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Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!

World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2011

Pasig is getting ready!

City of Pasig, The Philippines

Population: 503,680 (2007)

Type of Hazard(s): Typhoons, Floods, Earthquakes and water logging

Located in Metro Manila in The Philippines, city is bordered on the west by Quezon City and Mandaluyong City; to the north by Marikina City; to the south by Makati City, Pateros, and Taguig City; and to the east by Antipolo City, the municipality of Cainta and Taytay in the province of Rizal. The extent spans over 31.88.3 hectares with 2 legislative districts and 30 Barangays. Pasig is a primarily residential and industrial city but increasingly becoming a growing commercial area.

Disaster Risk Reduction activities

City DRR interventions are based on the participatory approach empowering the community on the decision making process. Recognising the 8 high-risk barangays, community based hazard maps and action plans were prepared having community based risk assessment training. Those maps are very much in the use for deciding on the development planning of the city. Structural mitigation measures for flood mitigation are also taking place. Construction/ elevation of dykes on the riverbanks and some places on the Laguna, improvements to city drainage system, periodical maintenance with repairs and desilting of canals are some of the activities.

The city has invested in having schools in every village and health centres, besides the two government hospitals in the city. The city has commenced school awareness training programmes to send the message of DRR through the next generation. The training is organised with the Department of Education. Since the city is prone to seismic vulnerability, safe school concept in terms of structural strength has to be implemented after further ground level studies. Pasig has developed the own land use plan for development control and it is smoothly functioning integrating the disaster risk reduction measures. On building regulations, a special emphasize is on the adhering to the remedies for earthquakes, limitations on the number of floors and enforcing the structural interventions.

Pasig follows and implements their plan for greenery maintenance of the city under the office of the Pasig city Environment and Natural Resources. It is campaigning under a theme of “Let’s advocate 101 ways towards a Greener Lifestyle – Earth Fun Run cum Replanting”. City has a good EWS supported by well trained and equipped Search and Rescue team known as Pasig Recue. The SAR team is equipped with high tech tools and equipment and is capable of handling multi hazard situations including chemical and biological accidents. City developed an emergency preparedness program in response to floods, typhoons and earthquakes including SOP and contingency plans. Pasig Rescue has top-of-the line CCTV for monitoring key areas, rescue equipment for collapsed structure. SAR, water based SAR, swift – water SAR, and suits for low risk chemical incidents. The team receives training and refresher training in order to maintain the standards of the service. The City was awarded with the National Kalasag Award for Rescue Category.