



EROPA Leaders Cite Relevance of Public Administration and Disaster Management

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Nepal's Acting Prime
Minister Vijaya
Kumar Gachhadar



MoGA Minister
Prabhakar
Pradhananga



MoGA Secretary
Balananda Paudel



EROPA Secretary
General Orlando
Mercado



COTI Director
General Ki, Hyun
Myung

Leaders of the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA) welcome the participants to the EROPA Seminar on "Public Administration and Disaster Management" which formally opened on 22 November 2010. The leaders also expressed their thoughts on its relevance in today's communities.

EROPA Leaders believe that Public Administration and Disaster Management is a relevant craft in today's government due to the occurrence of major natural disasters around the world.

Mr. Balananda Paudel, Secretary, MoGa

Ministry of General Administration (MoGA) Secretary Balananda Paudel delivered his welcome remarks at the inaugural session of the EROPA Seminar 2010 on 22 November. Welcoming all the delegates and participants in the seminar, he highlighted the consistent contribution made by EROPA in the field of reforming Public Administration. Mr. Paudel mentioned that currently EROPA has 10 state members, 58 organizational members and more than 200 individual members. He also recalled that Nepal for the first time in 1989 organized an EROPA seminar and that this is the second time Nepal is hosting such an important event.

He highlighted the appropriateness of the theme of the seminar: “Public Administration and Disaster Management.” He stated that ‘our region’ has been facing many natural and human-induced disasters which have caused huge loss of lives and properties. In this backdrop, public administration has a pivotal role to play to prevent unnecessary loss. At a time when Nepal is shifting towards federalism through a new constitution-making process, he also affirmed the importance of the sub-theme of the seminar — federalism—which provides a forum to discuss different facets of federalism. In addition, he said that for the first time the Asian Leadership Forum has been added as a key event of the seminar. Mr. Paudel concluded his welcome remarks wishing all the delegates and participants a cheerful and pleasant stay in Nepal.

Dr. Orlando S. Mercado, Secretary-General, EROPA

EROPA Secretary-General Dr. Orlando S. Mercado noted that EROPA has had a glorious history during its five decades of existence and each and every EROPA meeting has remained very fruitful and constructive. Today all EROPA members are facing different challenges due to rapid changes taking place in technological, economic and other sectors. Due to rapid globalization, the present world is transforming into a global village. Today, we are very much interdependent. We must be aware of the changes occurring around us in every sphere of public life, and prepare ourselves to keep up with the changing needs of society. Furthermore, we should strengthen governance to adapt to changes. In this modern era, no one can remain in isolation since we are living in a global village. The EROPA meeting is a good platform to deliberate on concurrent issues such as disaster management, service delivery improvement and consolidation of governance systems. The ideas that will emerge here from the participants of several countries will undoubtedly be extremely fruitful which will provide good insights and learning to improve our governance systems.

Mr. Kim Hyun Myung, Director General, COTI

Delivering his inaugural speech, Mr. Kim stressed that one of the roles of the government is being an emergency relief provider. He said that the theme of the seminar will provide a platform to share experiences and effective practices that have been carried out in different countries on disaster management. He shared the Korean experiences on disaster management and stressed that Korea has been able to achieve success by means of good governance. He noted that the Korean government has also been extending prompt assistance to several countries affected by disasters.

Hon. Prabhakar Pradhananga, Minister, MoGA

Hon’ble Minister Mr. Pradhananga opined that the theme of this year’s EROPA Seminar ‘Public Administration and Disaster Management’ is very important and relevant to all EROPA countries since most of us are having several kinds of calamities either in natural or in manmade form. In addition, he expressed his great pleasure for having the first Asian Leadership Forum in Kathmandu as part of the EROPA Seminar. The minister observed that the decisions that were taken by the 56th executive council meeting of EROPA on 21 November are very important to promote the Organization in the days to come. He mentioned that all developing countries today are plagued with many kinds of bureau-pathologies. However, we do not have its alternative except improving and modifying them. So, we should focus on reforming administration and make it more effective and get rid of all kinds of demerits associated with our administrative system. Although reform is a Herculean task, we should consolidate our effort to make it happen so that service delivery can be improved and people’s expectations can be met. He further expressed his views that we need to be pro-active and respond to disaster in an integrated manner. He concluded that the deliberations and final conclusions of the seminar will be highly useful to all to formulate sound policies and refine the existing policies and mechanisms.

Mr. Amod Mani Dixit, General Secretary, National Society for Earthquake Technology

Delivering his keynote address, Mr. Dixit mentioned that scientists today, at least in developing countries, are not serving the people at large. Science and technology has been mystified by scientists but the need of today is to demystify it and apply it for the betterment of the communities. In Asia, numbers of natural hazards turn into disasters. Asia suffers most of the disasters in terms of life and property. In Asia, Nepal is 10 times riskier than other neighboring countries.

Previously, we only talked about large disasters but time has changed and the statistics shows that day-to-day disasters, which draw the attention of media, accounts for 71% of the total death. These disasters have major adverse impacts. If day-to-day disasters are not addressed properly, large disasters can never be dealt with in a better way. Radical new approaches are necessary to address the problem. Science and knowledge have become prolific even in Nepal and that has to be capitalized on.

