

ASSESSMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE DECADE

Information on Provider

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Experience and Recent Disasters (Part 1)

1.1. Please provide a list of major disasters your country has experienced during the past five (5) years.

Severe floods occurred at most of the flood prone areas of the country during July and September in 1997.

1.2. What were the impacts of the above listed disasters?(i.e direct damage to assets vs. long-term damage to the local economy, health, etc).

Considerable damages to loss of lives, property and agricultural production.

1.3. Which measures were taken to reduce the impact of the disaster? What measures will be taken to avoid impacts of future disasters? Disaster preparedness measures such as improving forecasting and warning, improving flood prevention and mitigation works such as flood detection dams, river improvement works, river diversions and construction of river embankments; organizing disaster relief measures; organizing public awareness programmes by conducting short term training courses.

1. Do you believe there can be improvements in preparing for natural hazards in your country and in preventing negative impacts of such hazards? What sort of improvements? Improvement in forecasting and warning; improvement in flood prevention and mitigation; improvement in public participation in fighting against disasters; improvement in action plans; improvement in emergency relief measure.

1.5. Do you believe the IDNDR helped your country to give greater attention to disaster reduction?

Yes No Explain.

1.6. Please provide an example(s) an achievement (s) incorporating successful preventive approaches which you consider a "success story"

During 1997 and 1998 floods, flood warnings were issued (10) days in advance for Ayeyarwaddy deltaic area. Flood preventive measures were able to undertake in time flood fighting teams were formed and able to control familiar in most parts of embankments and there were no loss of life in that area.

Progress made, since the inception of IDNDR, in the field of disaster reduction as a component of development planning and risk management (Part 2)

2.1. Please provide a brief statement of national accomplishment and/or describe current activities related to the achievement of the IDNDR Programme Targets:

(a) Comprehensive national assessment of risks. If an assessment exists, is it published or codified?.....
Comprehensive national assessment of risks is not exist yet, flood risks assessment was done to a certain flood prone areas; A map indicating probable disastrous earthquake prone areas with respect to Mercalli Scale.

(b) Structured mitigation plans. Do documented comprehensive national disaster management plans exist? Plans at national, provincial and local levels, if available, will be useful to describe the progress.....
Comprehensive national disaster management plans do not exist yet but sub-plans such as welfare, public information, and structural flood mitigation plans are in good progress.

(c) Ready access to global, regional, national and local early warning systems. Can you provide examples of early warning practices and demonstrated successes?
Early warning system for weather and climate is providing weather and climate conditions to public; monthly, pre-monsoon period, mid-monsoon period, post-monsoon period and over all monsoon period; early flood warnings were issued for those periods. The warnings are quite useful to the users and public.

2.2. What obstacles do you face which prevent the accomplishment of the Decade targets? What are your recommendations to best overcome these obstacles?.....
Most of the monitoring equipments and instruments are becoming shortage and out of date, modernization and replacing of these facilities are urgently needed. Telecommunication for transmission of data and information need to be upgraded.

2.3. To what extent have you established and implemented educational and information programmes aimed at generating public awareness? What methods of information dissemination have been utilized?.....
Conducting short-term training courses in townships, using video to show about disasters such as storms, floods, tornado and earthquakes distributing pamphlets about how to protect and prevent in coming disasters, writing about disasters in newspapers.

2.4. Have you liaised with policy makers and major groups, such as local authorities, NGOs, and the media, in order to ensure support for and effectiveness of disaster reduction programmes? Please describe your activities.....
Whenever any kind of disasters arrised in States and Divisions, Commanders of States and Divisions headed a committee including concerned governmental departments, police force, Red Cross and fire brigade to undertake necessary measures.

2.5. To what extent have you worked with other sectors in incorporating disaster reduction activities into their planning (i.e. insurance, banking, private sector and development agencies)?
The fire insurance policy is mostly practice in the country. The private sector is participating in donation for disaster's victims.

2.6. The Decade provides an international arena for information exchange as well as an extensive international network of partners, how have these inputs contributed to achieving the goals of the Decade?

Myanmar is now becoming a member country of ASNET-RESED Project which is the network of rapid exchange of Seismological data among ASEAN countries.

Regional/Subregional Achievements based on national perspectives (Part 3)

3.1. Please describe important achievements in your region/subregion on disaster preparedness and reduction since the inception of the IDNDR.

