

PARTICIPATORY URBAN RISK MANAGEMENT:

Action Workshop on Education for Sustainable Development

1. Background

The impacts of disasters, whether natural or man-made, not only have human dimensions, but environmental ones as well. Environmental conditions may exacerbate the impact of a disaster, and vice versa, disasters tend to have an impact on the environment. Deforestation, forest management practices, or agriculture systems can exacerbate the negative environmental impacts of a storm or typhoon, leading to landslides, flooding, silting and ground/surface water contamination – as illustrated by the 2004 hurricane and storm tragedies in Haiti, and in the Philippines. We have only now come to understand these cyclical causes and impacts and realize that taking care of our natural resources and managing them wisely not only assures that future generations will be able to live in sustainable ways, but also reduces the risks that natural and man-made hazards pose to people living today. Emphasizing and reinforcing the centrality of environmental concerns in disaster management has become a critical priority, as advocated by UNEP, requiring the sound management of natural resources as a tool to prevent disasters and lessen their impacts on people, their homes and livelihoods. Thus, understanding of current practices of disaster preparedness has to intrinsically incorporate environmental management issues. The link between environment and disaster is prominent in the area where natural and social issues merge. Environment-disaster linkage, rural urban linkages are the issues linked to the overall concept of human security. Climate change impacts are often regarded as the missing link between environment and disaster.

Meteorological and hydrological events, such as typhoons, are hazards that cause heavy rain, high wind and sea surges. But the real damage also happens due to the vulnerability of the people who lie in its path. Post-disaster assessment of hurricanes and typhoons have clearly illustrated that, along with disaster preparedness, proper management of the environment – its air, land, water, forests, and wastes, go a long way in reducing the risks and vulnerabilities associated with typhoon. Need for better environmental management also finds its precedence in the risks and hazards posed by industrial sites, as a result of earthquakes, landslides, flooding etc.

As cities all over the world have urbanized rapidly after the industrial revolution, most cities have confronted environmental problems such as poor air and water quality, high levels of traffic congestion and ambient noise, poor-quality built environment, derelict land, greenhouse gas emissions, urban sprawl, generation of waste and waste-water. In particular,

cities in the developing world face problems related to the living conditions in which the urban population lives. In the context of urban cities in the developing world, it can be narrowed to the quality of life of living population in the cities. Basically, examples of environmental issues in urban cities include problems such as pollution of local waterways and unfilled land due to uncontrolled release of wastewater, unsanitary conditions of many low-income settlements, low-level of urban solid waste collection, amounts of industrial hazardous waste, or air pollution. These problems are caused by inadequate development plan to avoid the environmental problems as well as urban poverty such as a lack of access to basic services.

In order to counter the urban city problems, numerous initiatives supported by development assistance agencies were launched and attempted to provide basic needs and alleviate poverty. However, there has not been sufficient emphasis on environmental sustainability, despite the fact “sustainable development,” which consists of three pillars of environmental sustainability, economic sustainability and social sustainability, has become one of the most popular words in the field of development. The environmental problems in cities are particularly complex as their causes are inter-related. The environmental problems have an adverse affect on not only health, but also economic activities and social issues. For example, problems related to a poor quality built environment are often linked to underlying socio-economic problems. However, in fact, relatively lower priorities were given to environmental problems than other noticeable issues, especially economic issues like unemployment and business depression.

In developing counties, disasters cause major setbacks to economic and social development, and cause the diversion of funds from development to emergency relief and recovery. Urban areas are particularly vulnerable to disruptions from extreme events where the combination of structural poverty, decaying and substandard infrastructure, high population densities, and concentration of economic assets and commercial and industrial activities magnify the problem.