As underscored in the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA, 2005), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) needs to be mainstreamed in governance and the theme of EROPA 2010 is a welcome step towards this direction. Some of the findings and shortfalls of DRR based on the interaction with stakeholders are: lack of comprehensive legal and policy interest; DRR is still a stand-alone project-based concept; fire fighting approach still prevails; and, awareness is required for an effective DRR.

Rt. Hon. Vijaya Kumar Gachhadar, Acting Prime Minister, Nepal

The chief guest of the program Acting Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Vijaya Kumar Gachhadar mentioned that the theme of the program is very relevant as the countries of Asia and Pacific are prone to natural disasters. He mentioned that Nepal faces daunting challenges of floods, landslides and many others. These natural disasters are aggravated due to climate change. He stressed that Public Administration has a vital role not only to mitigate natural disasters but also to manage post-disaster problems. He also emphasized that wide network and increased alertness could be more beneficial in the days ahead. As Nepal is moving towards federalizing governance, the experiences of other countries could be very useful to Nepal. At the same time it is very important to analyze federalism in all aspects and consider all issues in drafting the constitution in the future. Finally, he appreciated the introduction of the Asian Leadership Forum as leadership has a very important role to play. According to him, leadership development is very important for Nepal.

Mr. Yanjie Shen, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, PR China

On behalf of the Chinese delegation, Mr. Shen opined that disaster risk has become a global concern and the issue of disaster management also draws the attention of policy makers in all countries for sustainable development. He informed that China has given great importance to disaster management in the aftermath of the SARS crisis in 2003 and has developed emergency response plan, new disaster management system, crisis legislation and public health security. He also expressed his wish to learn from the experiences of other countries in the field of disaster management to improve the Chinese system.

Mr. Desi Fernanda, Lembaga Administrasi Negara, Indonesia

Delivering message on behalf of the Government of Indonesia, Mr. Desi Fernanda congratulated the host country, Nepal, and especially the Ministry of General Administration (MoGA) for organizing the EROPA seminar in a grand manner and wished for its successful completion. He mentioned that the theme that this seminar had chosen for discussion is very relevant and useful to all member countries. He said that in Indonesia most of the disaster response programs are conducted voluntarily and that the Government of Indonesia has adopted a new Act in 2001 in order to respond to disaster effectively.

Mr. Masakatsu Okamoto, Local Autonomy College, Japan

Mr. Okamoto began his inaugural speech by stressing the importance of the theme of the seminar for both the central and the local governments. According to him, Japan has been suffering from serious human and social losses from natural disasters. He mentioned that it is impossible to prevent the occurrence of disasters. However, it is possible to minimize the damage and prevent secondary disasters by enhancing disaster preventive measures. The collective wisdom and expertise of both the central and the local governments can make a difference.

Hon. Francisco T. Duque III, Civil Service Commission, Philippines

Reducing risks, delivering services, spearheading recovery are concerns that have challenged and continue to challenge public administration worldwide. The plans and programs, the policies and initiatives, the insights gained from the experiences in disaster management should be discussed. The Eastern Asian region has faced devastation brought by natural disasters and calamities - the earthquake, which prompted the Tsunami along the Indian Ocean that swept over coastlines of 12 countries claiming hundreds and thousands of lives and causing incalculable damage to properties. Likewise, super typhoons along with heavy rainfall caused massive flooding in the region; and, Mount Merapi also had displaced quite a large number of local residents. Sharing of lessons learnt helps to cope with and manage disasters. If we cannot avoid or exactly predict the occurrence of disasters, we can manage their impact on human lives, economic and environment through comprehensive, competent and integrated disaster management programs.

Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong, National Institute of Development Administration

The seminar aims to develop and extract the essence of public administration sciences and aims to prevent and reduce critical problems affecting social development, said Dr. Sombat in his speech. In the latest incident in October 2010, Indonesia faced disaster which resulted in several losses of lives and properties. Similarly, Tsunami and earthquake also left the country in great grief and pain. The critical problems resulting from both human activities and natural disasters still need to be addressed. He emphasized the need to establish and strengthen international collaboration to address disaster risks.

EROPA Executive Council meets in Kathmandu, acknowledges new Sec Gen



The Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA) held its 56th Executive Council meeting on 21 November 2010 at the Soaltee Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Hosted by the Government of Nepal's Ministry of General Administration under the leadership of Minister Prabhakar Pradhananga, the meeting was attended by the council members from Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, Japan, and People's Republic of China, including individual and group members' representatives who are from Australia, the Philippines and Japan.

Mr. Kim Hyun-Myung of Central Officials Training Institute (COTI), Korea chaired the meeting which provided for a fresh impetus to further strengthen EROPA as it celebrates its five decades of existence. The event marked the beginning of the five-day seminar of EROPA, and a new beginning for the organization with the acknowledgment of Dr. Orlando Mercado as its new Secretary-General in a resolution adopted by the Executive Council. Mercado's appointment was made by then Interim Secretary General Patricia Sto. Tomas based on Resolution EC 2005/20.

Dr. Mercado is a Filipino diplomat, a former Senator and Secretary of National Defense. Before joining the government, he was a professional media practitioner in the Philippines.

In addition to the above recent resolution, the Council also moved to recommend to the 23rd General Assembly in 2011 that EC 2005/20 has already lapsed and is no longer in force as of 21 November 2010.

