



RIS

Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

GDC

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

REPORT

on

Launch of Special Issue of Development
Cooperation Review (DCR) on

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT



Friday, 5 February 2021

6.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. (IST)

Introductory Session



Amb. Amar Sinha

Distinguished Fellow, RIS

- India has successfully brought together developed and developing countries as partners of development for building disaster resilient infrastructure to protect both lives and livelihoods. Global Development Centre (GDC) at RIS seeks to promote such initiatives from India and other developing countries.
- GDC aims to showcase evidence of leadership globally through development cooperation by the way of sharing of knowledge and experience to boost resilience.
- This will be leveraged for building partnerships with different institutions like CDRI. The partnership is functional in the areas of governance and policy, emerging technology, risk identification and estimation, recovery and reconstruction, resilience standards and certification, finance, and capacity development.
- Disaster preparedness and mitigation have become two necessary conditions for sustainable development of a planet reeling under effects of climate change.
- Every disaster exposes faults in process of hasty urbanisation. With Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in place, India's indigenous urban planning according to the globally set standards for disaster risk reduction has been a pioneer in setting international standards.
- India has vast experience in handling disasters of unprecedented proportions. The country has handled innocuously Odisha Cyclone in 1999, Tsunami in 2004, Uttarakhand floods 2013 to name a few from the many calamities.
- Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's plethora of practical experience in managing disaster related situations as the Chief Minister of Gujarat has helped him in managing natural calamities in various parts of the country. His timely and proactive involvement in taking stock of the situation and deploying machinery in provisioning of relief, rescue operations and reconstruction of the regions have helped states get back on feet as soon as possible after getting struck by nature's fury.



Mr. Rajeev Issar
Crisis Bureau, Global DRR
Team, UNDP

Mr. Issar contributed effectively in developing the narratives for the publication to bring in the global trends of discourses/dialogues on the mechanisms to cope with disasters, especially those resulting from extreme climatic events. Through the current issue of DCR on Disaster Risk Management, he attempted to profile some of these initiatives in a wider context.

Key points made by him:

- Development of DRM as an institutional policy inculcating the concept of shared risks across countries.
- COVID is more than a global challenge affecting lives and livelihoods equally in all nations.
- Entire typology of risk in a globalised and inter dependent arena affect even those who are not directly in the line of impact by all countries and communities.
- Unavailability of social safety nets and issues of informality are still not covered under DRM.
- Analysing existing characteristics of shared risks, shared vulnerabilities, shared nature of the challenges. COVID has blurred the distinction between developed, developing and underdeveloped countries and have traditionally lived over North-South world view. The need for South-South cooperation is imperative.
- All UN agencies including UNDP supports DRM endeavours for scaling up.
- He thanked DG, RIS for taking up the issue of DRM as a development discourse in RIS.

He gave his remarks on the disaster resilience and India's approaches towards disaster risk reduction.

Key points made by him:

- The DCR issue on Disaster Risk Management and captures multiple issues and different dimensions.
- He mentioned about an interesting paper on the activities taken up in Brazil under DRM.
- 7 points agenda with special reference to DRM and development cooperation:
 - i) DRM is relevant and important in both bilateral and multilateral contexts. It is no longer a relief, recovery, and reconstruction-based activity but sustained support in rebuilding lives and livelihoods.



Mr. Kamal Kishore
Member of National Disaster
Management Authority, Govt.
Of India

- ii) DRM support should become more context sensitive along with the size of the support. While rebuilding we have to be culturally sensitive towards the localised context especially considering the needs of the local.
- iii) Technological Knowledge - We may not have complete know how but India has got some improved forecasting techniques on multiple time scales including seasonal forecasting etc. He discorded with South-South cooperation model in the context of DRM and emphasized that South-South, North-South, South-North collaboration is required. Coalition based on horizontal spaces as DRM issues are similar in nature. E.g. India is building new infrastructure as part of DRM and Japan and US are rebuilding, renovating or replacing existing infrastructure of 20th Century gaining from our experiences. Directionality is not to be always from North to South or South to South, rather it has to be built in all directions. Development of strategic areas of cooperation and capitalise on that. CDRI is an expression of that reality.
- iv) Turn joint exercises to joint protocols so that a transformation comes in how we work together. It will give structure to the responses when big events occur.
- v) Complementing specialised support intended to affected nations. E.g. Providing HR support and technical expertise from all directions in addition to material support.
- vi) Leveraging wider influence in how post disaster humanitarian work or reconstruction, recovery happens beyond our own assistance in the local national level. Not just through our assistance but through other partners. That will ensure greater impact.
- vii) Connecting with CSOs across the world on Community Disaster Management issues. Eg. Reconstruction programme of Nepal where owner driven reconstruction programme along with beneficiaries. NGO who worked in Gujarat provided support in Nepal to empower communities not becoming dependent on anybody.



