



## Monthly Update

MAY 2010

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An interactive session with students of Mother's International School, New Delhi

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### From Editor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Greetings from GFDR! On behalf of the GFDR team, I would like to thank you all for your support, comments and feedbacks which have tremendously motivated us to constantly improve our work.

Our Monthly Update started with a very humble beginning and we are in the process of upgrading its contents and quality. As an additional feature, we would be reserving this very space to express the views and opinion of the guest editors for the upcoming issues. We would also like to take the opportunity to invite you to be part of our endeavors as a guest editor.

Please feel free to write us for any queries. Looking forward to more news from your end.

Regards,

Victoria Devi Yengkhom

Project Coordinator



## The Gujarat Earthquake Recovery Study

Ongoing Endeavors

As we have been reporting in the previous issues, the study on the recovery status after Gujarat earthquake has come to the final stage and we have submitted the final report along with case studies to ADRC/IRP, after incorporating comments and suggestions from different stakeholders through a state level consultation workshop. The report is under final review before publication. We are looking forward for this report with a hope that this report will surely make significant contributions in managing future disasters.



*A relocated village in Bhuj, Gujarat*

## Interactive Session on Disaster Learning at Mother's International School

New Initiatives

On May 1, 2010, an interactive session on disaster learning was organized by the Mother's International school, New Delhi. **Mr. Anil K. Sinha, Chairman, GFDR**, made a special presentation on **Disaster Learning and Management**. The session was attended by 190 students of Class IX and some of their teachers.



*Students during the question answer session*

This session was very interactive and the students actively participated with enthusiasm and inquisitiveness. These students had some understanding of disasters and disaster

management as it is a part of their school curriculum. However, the presentation has been able to provide a new perspective to the students and make them aware of their role in Disaster Management. Thus, the main objectives of the program were:

- To give suggestion on the projects which can be taken up by the students during the summer vacation;
- To provoke the enthusiasm of the students to become young *Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Ambassadors*;
- To make students more proactive in learning and participation in dissemination of knowledge related with disasters and disaster management;
- To explore the potentials of long term involvement and capacity building of the school community.

The interaction with these young and talented students was an exciting and learning experience for the GFDR team. We express deep gratitude to the school authorities, specially Ms. Rajalakshmi K, Principal and Ms. Ananya Roy, for initiating and facilitating a wonderful session. It has also thrown light on many more new initiatives, which can be taken up to make these up-coming generations more prepared for future disasters. As an outcome of the program, the school authority and GFDR had a discussion to work collaboratively in every



*Mr. Anil K. Sinha, interacting with students*



*Discussing future initiatives with Ms. Rajalakshmi K, Principal, Mother's International School*

possible ways. As a first step towards this endeavor, GFDR will be creating a special section in its website where these students can put their queries related to disasters and also upload and share their summer projects, paintings, slogans, short stories, postures, etc. Consequently, GFDR has been gearing up to make disaster learning for children fun and entertainment.

### **Finalization of M. Tech Syllabus for Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee**

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee established a Center of Excellence in Disaster Mitigation and Management with the aim of National Capacity Building in mitigating natural disasters. One of the objectives of the center is to run M. Tech. program to meet out the engineering solutions to mitigate natural disasters. With the view to create human resource in the disaster mitigation in the country, a two year M. Tech. syllabus in the Disaster Mitigation and Management has been developed. For the finalization of the syllabus, one day round table discussion meet was organized on 24th May, 2010. The main purpose of the meet was to invite suggestions from the eminent engineers, professionals and industrialist working in the area, for their useful comments in drafting the syllabus. Mr. Anil K. Sinha, Chairman, GFDR was also invited as an expert to take part in the panel discussion.

GFDR extends heartfelt wishes for the successful expedition of the course and for achieving its goals and objectives. We are hopeful that in coming years, the center will be able to enrich the country with technically qualified human resource for disaster mitigation.