Finally, a resolution was adopted to recognize the need to create a Steering Committee within the Executive Council which should maintain closer involvement with the running of EROPA and have frequent communication with the Secretary General. The same resolution created the said Committee which comprises seven members representing state, group and individual members.

EROPA holds first Asian Leadership Forum

EROPA held its first Asian Leadership Forum (ALF) in conjunction with its seminar on "Public Administration and Disaster Management." Prominent leaders and experts from China, Japan, Philippines and Nepal delivered their speeches and presentations on the theme "The Need for Leadership Development."

**Jiang Wu**

In his presentation, Prof. Jiang Wu, President of the Chinese Academy of Personnel Sciences, articulated that crisis and disaster management have been given top priority by the Peoples' Republic of China. The focus has been to build capacities of managing risks and hence public servants are trained in this area.

Society is complex and there is competition among different stakeholders as well, according to Wu. Therefore, dealing with disasters is difficult in managing the interests of various stakeholders. There are risks but vulnerable social conditions can be dealt with improved capacities of the leaders. In such a complex society, there are difficulties in identifying responsible agents.

Wu's presentation reported that a logic framework has been designed in dealing with crises to allow leaders make sound decisions. Wu also provided the basic principles of decision-making process which include: concentration of power, being result-oriented, considering short-term goals, compulsory enforcement, shouldering the responsibilities and coordination regardless of grades.

Wu also pointed out that there are various qualities required for crisis leadership- emotional abilities, control, etc. In China, crisis leadership accountability includes prevention, response and aftermath accountability. He also noted that communication is very important and strategic in times of crises.

**Hitoshi Kimura**

A former member of the House of Councillors of Japan, Mr. Hitoshi Kimura reported that in the last two decades, Japan has increasingly become concerned with a very important political issue: the power-relationship between party members and the bureaucrats. For a large number of people, Japan's policy making is observed as being dominated by the bureaucrats. Many people have been advocating that this style of politics should be changed. Party members have contributed a lot in the legislative milieu though most of the laws are in the form of cabinet proposals and these proposals are prepared and controlled by public officials.

Kimura observed that the dependency of party members on public officials resulted in series of blunders which ultimately developed the environment where the ministers became easy targets for criticisms by the mass media. He mentioned that during the course of time, Japan has faced a lot of problems which became complex due to the growing portion of aging population, the expanding rate of unemployment, and the increase in the income disparity.

The former member of the House also talked about the cozy triangular relationship between and among the party members, the public officials and the business groups. He opined that a group of high ranking officials retire at an early age and join a semi-public corporation. Talking about all these issues, Kimura came up with the conclusion that the bureaucracy of Japan needs a list of substantial reforms. He argued that, although there are some problems, the transformation of policy-making from bureaucratic to the party member has just begun in Japan.

**Yuba Raj Khatriwada****Francisco Duque III**

Dr. Francisco T. Duque III, Chairman of the Philippine Civil Service Commission, shared the Philippine government's efforts to achieving efficiency in public service delivery. The Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007 (or ARTA) was adopted in order to make government business more effective, prompt and people-friendly. Furthermore, Duque emphasized that the ARTA is aimed at cutting red tape and preventing graft and corruption, improving client satisfaction, increasing public trust and confidence in government institutions, and ensuring integrity, transparency and accountability along with promoting harmonious relationship between clients and officials, thus contributing to the achievement of efficiency and excellence in service delivery.

The Chair of the Philippine government's central human resource institution discussed the salient features of the ARTA which include the provision of a Citizen Charter for each government agency, Disciplinary Actions for Violations, and the Report Card Survey.

The ARTA also integrates incentives for compliant government agencies. As per the provision of the Act, offices who receive good remarks in Report Card Survey (RCS) from their clients receive the Seal of Excellence Award along with cash incentives.

In his presentation, Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada, Governor of the Nepal Rastra Bank, pointed out some pertinent issues on leadership and development. He raised some questions regarding the effect of leadership in economic growth and development. Further, he raised concerns related to the creation of institutions and leaders' adaptation to new problem. He explained the myths about political leadership and emphasized that leaders are expected to play a critical role in time of crisis. Khatiwada raised the dilemma of correlation or causation between leadership and economic development.

In his presentation, he shared the experience of Nepal where three major movements have been witnessed within half a century with success in the political and less success in the social and economic arena. In the conclusion, Khatiwada talked about conflict in Nepal and the role of leadership in post-conflict management and remarked that policies of the past have not addressed exclusion and inequalities effectively and in turn became the root cause of conflict. He believes that leadership must work to reduce inequality and exclusion simultaneously in all dimensions.

Other leaders from Nepal also presented their take on this theme. Acknowledging the importance of good leadership in managing conflict and socio-economic development, former Minister Mr. Rajendra Prasad Pandey stressed on developing dynamic, creative, clean and committed leaders. Similarly, former Minister Ms. Urmila Aryal stressed the need to make the right decisions at the right time. She mentioned that leadership should be charismatic, visionary and responsive to changes, especially while dealing with conflicts. Finally, Mr. Amresh Kumar Singh emphasized the need to move both political and bureaucratic leadership together to resolve conflict-related issues.

The ALF is a product of EROPA Revitalization Committee headed by Dr. Akira Nakamura. The first ALF was chaired by Nakamura himself.