Prof. Milido Chakrabarti
Visiting Fellow and Managing
Editor, DCR

Prof. Chakrabarti discussed broadly about the special edition on DRM and the various publications chronicled under DCR.

Key points made by him:

- DCR was intended to provide a platform to the thought leaders and practioners all across the globe to give a Southern perspective on the process of development, cooperation and the gaps in the process to be located. For three years DCR is accounting the experiences in these areas.



Mr. Akhilesh Mishra
Additional Secretary
(Economic Relations), Ministry of
External Affairs, Govt. of India

- The vulnerabilities often strike at the very foundation of the development of a country where the developing nations suffer most. Therefore, there is a need for cooperation in different planes.
- The idea of this special issue is in alignment of this thought process of collaborations and cooperation for the observables and un-observables. Eventually get prepared for any untoward disaster for preparedness at the shortest available time.

Mr. Mishra released DCR's special edition on Disaster Risk Management. He enriched the participants with his valuable comments on India's continuing efforts in restabilising the affected nations hit by disasters and possible partnership with RIS/GDCs as potential contributors in the development cooperation dialogues in different countries.

Key points made by him:

- Disaster management has become a matter of concern in the govt. and outside the govt.
- It's a concern with the growing complexities due to its nature of the inherently multidimensional, multi sectoral, multi disciplinary sector that disaster represents. It is not localised and restricted within the livelihoods of the people affected. It has much wider implication; economically, politically and diplomatically.
- DRM is an evolving area and every passing day represents newer facets of disaster to be prepared for. In addition to the man-made issues we also need to get prepared for potentially disastrous hazards such as pandemics, oil spills, biological nuclear activities, terrorist attacks, etc.
- Growing understanding between connect between development and disaster. The poorest being the most vulnerable. There is need for a broader inclusive matrix for the policy planners and examine the matter in a holistic and long-term manner to have better disaster resilience.
- Govt. of India to hold G to G consultations among like-minded nations, have collaborative strategies and develop SoPs which are bound to occur and recur.

Panel Discussion



Dr. A. Subbiah

Director, Regional Integrated
Multi-Hazard EW System
(RIMES), Bangkok



Mr. Gatkuoth Kai

Technical Coordinator for
DRR, Department of Rural
Economy and Agriculture, AU
Commission.

- He categorized 5 phases of early warning system:
 - ♦ Phase 1:
 - ✦ Before late 70s - there was no early warning system.
 - ✦ After 70s - Gradually science technology improved.
 - ♦ Phase 2: In 1980s - 12-14 hour or 24 hour forecast came. But it was focussed on single hazard.
 - ♦ Phase 3: When Tsunami happened, there was a paradigm shift from single hazard focus to multi hazard early warning system. It was again a hazard focussed system.
 - ♦ Phase 4: In the course of evolution, there is a lot demand to have a common approach, because impact is common. Even though origin is different, impact is common. It is an impact based forecast system.
 - ♦ Phase 5: After COVID 19, again there is evolution. It is not merely impact based forecast system, but we need to have anticipatory process.
- DCR report really brought out a kind of trajectory, how it is going to evolve in future.
- So far, you experience something and then you build system, that is Deterministic system. After COVID 19, we are moving from Deterministic process to probabilistic way of managing disasters.
- India played a key role in all the phases, not only in neighbourhood but also in the pacific and other regions. In phase 5 also, India is playing a key role.

Key points made by him:

- African countries face high disaster and climate risks. Recently these risks have become borderless transcending regional and national peripheries. Regional countries of Africa are facing floods as well as drought simultaneously including locusts' invasion. These kind of multiple risks are affecting many countries at the same time.
- With Covid 19, we have learnt that the way we respond to disasters normally will not be relevant in addressing futurist uncertainties. Rich nations have enough vaccines in their stocks. The concern now is how to get the vaccines delivered on time. Yet poor nations are left behind, struggling how to afford and

are lacking in information regarding the processes for ordering the vaccines. There is fear of futurist management will be leading towards nationalistic approach (Vaccine Nationalism) with the possibility of setback in the worldview of one human community. Futurist management requires much multilateralism and even bilateralism. The African Union can address multifaceted system better if we act together and support one another. With this view in mind, in 2004, African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction was developed. In 2005, AU joined the Global Community in negotiating the Hyogo framework and the same was done for Sendai framework. In 2015, Africa became the first continent to develop a concrete programme of action for the implementation of Sendai framework. With Sendai framework in place the African Union Commission has been working with the regional economic communities in Africa. In this Africa is collaborating with DFID, UNDRR, World Bank and African Development Bank and several other implementing partners have been involved together to implement the programme of action. There is an umbrella programme in progress in sub-Saharan countries and communities on building disaster resilience to natural hazards. This has facilitated enhancement of knowledge in risk management and strengthened capacities of regional economic communities to be able to implement the DRM agenda in their respective member states.

