



The PEER Program... An introduction

The Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) is a regional training program initiated by the US Agency for International Development, Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) to strengthen disaster response capacities in Asia (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines).

For the period of 2003-2008, the PEER program will be implemented by the National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET), in partnership with International Resources Group (IRG), Johns Hopkins University (JHU), and Safety Solutions Incorporated (SSI).

Goal

To reduce mortality in mass casualty events and increase the survival rates of disaster victims.

Program Objectives

Objective 1: Emergency Response Training

Establish and strengthen the capability of PEER countries to provide collapsed structure search and rescue and basic and advanced life support, beginning with the first responders and continuing through the medical facilities.

Objective 2: Institutional Strengthening

Develop a training system that continually provides disaster response with qualified personnel for search and rescue and medical first response and with medical facilities prepared to receive victims.

Objective 3: Networking and Coordination

Establish a coordinating network of emergency and medical response and training institutions and individuals in PEER countries that ensures the continuation of the PEER process and further promote its evolution.

Message from the President, NSET



PEER is one of the remarkable projects NSET is currently implementing in the Asian region. As the President of the organization, I am very thankful for USAID-OFDA for granting us this life-saving project and be able to help in improving the response capabilities of five Asian countries: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Nepal.

May this newsletter serve as an avenue for information and experience sharing among all graduates, coordinators and country consultants-all directed in meeting the objectives of PEER.

- Shiva B. Pradhanang

Message from the Executive Director, NSET



Being involved in response is another challenge for the National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET). Our projects are more on mitigation and preparedness for the natural disasters and we are very proud that we are now working with USAID-OFDA for response component of disaster management.

During the recent disasters in Bangladesh, India and Indonesia our PEER graduates showed their competencies from the skills learned in the courses, as reflected in this newsletter, "From Training to Action" section. I am very happy to share my feelings that the PEER program has produced pool of trainers and now helping in nationalizing and institutionalizing the program in their respective countries.

- Amod Mani Dixit

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FRONT LINER: "Training Saves Lives... USAID"

In November, 2005, The Pillars, USAID's newsletter, featured the



benefits of PEER training in different parts of Asia. In this issue, Ms. Rebecca Scheurer, USAID's Regional Advisor, gave particular recognition to the Fire Service and Civil Defense in Bangladesh for the quick response made for the victims of the Savar building which collapsed in April, 2005. She also mentioned that PEER courses' graduates have applied their acquired skills and knowledge during the tsunami disaster

in Indonesia which also affected some parts of India, where hundreds of PEER graduates responded and helped tsunami victims.

Ms. Scheurer said that "the OFDA will judiciously program its remaining resources for PEER training to maximize impact on countries that have shown their commitment to prepare for disasters."

The Implementing Partners

In implementing the program in the Asian Region, NSET has collaborated with three agencies, all based in United States of America. International Resources Group (IRG) for program management, Safety Solutions, Incorporated for technical components of MFR and CSSR courses, and Johns Hopkins University-Center for International Emergency Disaster and Refugee Studies (CIEDRS) for HOPE programming.

For more details, you may visit the following web sites:

National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET): www.nset.org.np

International Resources Group (IRG): www.irgltd.com

Johns Hopkins University Center for International Emergency Disaster, and Refugee Studies (CIEDRS): www.jhsph.edu

Safety Solutions Incorporated: www.safetysolutions.org

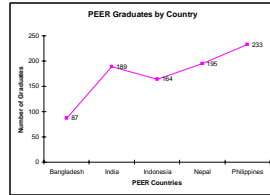




PEER Progress to date

To date, a total of forty-six training events have been conducted in five countries, developing 826 personnel from various emergency response agencies in Asia. Among these, 328 are certified instructors for MFR, CSSR, and HOPE courses.

Among all the partner-countries, India has the most number of trained instructors for MFR and CSSR. NISA-CISF, Hyderabad and ITBP-Chandigarh are continuously conducting MFR and CSSR courses and they have committed to train a total of 8,000 end-users.