IIAS President shares thoughts on crisis and emergency management

Kim noted that the world today is facing many risks, and the society is considered as a risky society where disasters are not only claiming precious lives but are also adversely affecting development. After 9/11, the paradigm of security has changed from conventional military security to more comprehensive security which also includes environment, health and human security. The IIAS chief also stressed that in the realm of security, there is an increasing concern about food security which will have significant impact in the days to come, particularly in developing countries.

There are four key phases of Emergency Management, according to Kim, namely Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. However, he underscored that Early

Warning System is the most important element for saving lives and properties.

There are already established systems which have proved successful in different contexts. They can be borrowed and applied, for which practice is required. However, Kim believes that their success entirely depends on how the conventional mindset is changed. It should be kept in mind that execution is the most important aspect. Some of the major challenges relative to the crisis and disaster management issue as identified by Kim could be outlined as: Fiscal Sanity, Crisis of Competence, Information Overload, Government without Boundaries, E-governance, Government by Contracts, Results, Green and Ethical Leadership. and Security.



Dr. Pan Suk Kim, President of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences, shared his insights on the issue of crisis and emergency management.

SG Mercado talks about disaster risk reduction

Recognizing the expertise of Dr. Orly Mercado, some organizations invited the EROPA Secretary General to speak about disaster risk reduction and its importance in building a disaster-resilient community.

The first was in Kathmandu, Nepal in November 2010 when the Oxfam, the Disaster Management Journalists Association of Nepal (DIMJA) and ECO Nepal invited him to speak in a one-day workshop on “The Role of Media in Disaster Risk Reduction.” During the workshop, Mercado stressed that the role of media professionals is important as they have the capacity to reach out to many people. Asked on how to do this, he mentioned that media should talk about disasters while there are none. This way, disaster risks can be prevented or reduced because people become aware of what to do in cases of disasters.

He shared that the same was the strategy of the Radio Philippines Network (RPN) to reach out to communities and help them prevent risks during natural calamities. Mercado was President of the network at that time.

In December 2010, Mercado was speaker in the Comprehensive Disaster Management Workshop on “The Strategic Impact of Media in Crisis Management.”

The workshop was organized by the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) and held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 14-16 December 2010. In that meeting, Mercado shared the experience of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), particularly in terms of intervention in Myanmar after the cyclone Nargis in 2008.

Mercado acknowledged that ASEAN has

regional regimes in terms of disaster response, particularly citing the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance. He noted, however, that ASEAN has to cope with the changes in technology and media and may want to consider other mechanisms such as the ASEAN news exchange, regional information and databank at ASEC, and improving ASEAN’s digital broadcast capability.

In the same meeting, Mercado argued that “intense media coverage has impact on crisis or disaster response” and that “communicating disaster risks is a challenge.” He cited the experience of the Philippines in a bungled attempt to rescue Hong Kong nationals from a hostage crisis. In instances like this, “the media should consider access versus security concerns,” Mercado said.

Seminar Highlights: Introductory Session



The introductory session of EROPA’s 2010 Seminar featured the presentations of Dr. Akira Nakamura (Japan), Dr. Younhee Kim (Korea), and Mr. Shankar Koirala and Mr. Rameshwor Dangal (Nepal). The session was chaired by Dr. Edna Estifania A. Co, Dean of the University of the Philippines, National College of Public Administration and Governance.

Transformation of Japan’s Crisis Management: Lessons from Kobe

Dr. Akira Nakamura started his presentation highlighting three major issues in disaster management that include: investment to prevent disasters, gap between what government can do and what people want government to do; public support and self-help activities. He further presented the transformation of Japan’s crisis management experiences drawing lessons, especially from Kobe. The key issues encountered during the process include: lack of command, lack of agency coordination, especially between the central government and the local governments. Moreover, clarity in vertical allocation of jurisdiction is equally seen important from the Japanese experiences.

The Role of Public Administration in Disaster Management: Sharing Korea's Experience in Disaster Management

Dr. Kim Youn-hee presented the challenge of disaster management as a public policy, roles and responsibilities of the central and the local governments, and examples of disaster management policy implementation in Korea. As a public policy, disaster management is very difficult to implement because of the need to involve various actors and the general public. She also highlighted that central guidance (policy/plans) and local implementation and harmonization between the central and some local governments.

Through a video presentation, Dr. Kim shared the experience of the Tae'an community to show how disaster management, response and successful rehabilitation can be done. Such is an example of a best practice where cooperation among different stakeholders and volunteerism of citizens greatly matter.

Disaster Management: Policy and Practices in Nepal

Mr. Shankar Koirala and Mr. Rameshwor Dangal shared the institutionalized approach that the Government of Nepal has been adapting to deal with disaster risks reduction issues. Policies are framed, institutional frameworks developed and efforts have been made to implement them effectively in Nepal. In order to implement policies, the support of the external development partners and the involvement of NGOs are necessary. They also stressed the need for robust legal and institutional frameworks in mitigating and responding to disaster incidences and the role of early warning strategies.

SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS

"Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation: Reducing Risks through Effective Disaster Management"

Five sessions were formed for the subtheme on "Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation: Reducing Risks through Effective Disaster Management." The chairs for these sessions were Dr. Tippawan Lorsuwannarat (Thailand), Dr. Maria Faina L. Diola (Philippines), Dr. Akio Kamiko (Japan), Dr. Prijono Tjiptoherijanto (Indonesia), and Dr. Dinesh Chandra Devkota (Nepal).

