditional DRR & CCA Knowledge into Action - Referrals; Advice -2011.

(Provides experiences of capturing traditional knowledge using innovative communication tools along with references of organizations and individuals working on related issues.) The Consolidate Reply can be downloaded by clicking on the link provided

<ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/clmt/cr/cr-se-clmt-drm-21111101.pdf>

Images of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge for DRR



Over the years many institutions working on issues related to Disaster Risk Reduction have made efforts to document traditional and

indigenous knowledge which have helped in reducing risk and also early recovery. Efforts are made to compile images of the traditional and indigenous knowledge from varied sources for the benefit of readers.

To view the images, please click on the link provided http://solutionexchange-un.net.in/Images_of_Traditional_DRR.pdf

Indigenous Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction

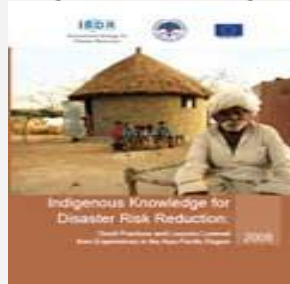
The UNISDR Publication "Indigenous Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction: Good Practices and Lessons Learned from Experiences in the Asia-Pacific Region"-

Repository of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge

The Environment, Risk Reduction and Adaptation (TERRA) in partnership Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network, Disaster Management Community of Practice, Solution Exchange, UNDP, AusAid, SEEDS, Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre, Regional Centre for Development Cooperation (RCDC) and a range of partners including individuals, local and national organisations held series of consultations in December 2011 to build repository of traditional and indigenous knowledge to reduce risk. The document can be download at http://solutionexchange-un.net.in/ftp/drm/resource/TERRA_report.pdf



2008 aims to build awareness for indigenous knowledge as an effective tool for reducing risk from natural disasters. The document can be download at



http://www.unisdr.org/files/3646_IndigenousKnowledgeDRR.pdf

News from around the world

Indonesia's fires labelled a 'crime against humanity' as 500,000 suffer : Uncontrolled forest fires across Indonesia is considered to be one of the reason for a half a million cases of respiratory infections, with the resultant haze covering parts of Malaysia and Singapore now being described as a "crime against humanity". Tens of thousands of hectares of forest have been alight for more than two months as a result of slash and burn – the fastest and quickest way to clear land for new plantations. Indonesia is the world's largest producer of palm oil and fires are frequently intentionally lit to clear the land with the resulting haze an annual headache.



The fires have caused the air to turn a toxic sepia colour in the worst hit areas of Sumatra and Kalimantan, where levels of the Pollutant Standard Index (PSI) have pushed toward 2,000. Anything above 300 is considered hazardous. Endangered wildlife such as orangutans have also been forced to flee the forests because of the fires. Six Indonesian provinces have declared a state of emergency.

Afghanistan Earthquake-2015: The death toll of in the magnitude-7.5 earthquake that rocked Pakistan and Afghanistan rose to 385 on Wednesday.

According to Associated Press, 267 Pakistanis were killed of which 220 of them only in the North Western Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Afghanistan reported 115 dead, while three people died in Kashmir. Several aftershocks followed Monday's quake, which was centred in a remote area in Afghanistan that borders Pakistan, Tajikistan and China. More than 10,000 homes were damaged in northwest Pakistan, while Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's office said that more than 7,600 homes were destroyed and 558 people injured in that country.



Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue!

If you have items to feature in this News Update, please send it to Solution Exchange for the Disaster Management Community in India at se-drm@solutionexchange-un.net.in. In case your email doesn't support viewing this news update, please visit [UNDP India website](http://www.un.org/india) to read.

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