

MALAYSIA
NATIONAL SUMMARY REPORT
I D N D R

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SECTION A: PROFILE

(This section contains relevant basic information about your country.
Please complete and check the information already included.)

1. Composition of National Committee (Focal Point):

(Please list the names of the institutions represented and indicate in the brackets the number of members for each group)

* **Ministries [4]**

National Security Council, Prime Minister's Department (1)
Ministry of National Unity and Social Development (1)
Malaysian Meteorological Service (1)
Drainage and Irrigation Department (1)

* **Academic & Research Institutions []**

* **Non-Governmental Organizations []**

* **Media []**

* **Private Sector []**

* **Others []**

2. Internal organization of the National Committee

(Please describe hierarchy, responsibilities, coordination and cooperation mechanisms in natural disaster reduction activities.)

- * Malaysian Security Council being the Secretariat to the Malaysian Natural Disaster Relief Committee is responsible for planning, coordinating and supervising the relief operation during flood.

3. Prevailing hazards

Type	Location	Affected Population
Flood	Major river basins in Malaysia	2.7 million

(Please attach additional information if necessary)

4. Recent natural disasters

Type	Location	Affected Population	Losses
Monsoonal Flood in 1988	Kelantan River Basin	36,800	RM 29.8 million

5. National socio-economic conditions

* Population: 18.5 million

* Gross-National Product (GNP): 8.5%

* Per-Capita Income: US\$ 3000

6. Availability of assistance to other countries in the field of natural disaster reduction.

(Please list potential resources, scientific expertise, technology, etc.)

- * Telemetry system for flood monitoring, forecasting and warning.
- * Seismological station network operation and maintenance.

In order to reduce the sufferings of the victims caused by the disasters, the Malaysian Government donated shoes and clothing to victims of volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines in June 1991. Assistance was also given to the victims of earthquake at Flores Island in December 1992 valued at RM 250,000.00. The most recent donation was given out to the victims of earthquake in India in November 1993 valued at RM 250,000.00

7. International assistance required for natural disaster reduction

(Please indicate requirements for scientific expertise, technology, resources etc.)

- * Scientific expertise in the field of flood forecasting modelling is sought for the establishment of suitable flood forecasting models in major river basins in Malaysia.

SECTION B: STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

(This section deals with current or planned strategies and activities)

1. Steps towards achieving the 3 main Decade targets

- (a) **Comprehensive national assessments of risks from natural hazards, with these assessments taken into account in development plans;**

* Earthquake: A National Working Group on Earthquake Risk Management is being proposed.

- (b) **Mitigation plans at national and/or local levels, involving long-term prevention and preparedness and community awareness; and**

* Earthquake: To be recommended by the proposed National Working Group.

In term of preparedness the Department of Social Welfare has been assigned with three main functions:

- i) Locate, prepare and administer evacuation centres;
- ii) Prepare and forward food, clothing and other needs for the victims;
- iii) Responsible for the rehabilitation of victims.

- (c) **Ready access to global, regional, national and local warning systems and broad dissemination of warnings.**

2. Present national plan for natural disaster reduction

a) Time span covered:

* Sixth Malaysian Plan (1991-1995) and Seventh Malaysian Plan (1996-2000).
The Department of Social Welfare submits its preparedness plan to the National Security Council annually so as to enable them to coordinate it with other activities in preparation of any disaster occurrence.

b) Agencies, institutions and organizations involved:

* Prime Minister's Department, Ministry of Information, Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Malaysian Meteorological Service, Social Welfare Department, Local Councils and Municipalities.

c) Implementing agencies:

* As in 2(b)

d) Funds available for implementation:

- * Sufficient funds are provided to all the state Social Welfare Department yearly to enable them to organize relief programmes for disaster victims. The total fund available annually is RM 3,175,000.00
- * Malaysian Government, Asian Development Bank, World Bank etc.

3. Legislation introduced and enacted in relation to natural disaster reduction

- * National Land Code
- * Waters Enactment
- * Building, Street and Drainage Bylaws
- * Environmental Quality Act
- * National Forest Policy

4. Disaster mitigation activities completed or underway:

A lot of activities are completed or underway, they can not be detailed here.

a) Identification of hazard zones: hazard assessment

Title of project: National Water Resources Study

Status: Completed in 1982

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

Prime Minister's Dept., Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Works, Posts and Telecommunication, Ministry of Primary Industries and Japan International Cooperation Agencies (JICA)

Costs of project: Not available

Sources of funding: Japan Government

Implementing agencies: Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Ministry of Agriculture

Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:

Director General
Department of Irrigation and Drainage
Jalan Sultan Salahuddin
50626 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: 03 298 20 11
Fax: 03 291 42 82

b) Monitoring, prediction and warning

Title of project: Flood Forecasting and Warning Systems in Malaysia

Status:

- i) Flood forecasting models are in operation in 3 major river basins.
- ii) 20 river basins have been equipped with telemetric systems for flood monitoring and warning.
- iii) 43 flood sirens have been installed at strategic placed.
- iv) 62 flood warning boards have been installed at flood prone areas.

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

Costs of project: RM 8 million

Sources of funding: Malaysian government

Implementing agencies: Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Ministry of Agriculture

Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:

Director General
Department of Irrigation and Drainage
Jalan Sultan Salahuddin
50626 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
Tel: 03 291 10 11
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c) Short-term Protective measures and preparedness

Title of project: Extension of flood forecasting services to 20 river basins.

Status: Being implemented.

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

Costs of project: RM 3 million

Sources of funding: Malaysian Government

Implementing agencies: Department of Irrigation and Drainage

Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:

Director General
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Jalan Sultan Salahuddin
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d) Long-term preventive measures

Title of project:

Status:

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

Costs of project:

Sources of funding:

Implementing agencies:

Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:

e) Land-use and risk management

Title of project: Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping of the Upper Klang Catchment of Malaysia

Status: Completed in 1988.