2. Programs

Date	Activity	Venue
Day 1 23 rd July (Sunday)	AM: Arrival of Participants	
Day 2 24 th July (Monday)	<p>8:30 – 9:00 Registration 9:00-10:00 Opening Session Welcome remarks: Masashi Kamon, Dean, GSGES, Kyoto University Opening remarks: Kazuou Iida, Managing Director, ACCU Introductory remarks: Hari Srinivas, Chief of Urban Environment Management Unit, UNEP/IETC Workshop Overview: Rajib Shaw, Kyoto University Self introduction of participants</p> <p>10:00-10:30 <i>Coffee Break</i></p> <p>10:30-12:30 Key note lectures: Urban Disaster Issues: Norio Okada Urban Environmental Issues: Kazuhiro Ueta</p> <p>12:30-14:00 <i>Lunch Break</i></p> <p>14:00-17:30 Video conference</p> <p>18:00 <i>Official Reception</i></p>	<p>KU GSGES Lecture Hall</p> <p>Kyoto University Media Center</p> <p><i>Noa Noa, Kyoto</i></p>
Day 3 25 th July (Tuesday)	<p>9:00-10:30 Module 1: Risk Assessment: Fumio Kaneko, OYO International</p> <p>10:30-11:00 <i>Coffee Break</i></p> <p>11:00-12:30 Module 2: Action Planning: Loma Victoria, Centre for Disaster Preparedness (CDP)</p> <p>12:30-14:00 <i>Lunch</i></p> <p>14:00-15:00 Plenary Presentation from Japan: Toyooka City: 20 minutes Presentation from abroad: Nepal: 20 minutes Discussion: 20 minutes</p> <p>15:00-17:00 Group Discussion Three groups: government, NGO and Community</p> <p>17:00-18:00 Plenary Discussion</p>	KU GSGES Lecture Hall
Day 4 26 th July (Wednesday)	Field Trip to Nishinomiya	Nishinomiya City
Day 5 27 th July	9:00-10:30 Module 3: Decision Making: Hari Srinivas, UNEP	KU GSGES Lecture Hall

(Thursday)	<p>10:30-11:00 <i>Coffee Break</i></p> <p>11:00-12:30 Module 4: Implementation Management: Hidetomi Oi, JICA</p> <p>12:30-14:00 <i>Lunch</i></p> <p>14:00-15:00 Plenary Presentation from Japan: Kitkyushu City: 20 minutes Presentation from abroad: Bangladesh: 20 minutes Discussion: 20 minutes</p> <p>15:00-17:00 Group Discussion Three groups: government, NGO and Community</p> <p>17:00-18:00 Plenary Discussion</p>	
Day 6 28 th July (Friday)	<p>9:00-10:30 Module 5: Education for Sustainable Development: Rajib Shaw, Kyoto University</p> <p>10:30-11:00 <i>Coffee Break</i></p> <p>11:00-12:30 Module 6: Information and Communication Management, Manu Gupta, SEEDS</p> <p>12:30-14:00 <i>Lunch</i></p> <p>14:00-15:00 Plenary Presentation from Japan: Saijo City: 20 minutes Presentation from abroad: Thailand: 20 minutes Discussion: 20 minutes</p> <p>15:00-17:00 Group Discussion Three groups: government, NGO and Community</p> <p>17:00-18:00 Plenary Discussion</p>	KU GSGES Lecture Hall
Day 7 29 th July (Saturday)	<p>9:00-12:00 Discussion on Future and follow-up activities Course evaluation</p> <p>12:00-13:00 <i>Lunch</i></p> <p>13:00-17:00 Open Forum on Urban Risk Management</p>	<p>KU GSGES Lecture Hall</p> <p>Siran Kaikan, Kyoto University</p>
Day 8 30th July (Sunday)	Departure from Kyoto	

3. Background of Participants

The participants will come from a wide range of background. Mainly, it consists of:

- *Local government officials and chief executives* (Japan: 9, Sri Lanka: 1, Malaysia: 1, Indonesia: 1, Vietnam: 1)
- *Academic and research organizations* (Bangladesh: 1, Nepal: 1, Japan: 10),
- *Non-government organizations (NGO) and consulting firm* (India: 2, Philippines: 1, Thailand: 1, Vietnam: 2, Japan: 3)
- *International organizations/ Foundation* (JICA: 3, UNEP: 1, ACCU: 1)

Total number of participants is around 40.

4. Expected output and outcome

Expected output will be a training module for Urban Risk with specific focus on the six different modules described above. This training module will consist of six module descriptions, case studies, and discussion results.

The long term expected outcome is trained professionals, who will return to their respective cities, and will utilize the training materials for actual implementation. This is the most important part of the training program, and therefore an evaluation and discussion on the follow-up activities will be made on the final day of the event.