Disaster Management: Its Importance in Public Administration



*Mr. Singha Raj Uprety
Nepal Administrative College, Nepal*

Defining disaster as "loss or suffering caused either by a sudden or progressive calamity, misfortune or misdeeds", Mr. Singha Raj Uprety elucidated that there is always a causal relationship before any disaster occurs.

Therefore, if hazards are mitigated or reduced, disaster vulnerability automatically goes down. He defined disasters as having 3 categories, namely: natural, human-induced and complex. Of the three, we are most vulnerable to complex disasters as they cause devastating effects within the country.

Under complex type of disasters, he includes: poverty, brain-drain and capital flight, which have adversely affected the socio-economic progress of many of the least developed countries. Public administration plays a significant role in reducing vulnerability to these types of disasters through formulating sound policies and programs, and implementing

them effectively. Public administration plays a crucial role in managing disasters through technical and administrative measures. If effective policies are formulated and executed, they help minimize disaster risks to a greater extent.

Disaster Management in India: New Initiatives



Dr. Vinod K. Sharma, Indian Institute of Public Administration, India

Explaining the close relationship between disaster management and public administration, Mr. Binod K. Sharma mentioned that public administrators can play a pivotal role in minimizing risks, vulnerability and calamities through ensuring good governance.

As today's world is experiencing both natural and man-made disasters, administrators, planners and leaders are increasingly required to have a better understanding of how to deal with issues regarding disaster management. As a coastal country, India is prone to cyclones, Tsunamis and hurricanes, and suffers several kinds of vulnerabilities.

India introduced the Disaster Management Act in 2005, and supplemented it with strong institutional set ups, such as the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). Having its Prime Minister head up the NDMA shows India's strong commitment to dealing with these issues. Proper mechanisms for forecasting, and the provision of early warnings contributes to minimizing the risks and effects of disasters. Proper communication and the launching of mitigation programs also helps reduce vulnerabilities. India's experiences tell us that a strong legal foundation, backed by committed political leadership and bureaucratic set-up, is of great importance in effectively addressing disaster risks.

Disaster Management and the Role of Public Administration: The Vietnam Approach



Prof. Dr. Dinh Van Tien, National Academy of Public Administration, Vietnam

Public Administration in Vietnam is regarded as contributing to both economic development and disaster management. Vietnam is a country that is highly prone to natural disasters. The perpetual occurrence of natural disasters has forced the country into a permanent "state of emergency".

Vietnam has adopted a strategic, systematic approach to proactively cope with disasters. The government plays a pivotal role in the development of effective strategies and operational activities to combat natural disasters. Vietnam has adopted and implemented four key approaches/pillars in disaster mitigation, which are: institutional, organizational, human resources and financial perspectives.

Additionally, early warning systems and flood prevention mechanisms have been put into place. Vietnam's experiences convey the message that committed political leadership and collaboration between, and among, state institutions, including public administration, plays a significant role.

Capacity Management for Disaster Risk Reduction: Lessons Learned from Tsunami in Indonesia



*Dr. Prijono Tjiptojerihanto
University of Indonesia, Indonesia*

Dr. Prijono spoke on the Capacity Management for Disaster Risk Reduction in Indonesia. Citing the 2004 Tsunami, Prof. Prijono identified two major issues as lack of management capacity for disaster response, and lack of understanding in disaster risk reduction. He stressed that post-disaster, management practices are often neglected.

For post-disaster management, needs assessment is vital as it leads other activities. He also shed light on the new paradigm Indonesia recently adopted based on the experiences gained from the Tsunami.

Among others, this includes the early warning system. Furthermore, he focused on five major areas for execution, such as: needs assessment, investment, recovery plan, master plan for execution and effective monitoring and evaluation systems.

Disaster Management Initiatives for Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City (With Focus on Earthquake Disaster Management)



*Mr. Arjun Kumar Thapa &
Mr. Prabin Shrestha Lalitpur Sub-Metropolitan City, Nepal*

The presenters highlighted that Lalitpur Sub-metro-politan City is the first one in Nepal to introduce national building codes, and to establish a separate earthquake unit. In addition, there are other activities like community awareness programs, and effective inspection and supervision activities.

The community-based approach has been very fruitful in Lalitpur, though the municipality has not yet achieved success to the extent it desires.

However, there has been a departure from the traditional response by focusing on mitigation and preparedness against natural calamities.

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Local Development in Nepal

*Mr. Reshmiraj Pandey &
Mr. Binod Prakash Singh
Ministry of Local Development, Nepal*

The presenters shed light on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction at the local level in Nepal. The roles and responsibilities that have been assigned to local bodies by the Local Self Governance Act of 1998 were discussed.

Initiatives taken by the government on DRR were briefly outlined, which mostly include: training and capacity building, coordination, formulation of action plans and guidelines for the district development committees. It also included action plans for community mobilization and political consensus building.

Major achievements include the fact that most districts now have district profiles and periodic plans, and some districts have already prepared disaster management action plan. Some municipalities have implemented the building codes, and each district has natural calamities relief committees. In order to effectively implement these plans, shortages of resources and issues of capacity at the local level are identified as the main constraints.