Bangladesh

In this phase, PEER conducted nine different events in Bangladesh which includes two country planning meetings and a national HOPE course. A series of courses from MFR to CSSRIW was accomplished and produced 18 MFR, 17 CSSR and 9 HOPE instructors for the country, where they have 29 MFR, 24 CSSR, 39 TFI and 34 HOPE graduates to support the disaster activities.

India

PEER conducted six different events in India which includes: three regional events, one country planning meeting and a Master Instructors' Workshop. In India they have 56 MFR and 48 CSSR PEER instructors to run the PEER courses. They have their own setup to run the PEER courses regularly at NISA Hyderabad and BTC, ITBP Chandigarh.

Indonesia

PEER conducted seven different programs in Indonesia including two country planning meetings, one hope course and two each MFR and CSSR courses in the country. So far they have 11 MFR and 3 CSSR instructors. NSET-PEER is planning to conduct the Instructors Workshop for MFR and CSSR in Indonesia in January 2006 targeting to make sufficient instructors for both the courses. They have 84 MFR, 50 CSSR, 28 TFI and 33 HOPE graduates to date, to support the disaster activities.

Nepal

Nepal is the first country to adapt the PEER courses in this phase. They have successfully conducted the series of courses to make the sufficient instructors for the PEER program. NSET-PEER accomplished twelve different events in Nepal which produced 31 MFR, 25 CSSR, 21 HOPE instructors where 78 MFR, 64 CSSR, 86 TFI and 41 HOPE graduates to support the disaster activities.

Philippines

Philippines have conducted the adaptation course successfully in this phase. NSET-PEER have conducted thirteen different events in the Philippines which includes: three regional events, two country planning meetings, and the rest national level courses which produced 41 MFR, 32 CSSR and 14 HOPE instructors where 105 MFR, 90 CSSR, 88 TFI and 47 HOPE graduates in the country.

More details next issue.....

PEER Figure of the Month....

KAMALA SUBBA: The First Certified Female PEER Instructor for MFR, CSSR, and HOPE Courses in Asia

During the closing ceremony of the Country Planning Meeting for Nepal held on July 29, 2005, PEER awarded the first female instructor who has completed all the training courses required to be fully-certified as instructor for the three core courses of PEER. The certificate of recognition was handed over by Mr. Chandi Prasad Shrestha, Nepal Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) Secretary and Chief Guest during the ceremony.



Lt. Col Kamala Subba, working as Training Coordinator at the Royal Nepalese Army, has started her career in PEER by completing the MFR course in Kathmandu in 2003. She completed the HOPE and HOPE-TFI in 2004. Followed by TFI in the Philippines in 2004, she has completed CSSR, MFRIW and CSSRIW, all courses conducted in Nepal in 2005.

At present, she is assigned at the Birendra Army Hospital ready and available to extend her services to Nepal and to all PEER partner-countries, as requested.

FROM THE PARTNER-COUNTRIES: A Letter of Appreciation from the Government of Bangladesh

On April 18, 2005, PEER received a letter of appreciation from the Government of Bangladesh. In the letter, Mr. Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management and Relief, said that the skills and knowledge the personnel of Fire Service and Civil Defense acquired from the PEER courses were appropriately applied in the collapsed building rescue operation in Savar. He also said that the rescue tools and equipment donated to Bangladesh under the program were utilized and have saved hundreds of trapped victims under slabs and rubbles.



Mr. Yusuf has extended his thanks and gratitude to all partners of PEER in implementing this program in Bangladesh, particularly mentioned were the Safety Solutions Incorporated and USAID/OFDA.