## Intern with GFDR

We welcome Mr. Pawan Pratap Singh to GFDR as summer intern. He is pursuing MBA (Marketing) from Faculty of Management Studies, Banaras Hindu University. As part of his curriculum, he will be associated with GFDR as Intern for a period of two months (25 May - 25 July) and has been assigned to work on a project- **Developing the Marketing Strategy for New Ideas and Products in the field of Disaster Management** . He will also assist GFDR in exploring the business environment and opportunities prevailing in the market and develop the marketing strategy accordingly.



## First Asian Film Festival on Disaster Risk Reduction (AFFDRR)

Global Forum for Disaster Reduction (GFDR) and Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), Kobe, Japan announce the launch of the First Asian Film Festival on Disaster Risk Reduction (AFFDRR) at fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) from 25-28 October, 2010 at Incheon, Republic of Korea. To read more please visit Prevention Web website: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=14302>

## Fun with Disaster Understanding (FunDU)

As the frequency of disasters has been increasing overwhelmingly, it is a high time for each and every section of the society to be better prepared to mitigate the consequences of disasters. Children being one of the most vulnerable sections of the society, it is important to help them learn about disaster preparedness and enhance their capacity to face any type of disaster as a part of Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives. In order to trigger the enthusiasm of the children in learning about disasters, GFDR has geared up for a new initiative –**DISASTERTAINMENT** (learning of disasters with fun and entertaining activities).



The main scope of this endeavor is to make available as many games, videos, cartoons, postures, charts, slogans, etc. with which children could easily get involve and learn disaster in a very entertaining way. Consequently, GFDR is on the process of developing a special corner for children in its website which will be updated soon. We hope this pioneering step will definitely help in building disaster resilient future generations.

### **Bhopal Disaster or Bhopal Gas Tragedy:**

**Bhopal Gas Tragedy** is one of the world's worst industrial disaster. The unfortunate event occurred around the midnight of December 2 and 3, 1984 at the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India. There was a leak of Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) gas and other toxins from the plant, resulting in the exposure of over 500,000 people. The estimated death toll vary according to different source. The official immediate death toll was 2,259 and



*Pesticide plant in Bhopal city and the victims*

the government of Madhya Pradesh has confirmed a total of 3,787 deaths related to the gas release. After 25 years, this deadliest disaster recaptured mass attention when the Bhopal District Court convicted 7 former employees of the Union Carbide subsidiary, for causing death by negligence. Former President of India, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam has termed the verdict as anguishing and said 'the output of law and judiciary was not proportionate to the sufferings of the people'. To read more on latest news update, please visit; <http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/tag/bhopal-gas-tragedy> or <http://connect.in.com/bhopal-gas-tragedy/profile-543606.html>

Dear Victoria,

First of all, let me congratulate GFDR team for setting up its base in New Delhi. I hope that you will surely make big strides ahead in coming days. Making the children aware of Disasters is a welcome step as they are the future torchbearers in the fight against disasters.

You have to deliberately make the children aware of positive aspects and visions and make them pioneers in Disaster Risk Reduction.

Also, try to seek an approach which may promise to open new avenues in understanding the disaster and its management for the common people.

Best Wishes,

**Prof. P. C. Joshi**

**Department of Anthropology, Delhi University**



#### **Team Members:**

- 1. Anil K. Sinha, IAS (Retd)**  
Chairman and Co-founder
- 2. Anuj Tiwari**  
Head (Projects)
- 3. Vivek Sharma**  
Manager (Projects)
- 4. Victoria Devi Yengkhom**  
Project Coordinator
- 5. Reetika Goyal**  
Project Officer

#### **April 2010 Update posted on MICRODIS/CRED website**

We are pleased to inform you that GFDR's Update for the month of April 2010 has been posted on the MICRODIS/CRED website. This can be seen at - <http://www.microdis-eu.be/content/press-citations>