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level: ESCAP.

Costs of project: Not available

Sources of funding: UNDP fund for the service of flood risk and mapping expert.

Implementing agencies: Department of Irrigation and Drainage.

Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:

Director General
Department of Irrigation and Drainage
Jalan Sultan Salahuddin
50626 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 03 298 20 11
Fax: 03 291 42 82

f) Public education and information

Title of project:

Status:

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

Costs of project:

Sources of funding:

Implementing agencies:

Address (telephone and fax-number) of the agency in charge:

5. Plans to fully achieve Decade targets by the end of 1999

(As in 4 above, for each area of activity [i.e., hazard zoning/assessment, monitoring, preparedness, etc] please indicate as applicable, the project title, the participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level, the costs of projects, the sources of funding and the implementing agencies.)

- * In order to fully achieve targets by end of this decade, the Malaysian government has pro-active approach in dealing with its natural disasters especially in flood mitigation measures. The planning and implementation of all stages of flood mitigation measures are coordinated by the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department. Under such measures an allocation of RM 700 million has been allocated under the Sixth Malaysian Plan (1991-1995) for implementation of the following major flood mitigation projects:

- a) Flood mitigation dams
- b) River improvement works
- c) Drainage system improvement (urban and rural)

On non-structural flood mitigation measures, the Government has embarked on the following programmes:

- a) Weather forecasting
- b) Flood forecasting and warning mechanism
- c) Flood preparedness and relief mechanism
- d) Flood proofing measures
- e) Resettlement programme
- f) Catchment development and management strategy
- g) Flood plain management

SECTION C: INTERACTIONS

(This section focuses on international involvement in the IDNDR.)

1. Publications on IDNDR-related subjects:

(E.g. manuals, brochures, bulletins and other publications of relevance to IDNDR. Please mention title, author/institution, place and year of publication)

- * Publication of ASEAN Natural Disaster Information Network Newsletter published by the Malaysian Meteorological Service.

2. IDNDR meetings and conferences held or planned:

(Please indicate, date, location, organizing agency, national and international participation.)

- * Eighth Meeting of ASEAN Experts Group on Natural Disasters, Langkawi, Malaysia, 9-11 August 1993.
- * The Department of Social Welfare organizes training programme for its officers at National level on "Disaster Management". They are briefed on their responsibilities and functions in order to deal with the Disaster victims effectively.
- * IDNDR activities is regularly discussed at the annual meetings of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Meteorology and Geophysics.

3. Current or planned partnerships and cooperation related to IDNDR with other countries

(Please indicate Governments, National Committees, Institutions or Organizations involved.)

- * Cooperation amongst ASEAN countries exists and each country is represented by respective national committee of the government.

SECTION D: EVALUATION

(This section analyses national progress and outlines possible improvement.)

1. Overall evaluation of national disaster mitigation programmes including, but not limited to, those initiated after IDNDR and achievements up to now

(Please elaborate on whether the targets set by the National Committee, if any, the national disaster mitigation plans or other IDNDR activities have been met. If not, please indicate reasons.)

- * The Malaysian government is planning to introduce The Geographical Information System (GIS) as a model for flood disaster mitigation in which the computer based information system could provide quality information on an integrated basis, be it predictive, concurrent, or post-facto. It could enhance the quality and effectiveness in actions during all stages of flood disasters. While recognizing that Malaysia's flood disaster mitigation programmes is well-structured and operating well, it is felt that the introduction of a GIS would serve to bring about substantial improvements in its overall effectiveness.

2. Review of the IDNDR

(Critique of the Decade to date and suggestions for improvement/modifications in the second half.)

- * Realizing the immense loss, damage and the suffering of the victims of natural disasters all over the world, in terms of lives and properties and also the disruption to their lives, all the countries should commit to reduce and minimise potential losses and damage to lives and properties in their individual countries through:
 - a) mitigation and preventive measure;
 - b) enhancing public awareness of the effects of natural disasters through civic education and practical training on life saving techniques for communities in the natural disasters prone areas;
 - c) upgrading of systems and procedures on managing natural disasters to ensure speedier relief for victims;
 - d) the inculcation of the spirit of togetherness and self help amongst members of the communities in natural disaster prone areas, in order that speedy initial assistance is rendered before organized government assistance can reach affected victims;
 - e) evocation of public sympathy and assistance for victims of natural disasters be it in their own country or in other countries in the spirit of solidarity and mutual assistance.
- * The unprecedented scale of socio economic development that has been taking place in Malaysia in the last twenty years has provided continuous impetus to the rapid growth of urban and rural settlements, many of which, for historical reasons are situated in flood-prone areas. Along with social and economic development comes the nationwide aspiration for a higher and better standard of living, thus the acceptance of occasional flooding as a way of

life is rapidly becoming a philosophy of the past as flood events prove more destructive with the increasing social and economic development.

- * Since 1971, Malaysia has moved from a previous low level and ad-hoc type of activities to a positive approach in order to come to grip with the flood problems of the country. On the whole, a framework has now been established to study flood problems affecting an entire river basin, a city or a town, and to implement flood mitigation works to deal with flood problems, or to reduce flood damages through effective and practical non-structural measures. Investments in engineering works for flood mitigation can be justified in terms of economic or social benefits or both. To the extent that there are no suitable alternatives, the implementation of flood mitigation works should be undertaken as a basic requirement for economic development and social well being of the people.
- * Lastly, we Malaysians are committed to mitigate any hazard caused by natural disasters such as flood, earthquake or any other forms of natural disasters in line with the goals of the IDNDR.