Earthquake Risk Management in Urban Areas of Nepal

*Mr. Amod Mani Dixit & Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha
National Society for Earthquake Technology, Nepal*

This presentation captured Government-NGO partnerships in earthquake risk reduction at the local level in developing countries like Nepal. Although the National Calamity Act dates back to 1982, risk management activity is very young, and only really started after the earthquake of 1988.

The objectives and activities of the Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Project (KVERMP) were highlighted. A major sign of its success was that the model of KVERMP was replicated in other municipalities.

The presentation also highlighted the background and establishment of the Municipal Earthquake Risk Reduction Program, its objectives, and its implementation in three



municipalities in 2003, as well as two more municipalities later on. One of the contributing factors for the success of the program was identified as being the involvement of municipality personnel.

Analysis of Case Studies on Integrated Water Resources Management: The Pivotal Role of Local Governments

Dr. Maria Faina L. Diola

National College of Public Administration and Governance, Philippines

Dr. Diola opened her discussion on the framework of governance, and ummed up how governance institutions can carry out disaster mitigation measures. She focused on the framework for governance based on Civic Environmentalism —a concept espoused by proponents of environmental governance.

She emphasized that watershed management addresses global environmental issues, including: protection of mountain, natural and human ecosystems, freshwater supply, flood control, and prevention of ocean pollution. She explained the shift from participatory approaches in watershed management programs, to collaborative approaches.

Furthermore, some characteristics of collaborative watershed management and the application of Civic Environmentalism were put forward.



Draft Fundamental Rights in the Context of Disaster Management



Dr. Bipin Adhikari

Consulting Lawyers, Inc., Nepal

Dr. Adhikari focused on the incorporation of fundamental rights in the context of disaster management. He explained the importance of constitutional rights, and said that it creates superstructures under which laws are devised and policies and programs are formulated.

However, he said that in the drafting of a constitution, the rights with regard to disaster management have not yet been incorporated. He reiterated that many important concerns regarding disasters cannot be effective without recognizing the right to disaster management, even if they are already included in various legal documents.

He also emphasized that the Natural Disaster (Relief) Act of 1982, which is so far the primary statute on disaster management, should be reinforced by the new constitution that is being formulated.

Earthquake Research and Preparedness in Nepal



Mr. Soma Nath Sapkota

National Seismologic Centre, Nepal

Mr. Sapkota spoke about the role of the National Seismological Centre (NSC), which acquires seismic data by operating seismological networks with a high level of efficiency, and provides earthquake information to various organizations.

He said that a large number of people living in the Ganges plain are at risk from an impending great Himalayan earthquake. However, surface ruptures from past earthquakes have not been found and the return period is undetermined. He further said that various kinds of research work, including the paleoseismological research of the Himalaya, are ongoing.

Similarly, the seismic hazard map has been upgraded. The NSC is emerging as a

major research institute for earthquake studies in this region. However, a massive and significant earthquake prevention program needs to be effectively launched if lives are to be saved.

Climate Adaptation: A Survival Strategy for Mountain People

Dr. Ganesh Raj Joshi & Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety, Ministry of Environment, Nepal

The presenters shed light on survival strategies for mountain people. The impact of climate change was highlighted. They add that in Nepal about 1.9 million people are vulnerable to climate change, and an additional 10 million people are estimated to be increasingly at risk due to adverse impacts from it.

Due to climate change, there is an increased risk of vector-borne diseases like Malaria, Kala-azar and Japanese Encephalitis. In recent years it has started to affect the flowering and fruiting of agricultural products. To reduce the impact and threat of climate change, Nepal has adopted a policy for forest management, clean energy and a climate-resilient development path with several innovative activities.

They added that their presentation is focused on the implementation of adaptation actions, and stressed the urgency of effective global partnership. Adaptation is considered to be the only remaining opportunity for the mountain people to cope with the increasing threats of climate change.



Overview of Disaster Risk Management Efforts in Housing, Infrastructure and Physical Planning in Nepal



*Dr. Mahendra Subba
Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, Nepal*

Underpinning the role of urban planning, Dr. Subba opined that disaster can be mitigated or minimized to a great extent through proper planning and implementation. He mentioned that haphazard expansion of urban areas and infrastructures can cause great damage during a disaster period.

He observed that unplanned urbanization, coupled with fragile natural ecology, has brought tremendous threats to Nepal, especially in urban areas. Although there exist some policy measures to regulate urbanization, due to weak institutional capacity its enforcement has not been effective.

Due to a lack of proper coordination among institutions at the central and local levels, implementation has been ineffective. The country's current Disaster Risk Management Framework is lagging in several important aspects for sound urbanization.

Disaster Management Mechanism in Nepal: An Assessment of Earthquake Resistant Building Construction Practices in Kathmandu Valley

*Prof. Dr. Tek Nath Dhakal
Tribhuvan University, Nepal*

Prof. Dhakal explained that Nepal falls within a highly seismic zone, causing there to be a great threat of earthquakes. Therefore, the country needs not only strict building codes and standards, but also effective enforcement.

With the increasing pace of modernization followed by dramatic population growth and urban migration, there has been a rising trend to erect high rise buildings in urban areas of Nepal, especially within the Kathmandu Valley. Although building codes and other



construction standards do exist, very few companies have followed them properly.