Up-Coming PEER Events: Jan – Mar 2006

January

- TFI National Course – Indonesia
- MFRIW National Course – Indonesia
- CSSRIW National Course – Indonesia
- Country Planning Meeting - India

February

- HOPE National Course – India
- MIW Regional Course – Nepal

March

- Regional Networking Meeting – India



From Training to Action

Bangladesh

PEER-Trained Rescuers Save 85 People

April 2005



On Monday, April 11 in Bangladesh a nine-storey garment factory just outside of Dhaka collapsed suddenly when a boiler in the basement exploded, trapping up to 200 people beneath tons of rubble. Rescuers from the Bangladesh Fire Service & Civil Defence immediately launched rescue operations,

and were joined shortly after by the Army, Police, Scouts, Ministry of Health and other volunteer organizations. In the days that followed, the rescue teams reported they were able to save 85 people from the rubble and removed 61 dead victims

India

Mumbai Building Collapsed: PEER-Trained Rescuers Save 5 People

June 2005

PEER trained rescuers from Mumbai Fire Service worked non stop for 14 hours. Four women were killed and five other persons injured when a three-story building collapsed in Suburban Khar after incessant rains lashed the metropolis, Fire Brigade sources said. The 40-year-old building, 'Pushpanjali', collapsed shortly after 10 pm. Most of the flats were being used for residential purpose while the building also housed a chartered accountant's office, the sources added. A 16-year-old boy, who was rescued, miraculously escaped without injuries, the sources said.

Indonesia

PEER-Trained Rescuers Saved 11 People

December 2005

Wednesday, December 21, a mosque in north Jakarta collapsed suddenly during the prayer time. At that time there were 25 people in the mosque. Rescuers from the Ambulan 118 immediately responded and rescued a total of 11 trapped victims, 4 of whom were dead. The rescue operation was led by the North Jakarta Fire Service with assistance from Ambulan 118, Police, and other volunteer organizations. With the skills and knowledge still fresh in the minds of Ambulan 118 crew, they have applied all rescue strategies and techniques acquired in the course in saving the lives of the unfortunate victims, using PEER donated tools and equipments.

PEER – People at Work

Prof. Vinod K. Sharma, Chief-of-Party
Mr. Varun P. Shrestha, Senior Policy Advisor
Ms. Jasmin P. Lagahit, Lead Trainer
Mr. Rajendra Prasad Sharma, Training Coordinator
Mr. Damodar Adhikari, Information Management Specialist
Mr. Aman Sharma, IT Manager
Mr. Rajju Man Pradhan, Office Manager
Mr. Ranjan Ghimire, Project Accountant
Ms. Radhika Singh, Office Assistant
Mr. Kamal Gurung, Messenger

New PEER Staff

Ms. Neelam Parajuli, Material Production Specialist



Contact Us

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Message from the Editor



Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) is a regional training programs funded by USAID/OFDA. It covers five Asian countries Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines. We are running Medical First Responder (MFR), Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR), Training for Instructor (TFI), MFR Instructors Workshop, CSSR Instructors Workshop and Master Instructors Workshop in the region. Hospital Preparedness for Emergency (HOPE) is also added in PEER second phase. In view of communicating about the program activities to our partners, end users and donor we are developing and circulating this newsletter. The NSET-PEER has decided to publish this newsletter quarterly and distribute in the PEER countries and other relevant interested audience.

I hope the newsletter is able to give you the information about NSET- PEER and keep you updated about its activities. If you have any suggestions/comment to make it further improved, it will be highly appreciated.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful 2006!

- Vinod Kumar Sharma

etc

Name the PEER Newsletter and be featured..... Entries should contain the title and short explanation of the entry. Deadline of entries shall be January 30, 2006. Email your entries at peer@nset.org.np .

Join the PEER mail group..... and receive program information, news, course updates and share ideas with co-instructors. All certified PEER instructors, coordinators and ICC's are qualified to join the mail group. Express your interest and email peer@nset.org.np .

An article in mind? be a contributor of the PEER's newsletter. Send your article to peer@nset.org.np.

Next Issue

Bangladesh.... The New PEER partner-country

PEER Adaptation... A success

Instructor Development in Indonesia

PEER Figure of the Month.... "The first PEER Male Instructor for all 3 core courses"

And a lot more...

PEER

Dedicated to emergency response in Asia



Funded by USAID/OFDA

url: www.nset.org.np/peer

Implemented by NSET

