



Executive Workshop

On

Disaster Management in India “Business Continuity Cost Efficiency”

19th -20th December, 2023

At

Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi (India)-110001



Introduction of Workshop

The Institution of Civil Engineers (India) - ICE(I), in collaboration with NIDM (National Institute of Disaster Management), Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, IUN-DRR - NIDM , along with UNDRR (the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction) and GETI (Global Education and Training Institute) with ARISE, the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies – UNDRR organised an Executive Workshop on “Disaster Management in India “Business Continuity Cost Efficiency” at New Delhi on December 19th -20th, 2023.

The workshop centered around several key themes, including recognizing the importance of private sector engagement in reducing disaster risks, delving into the specific challenges faced by the private sector in this realm, and assessing proactive measures for risk reduction. Furthermore, it aimed to investigate potential collaborations between national and local governments and the private sector, fostering dialogues to establish effective public-private partnerships that comprehensively addressed disaster risks.



Following were the key highlights of the workshop:

- * Appreciating the importance of Disaster Management in the era of Climate change.

- * Key concepts in Business continuity and cost efficiency
- * Concepts of sustainability, disaster risk management and Life cycle Costing

- * Discovering synergies in the public and private sectors for disaster management
- * Using a template for Risk Contingency planning
- * Laying the foundation for a collaborative framework across sectors for Sustainable Development.



Inauguration and Keynote addresses



The workshop was commenced by Shri Rajendra Ratnoo, IAS, Executive Director of the NIDM. He shared a fascinating story about his unique dedication to Disaster Management during his training as an IAS probationer. This dedication proved instrumental in saving numerous lives and livelihoods at the locations where he served, ultimately leading to a highly esteemed career choice. He spotlighted that Disaster Management has become the focal point of the entire global development agenda, intertwining with our national aspirations for growth.



Dr. S.L. Swamy, Chairman of the ICE(I), said this workshop was a big move to make us stronger against disasters that happen more often. The workshop showed how important it is for businesses to help reduce risks and become stronger after disasters. He talked about plans to make sure businesses can keep going even when disasters hit. The main goal was to give businesses and governments what they need to handle risks well by sharing ideas and showing what works best for a safer future.



During his special address, Shri Sudhendu Jyoti Sinha, Advisor, NITI Aayog, Govt. of India commended the ICE (India) and NIDM for instigating a paradigm shift towards "Business Continuity Cost Efficiency" and emphasizing the involvement of the private sector in discussions. He recounted his journey, highlighting how tasks were successfully achieved, leading India to overcome the challenges of COVID against all odds.



Dr. Sanjya Bhatia, Head of India Incheon at UNDRR's Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) in the Republic of Korea, highlighted the combined wealth of experience among the participants in this August House. He urged the participants to gear up creatively, encouraging them to prepare for the workshop by sharing their reflections, and aligned it with their learning's with the group. He gently emphasized that a workshop involves dedicated effort and hard work from both the faculty and the participants.



In his welcome address Prof. Santosh Kumar, Director, IUINDRR., Senior Advisor, NIDM, brought out the "Business Continuity Cost Efficiency" context of Disaster Management and how it is shaping up global conversations and actions. He emphasized the need for the private sector to be involved in DRR initiatives and to collaborate with the public sector and other stakeholders to achieve risk-resilient societies.



Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh (Retd.), former E-in-C of the Indian Army and Vice Chairman of ICE(I), initiated the executive workshop with a technical session titled "Rising Together: Pioneering a Disaster-Resilient India through Public-Private Collaboration." Following his introduction to the private sector's role and Indian case studies in disaster management, he urged the participants to collectively embark on this journey with open minds and a shared commitment to creating an impact.



Mr. Alf Ivar Blickberg, Program Management Officer at the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), delivered a comprehensive overview of global disasters. His session commenced by exploring the fundamental concepts of hazard, vulnerability, and exposure and their interrelation with disaster risk. The discussion then delved into the impact of Disaster and Climate Risk on Businesses, emphasizing the necessity for more than just contingency planning. Through examples and case studies, he highlighted the shift in perception: rather than being seen solely as a cost, disaster risk management is increasingly recognized as an opportunity to enhance competitiveness. His technical sessions were culminated in an elucidation of "Resilience Tools– A Disaster Risk Plan for your Business."

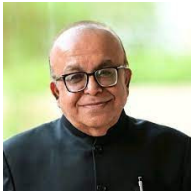


The Veteran of Indian Army Brig. (Dr) K.K. Khanna (Retd.), CEO of ARISE India, addressed the topic of Business Continuity and Business Recovery Planning, highlighting the Private Sector's pivotal role in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. Drawing from the UNDRR's Sendai Framework, Brig. Khanna emphasized the Private Sector's substantial contributions in investing in resilience, fostering innovations and technological advancements, conducting risk assessments, facilitating insurance, and advocating for business continuity overall.



The post-lunch workshop session delved into the in-depth theoretical framework of life cycle costing, led by Prof. B. Bhattacharjee, Professor Emeritus at IIT Delhi. He highlighted that the conventional "business as usual (BAU)" approach,

spanning from mining to waste disposal, is fundamentally non-sustainable, operating as a linear process. Sustainability encompasses social, economic, and environmental facts, with disaster risk management at its core, and life cycle costing serves as the catalyst for integrating it into our practices. His presentation concluded with a straightforward yet comprehensive mathematical model for a better understanding.



Before the workshop officially started, everyone could feel the excitement building. Professor T.R. Piplani, serving as the Master of Ceremony, had been personally welcoming and interacting with each attendee. As a result, group engagement began and participants settled into their seats well before the planned start time.