In order to make high rise buildings more safe and earthquake resistant, there need to be explicit legal frameworks, strong enforcement mechanisms and consistent monitoring.

SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS

"Disaster Response: Public Service to Disaster-Stressed Communities"

There were two sessions in the subtheme on "Disaster Response: Public Service to Disaster-Stressed Communities. . ." The chairs for these sessions were Dr. Govinda Prasad Kusum (Ministry of Affairs, Nepal) and Mr. Pratap Kumar Pathak (Ministry of Industry, Nepal).

Disaster Response Operations from Security Sectors' Perspective: The Case of Nepal Army



Col. Ishwar Hamal, Nepal Army Headquarters, Nepal

Col. Hamal highlighted the role of the Nepalese Army (NA) as a first responder in emergency response. The responsibility of the NA in disaster response is clearly articulated in defense policy and military doctrines.

The NA has focused on building the capacity of its staff, and managing its resources. Despite shortages of resources, due to its strength in various fields, such as: organizational and managerial effectiveness, quick reaction and mobilization capacities, engineering, communication, its own aviation and other equipment, the NA has been performing relief and rescue activities effectively and efficiently.

A Breakout of Bird Flu: An Experience in Kyoto, Japan

*Prof. Akio Kamiko
Ritsumeikan University, Japan*

Prof. Kamiko presented an incidence of an outbreak of Bird Flu in Japan in 2004. In this context, he discussed the possibly fatal flu and how the government acted with urgency to contain the situation. He also talked about lessons learned from the potential crisis.

Due to the lack of provisions for compensation to farmers who stood to lose their chickens, they are not properly motivated to inform the government about the disease in a timely manner. Realizing this fact the government has since made provisions for compensation, as well as penalties, for the farmers in this regard.

Later on, this provision made it easier for government officials to work closely and confidently with farmers in fighting flu outbreak.



Managing or Managed by Crisis: The Hong Kong SAR Approach to Managing SARS and Swine Flu



*Dr. Mark Richard Hayllar
City University of Hong Kong, HKSAR*

Dr. Hayllar discussed public-private collaboration in public service delivery, including community participation. He reiterated that community collaboration lies at the heart of all people, and is required for proper public governance and service delivery. He linked this people-centered crisis management model with the SARS outbreak in Hong Kong in 2009.

He explained that prompt communication to people, with a clear message, helps to minimize the effects of disease. In this context, he cited an example in Hong Kong where the government initially did not pay due attention to the outbreak of the disease, which resulted in it spreading more rapidly and widely.

Disaster Response: Experience from Nepal's Koshi Flood Relief Operation 2008



*Mr. Pitambar Aryal
Nepal Red Cross Society, Nepal*

Mr. Aryal introduced the role of the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), and dealt with their experiences during their Koshi flood relief operations. He discussed the change of focus in the NRCS from primarily providing relief, to more community-based disaster management.

Expressing his belief that the Koshi flood could have been prevented, he provided statistical details on the effect and the contributions of the NRCS during their relief operations. He also emphasized that the cluster system applied in the relief process was very effective in efficiently addressing gaps in coordination efforts during a big disaster like the Koshi floods.

Public-Private Partnership in Community Rehabilitation and Disaster Response in Benguet

*Prof. Gloria Lee
Benguet State University, Philippines*

Prof. Lee presented a scenario of disaster from the flood during 2009 in Benguet, showing the impact of the disaster, and the response from the public and the private sectors.

Moreover, she shared the experience of Benguet as one of 13 municipalities, hardest hit in terms of flooding and massive mudslides. She pointed out the heroism shown by people during the rescue operations, and referred to the presentation of Dr. Akira Nakamura as a means of reinforcing the idea that “self-help” is a key to disaster management. She concentrated on the responsibilities of Government authority in emergency management and private-sector volunteerism.

Giving the example of the Lepanto Mining Company in Benguet, which had an Emergency Preparedness Plan, she showed how they were able to play a role in search, rescue and recovery operations. Furthermore, she recommended bringing together various public agencies to work in harmony with civil society towards shared goals.



Public-Private Partnership in Crisis Management: How to Respond Initial 72 Hours After the Disaster



*Dr. Masao Kikuchi
Meiji University, Japan*

Dr. Kikuchi discussed the effective role of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in managing crisis. He was of the opinion that the periphery is the area most vulnerable to disaster because of its financial retrenchment, and the government's limited ability to respond quickly.

He added that the initial 72 hours are very crucial, as this is the minimum amount of time needed for the rescuers to identify the extent of damage on one hand, and on the other hand most victims can only survive for three days without food and water. He also shared Japan's experiences with how the approach of PPP becomes effective in rescue operations.

SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS

"Special Session on Federalism"

Seven papers were presented in the four sessions on Federalism as Structure of Government. The sessions were chaired by Mr. Leelamani Paudyal (Nepal), Prof. Vinod K. Sharma (India), Mr. Balananda Paudel (Nepal), and Prof. Dr. Ganesh Man Gurung (Nepal).

Patterns of Decentralization in Government, with the Australian Federal System as an Illustrative Case



*Dr. Roger L. Wettenhall
University of Canberra, Australia*

Dr. Wettenhall explained the various types of decentralization, and the pattern the process took in the Australian Federal System. In Australia, sub-national governments are coordinated but independent in terms of their functions and responsibilities; however, some functions overlap. Australia pursued federalism in order to provide for better services, self defense and equality.