Disaster Management Training Programme process and conducted by DTCP in Yangon from 25 April to 6 May 1994, which included the country workshop and the high level conference.

3.2. Do you take part in any regional/subregional mechanism on disaster reduction? If yes, what type of mechanism is it and is there any linkage to IDNDR? Please describe.

3.3. Have you participated in any regional/subregional events related to IDNDR? If yes, what are the benefits gained from these events?.....

Myanmar always participating in regional events, such as attending symposium, training seminars, workshops concerning with disaster management.

3.4. Is there any need to further strengthen regional/subregional cooperation in disaster preparedness and reduction? If yes, please explain.....

It is necessary to exchange data and information among the countries in the region. Computer network should be established in the region so as to exchange data and information rapidly and efficiently. Transfer of technology among the countries is another important factor, need to be implemented.

Structures in Place (Part 4)

4.1. Is there a designated government authority for disaster reduction activities? If yes, is this authority's commitment to prevention embodied in the government structure, priorities, budget and legislation?

A National Disaster Management Committee, headed by the Minister of Social Welfare is a designated government authority for disaster reduction activities.

4.2. Have budget lines for disaster reduction and preventive activities been made available in your government's budget?

The government is allotting budget to the concerning department, such as Social Welfare Department, Relief and Resettlement Department, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Irrigation Department, Myanmar Construction Enterprise and Fire Services Department.

4.3. Have legislative authorities (national, state or local level) established legal frameworks for the implementation of disaster mitigation measures (ie. land-use planning, water and forest management, building codes)?

Legislative authorities were established at national level for implementing land-use planning, water and forest management, building codes, etc.

4.4. Have academic institutions and professional schools in disciplines such as engineering, geology, agriculture, architecture, urban planning, business or public administration incorporated in their curricula applicable disaster-reduction concepts and measures? Please provide examples.

Yangon Institute of Technology is providing lectures concerning about engineering structures to resist earthquake. The Department of Geology is also providing lectures as well as research works on Seismology.

4.5. Have networks been build in order to aid in the transfer and application of existing knowledge and technology, information dissemination and international collaboration? Please briefly describe.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology had already linked with computer network with neighbouring countries to exchange data and information, apart from ASNET-RESED Project as mentioned before.

4.6. Who are your principal working partners? Do they represent an interdisciplinary approach to disaster reduction?

Relief and Resettlement Department, Social Welfare Department, Irrigation Department, Fire Services Department, Health Department, People's Police Force, Myanmar Construction Enterprises and Myanmar Red Cross Society.

Future Requirements (Part 5)

5.1. Given your experience since the inception of the Decade and the new challenges of disasters in the 21st century, please provide comments as to what you believe are the necessary future requirements needed to successfully carry disaster reduction activities into the 21st century. Listed below are some criteria for your consideration:

- international mechanism for coordination
- budgetary commitments
- policy commitment
- network building
- information dissemination
- communication tools
- local authorities
- links to economic and social development programmes, environmental protection and sustainable development

There is a good international mechanism for coordination, but it is still needed to promote especially among under developing countries. There are budgetary constrained in most of the under developing countries and therefore it is necessary to act assistance from international organizations and developed countries. Regarding policy matters, it is better to get agreement in laying out policy among the countries in the region. Among the countries in the region, the network building is quite satisfactory, but it is still needed to upgrade. It is also needed to upgrade communication system in order to get rapid and efficient dissemination of information. In most of the under developing and developing countries, it is needed to promote economic and social development programmes in fighting against disasters, it is not only to prevent loss of lives and properties, but also needed to protect environment whenever laying out plan for development programmes, it is important to put sustainability as a priority matter.

5.2. Please identify priorities in international cooperation, such as the establishment of regional/subregional warning systems, disaster preparedness, technology transfer, financial resources, technical assistance, etc. which you deem pertinent in order to sustain disaster reduction activities in the future.

The developing and under-developing countries still need financial resources, technical assistance and technology transfer, and therefore it is necessary to put these factors at higher priorities.

5.3. What sort of national or international measures would you like to be put in place in the 21st century?

At National Level it will be more appropriate to put Main Action Plan which should be revised with all available past informations and experiences. It contains the primary parts of the plan, such as the disaster, the main requirements for dealing with the disaster, resources, organization, direction and co-ordination warning, operational implementation of the plan counter disaster operations, recovery policy and post-disaster review.