- The country also managed to build an enabling environment for disaster financing and also putting in place basic hydro-meteorological infrastructure for weather and climate related hazard. In addition, continental and regional mechanism have been established as a platform to disseminate information, respond to the pandemic and share best practices among member states during COVID 19. More effort is needed to utilise these platforms to respond to future disasters because it has been seen in the African countries that new mechanisms were created to respond to COVID 19 which is counterproductive. It has been learnt that every time new mechanisms cannot be developed and instead we have to optimally utilise existing mechanisms, make them much better and robust and keep improving them to respond to neo-hazards. Given the increasing nature of disasters, a multi-hazard early warning system is being developed by African Union Commission along with its partners. AU Commission is working with UNDP to develop an institutional framework for establishing a disaster coordination centre in Addis Ababa, a regional disaster operation centre in our five regions to make sure that there is better coordination in responding to trans-boundary risks and uncertainties. We invest in a system that interoperates seamlessly within continental and national levels. This will also guide African response to global emergencies and disasters in addition to act as centre for coordination and reference for African regions and countries. With this system we believe that there is a great opportunity for South-South Cooperation and other global mechanisms to achieve knowledge and resources between different S-S countries as well as triangular cooperation.



Dr. Emily Wilkinson,
Overseas Development Institute
(ODI), London

Key points made by her:

- Early warning systems and the potential they have: There is huge investment in impact based forecasting, which is very similar to what Mr. Subbiah was talking about. There is great potential in this area.



Dr. Mona Chhabra Anand
Director, Research & Knowledge
Management, CDRI

Globally the requirement of infrastructure in the next 20 years would surpass the infrastructure that has been created in the last 200 years. This amount to nearly 94 trillion dollars of investment in the next 20 years and about 50% of this investment is expected to be made in Asia.

Key points made by her:

- If the global trends are followed in terms of physical losses due to disasters in the last decade, we have been suffering an average loss of 43 billion dollars per annum. Every time creation of new infrastructure is lost to disasters. Therefore some method is required to address this chaos.
- CDRI is trying to bring out some method in this:
 - A- Access (Equitable access to infrastructure for all),
 - B- Benefit (Benefits everybody especially the vulnerable in a meaningful way),
 - C- Contextual Relations (It has to fit the local context),
 - D- Design (Influence designers and other actors for deriving at solutions that lasts and can withstand disasters and climate extremes)
- One of the first pillars of CDRI is to extend technical assistance, enhancing knowledge and understanding of each other as partners of development. CDRI engages with a range of stakeholders at various levels through dialogues, workshops to build consensus and build a momentum around bringing up resilience in infrastructure development.
- Through the second pillar, CDRI engages in developing capacities by providing technical assistance and capacity building support for repair, retrofitting and rebuilding of infrastructure across. CDRI also facilitates knowledge exchange between peers and other countries around the areas of work. It also supports innovations

and new solutions in the DRI space. E.g. Sri Lanka shared their experiences with Odisha in building disaster resilient infrastructure that can withstand the cyclones.

- The third pillar of CDRI speaks of improving sector specific practices like multi-hazard risk assessment to capture the un-observables and design infrastructure around those.
- The fourth pillar being development of standards and certifications, especially, the processes to be adopted to make disaster resilience a critical performance standard within the infrastructure space. CDRI also intends to create a market space for disaster and climate resilience infrastructure solutions where people can extend and exchange services.
- CDRI wants to work in the policy environment to draw greater attention and rally around the agenda of resilient infrastructure, also attract adequate financing to be invested in the resilience lines. CDRI has 21 nations as members along with multilateral organisations World Bank, UNDRR, UNDP and ADB including ARISE network from the private sector.
- All of us are highly appreciative of the effort that has gone into putting this special issue together. We are particularly appreciative that you included a piece on CDRI. We are grateful for this opportunity.
- CDRI is trying to bring in some method. The collaborations need to look at how technical assistance is to be provided to each other between South-South, North-South and other partners.

RIS A Think-Tank of Developing Countries

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues.

The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

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