He noted that federalization could occur either upward or downward. In the case of Australia, states transferred some governmental functions to the commonwealth of Australia, but retained sovereign powers by having their own constitution.

He also pointed out the particular importance of having a separate federal capital in Australia's case. Dr. Wettenhall pointed out some of the problems of Australian federalism, such as: the difficulty in changing boundaries, policy complexity and the perception of excessive interference from upper levels of government by more local authorities. He stated that nowadays many analysts would prefer regionalism to federalism, and finished by saying that designing systems of governance is never easy.

Beyond the Marble Cake: Current Trends in American Federalism

*Prof. Dr. Lisa Marcha Saye
The University of La verne, USA*

Prof. Saye discussed the American federal system of government, citing Morton Grodzin's analogy of it being similar to a 'marble cake'. She highlighted that the components of federalism have remixed.

She explained how the present environment moves federalism beyond the marble cake, and described some of the trends that contribute to the United States' federalism in its present manifestation. She further discussed its impact on the economic development of the U.S. Highlighting a major problem in the trend of federalism, she expressed her concern over national and state debts that entail generational burdens, and for which the Constitution has not provided a means of resolution.

She concluded by saying that the Constitution belongs to everyone who votes, everyone who salutes, everyone who prays; and for those who do none of these the Constitution in its evolutionary magnificence makes them free not to have to.



Fiscal Federalism in the Context of Nepal



Dr. Puspa Raj Kandel, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Within the context of Nepal, Dr. Puspa Kandel highlighted the importance of fiscal federalism together with its basic rationales. He further elaborated on the fiscal principles to be considered while federalizing. He discussed the current fiscal situation, and his concerns that federalizing the Nepalese fiscal system is not going to be an easy task because at present 80% of governmental revenue is confined to just six (6) districts (out of 75).

He also shed light on the fiscal systems of recently federated countries like Ethiopia and South Africa. Finally, he suggested some factors for a successful fiscal federalism, including: economies of scale, major central revenue collection and borrowing systems based on needs at the sub-national level. Moreover, fiscal federalism requires a strong monitoring and a database management system.

Administrative Restructuring for Federal System of Government: Transitional Management



*Prof. Dr. Bhim Dev Bhatta
Administrative Restructuring Commission, Nepal*

Prof. Bhatta stressed the need for making public administration more citizen-centric, result-oriented, efficient, effective, transparent and accountable. Reviewing the historical perspectives of administrative reform in Nepal, he argued that there have been issues with regard to effective implementation of the recommendations made by former reform commissions.

He highlighted the mandates and achievements of the Administrative Restructuring Commission (ARC) — a body formed by the GoN in order to provide recommendations for how to restructure its Public Administrative System within the context of federalism. He further emphasized that the success of federalization depends largely on the successful management of transition.

Interrelationship Between Different Levels of Government Under Federal System

*Mr. Tek Prasad Dhungana
Constituent Assembly Secretariat, Nepal*

Talking about the interrelation-ship between different levels of government under the proposed federal system in Nepal, Mr. Dhungana mentioned that there are basically two kinds of relationships — vertical and horizontal. The former indicates the relationship that exists between the federal government and the provinces, while the latter refers to the relationship between and among the provinces. He explained that the relationships between different layers of the federal structure should be based on cooperation, coexistence and coordination.



The State Restructuring Committee suggested two kinds of mechanisms to avert and/or resolve disputes: Political and Judicial. Political mechanisms include the Inter-provincial Council, Federal Legislature, Referendum and Provincial Legislature. Judicial mechanisms encompass the Federal Constitutional Court and Provincial High Court. He concluded by saying that it would be imperative for the new constitution to incorporate the spirit of mutual respect and tolerance, and the principles of cooperativeness and mutual support; thereby giving the judiciary the ultimate right to resolve all constitutional related issues.

Federalism and Devolution of Power: Governance Perspective



*Dr. Yub Raj Sangraula and Mr. Hongkong Rana
Kathmandu School of Law, Nepal*

The paper of Dr. Sangraula and Mr. Rana stressed that the unitary system of government failed in Nepal because the system overlooked the diversity of its landscape as well as the distinct multi-faceted identity of the population. Therefore, the new system should be built based on lessons learned from past mistakes. They advocated for a 'form of smaller local government' rather than the distantly-located central government.

Thus, a cooperative system of sharing power by central, provincial and local government entities is imperative. They further emphasized three crucial factors: i) the constitutionalization of powers at all levels; ii) independent structures of governance; and, iii) an effective checks and balances system to be incorporated into the new constitution of Nepal.

An Opportunity for Improving Service Delivery through Local Self-Governance in Nepal



*Mr. Yam N. Sharma
Ministry of Local Development, Nepal and
Mr. Abdu Muwonge
The World Bank Washington DC*

Mr. Yam argued that the roles of local bodies (LBs) in providing local public services in Nepal have been weak. Past efforts towards empowering LBs with functions, funds and functionaries have not been able to make much progress.

Since the Nepali state is being restructured, it is an important opportunity to provide special roles and powers, through the constitution, to governments that are closer to the people.