The theoretical groundwork was succeeded by a structured group discussion, led by Dr. Ashutosh Pathak, Director – Academics and Er. Ishita Arora, Dy. Director – Academics, ICE(I). The session witnessed highly proactive involvement from numerous participants with occasional contributions from dignitaries present on the dias, including Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh (Retd.), Prof. B. Bhattacharjee and Mr. Alf Ivar Blickberg. Their interventions not only complemented momentum of the erudite discussions.



The Structured Group Discussion

The active involvement of delegates stood as the workshop's focal point. It began with knowledgeable subject matter experts reminding attendees of the collective wealth of expertise, amounting to hundreds of hours within the gathering. Throughout various networking and designated breaks, numerous fresh and innovative perspectives emerged. These discussions, sparked by structured group discussions, extended beyond their boundaries and extensively explored the workshop's theme.

The structured group discussions were categorised into six broad buckets and played a catalytic role.

1. "Building Resilient Strategies Across Various Sectors in India — Given the diverse geographic and climatic conditions across the country, how can different sectors formulate distinct strategies to bolster their resilience against the specific types of disasters prevalent in their respective regions?"
2. On Private Sector Innovation—What innovative approaches can the private sector bring to disaster risk reduction, and how can these innovations be effectively integrated with public sector disaster management plans?
3. Biggest challenges in forming and sustaining public-private partnerships—In your experience, what are the biggest challenges in forming and sustaining public-private partnerships in disaster management, and how can these challenges be overcome?
4. International examples of successful public-private collaborations—Are there international examples of successful public-private collaborations in disaster risk reduction that we can learn from or adapt to the Indian context?
5. Improvements in policy and regulatory frameworks —What changes or improvements in policy and regulatory frameworks would better facilitate public-private collaboration in disaster risk management in India?
6. On involving communities—How can we proactively involve communities, along with public and private sectors, in disaster preparedness to build a more resilient society, especially considering the increasing unpredictability of natural disasters due to climate change?

The lively discussions persisted and were agreed upon to carry over into the following day.



Day 2:

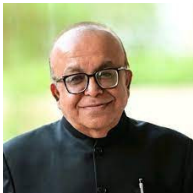
The day-2 continued with the group discussions, which were followed up with Mr Alf's session on the lessons learnt around the world and India. The workshop was presented with intent and a detailed explanation of each segment of the contingency plan template. The participants were encouraged to fill up the template for their practice. The competitive benefits would only be realised if private businesses put these tools and suggestions into their business plan(s).

Valedictory Session:

The workshop themes, concepts and lessons learnt were summed up by Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh (Retd.). Shri Rajendra Ratnoo, IAS in his valedictory address called upon the participants to continue the conversations and build upon the lessons learnt during the workshop. Professor Santosh Kumar, in his closing remarks, extolled the participants for using the newly learned lessons—relating it to an old fable where a wise man teaches a teenage rebel—on the paradigm of making a choice. The competitive advantage was clearly in the hands of the attendees but would be realised only if they decided to use it.



Valedictory Session



Prof. T.R Piplani, Executive Director, Global Engagement ICE(I), the master of the Ceremony ensured that all participants participated and actively learned without any dull moment. His humour and continuous engagement brightened the event, participants and faculty formed a seamless learning unit making the workshop a unique learning experience.



Dr. Preeti Soni Sr. Consultant, IUINDRR-NIDM, proposed the vote of thanks. She explained all aspects of IUIN-DRR to the inquisitive audience and the important role it plays in promoting research, curriculum development, and knowledge sharing related to disaster risk reduction (DRR) among universities and institutions in India.

Workshop Conclusion note

The pioneering workshop, the first of its kind in the country, centered on engaging the private sector, sparking discussions about embracing a comprehensive approach to Disaster Management involving the entire society.

The workshop's primary aim was to equip stakeholders, particularly government counterparts, with the expertise, abilities, and resources essential for recognizing and addressing disaster risks comprehensively. Beyond laying out theoretical foundations,

the faculty offered a profound comprehension of the importance and relevance of integrating the private sector into disaster risk reduction efforts.

Participants were provided with a contingency planning template and received guidance on utilizing it as a versatile tool relevant to their business plans and needs.

The participants gave their takeaways and insights:

- Making family the primary unit and a starting point of all disaster risk reduction activities.
- Evolving specific tailored risk management strategies for various sectors, and scales of businesses as per disaster proneness of the business locality.
- Networks formed—discussions and networking breaks provided the needed opportunities for participants to share their contextual perspectives within peer sub-groups. Similarities and uniqueness of conceptions were depicted in animated discussions.



Recommendations:

1. **Ongoing Training and Capacity Development:** Regular sessions and workshops dedicated to disaster management are essential. These initiatives should cater to a diverse array of stakeholders, encompassing, civil engineers, practitioners and community leaders.
2. **Strengthened Inter-Agency Coordination:** Encouragement for robust coordination mechanisms among various agencies at local, regional, and national tiers is vital. Seamless collaboration during emergencies can be ensured through local communities who act as first responders.

3. **Support for Research and Innovation:** Backing research endeavours aimed at advancing disaster management is crucial. Additionally, fostering innovation in technologies and methodologies will further fortify preparedness and resilience.
4. **Advocacy for Policy and Regulatory Enhancement:** Advocacy efforts should focus on policies and regulatory frameworks that prioritize disaster preparedness and resilience within the society. Incentivizing institutions to invest in cutting-edge infrastructure and training programs is fundamental.

By charting new horizons, this workshop will play a crucial role in championing disaster-resilient infrastructure and advancing our dedication to a safer, more resilient future.