



**From CSSR to ASAR: India steps ahead**

On September 1-6, 2008, 24 selected PEER master instructors (PEER-certified graduates who have successfully completed Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue [CSSR] Course, instructor development courses, including Master Instructor Workshop) from India participated in the Advanced Search and Rescue (ASAR) Course held at Florida State Fire College, Ocala, Florida, USA.



This activity aimed to be an initial step towards the institutionalization of ASAR training program in various training institutions of India. The master instructors trained in ASAR are projected to replicate their knowledge and skills gained by organizing similar training program for instructors and end-users in India.



The course was organized by NSET/PEER-USAID/OFDA in collaboration with US-based Safety Solutions, Inc. (SSI), one of PEER's sub-contractor. ASAR is a 6-day course on search and rescue operations that introduced participants to advance technologies used in search strategy; electronic and sonic detection, breaching and breaking, crane usage in lifting and moving, hydraulic rescue tools, rope operation and rigging and others, using state-of-the art SAR equipment.

Course participants represented PEER partner organizations in India, namely, Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). These Indian paramilitary forces also make up the country's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), an elite group created to counter natural and human-induced catastrophes such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, nuclear and even biological attacks.

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**HOPE Course gets a facelift (Multi-Hazard curriculum)**



The conduct of Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) course primarily aims to prepare hospitals to respond effectively to emergencies. In line with the need to suit the curriculum to multi-hazard situations, NSET/PEER has taken the initiative to revisit and revise HOPE to address both natural hazards and human-induced emergencies. A series of brainstorming and workshops were then conducted with a team of regional course developers and experts who worked intensively to come up with an improved pedagogical quality of HOPE course curriculum.

The new HOPE was pilot tested in Kathmandu, Nepal on July 28-31, 2008. There were a total of 23 participants from PEER countries, namely, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

During the inaugural ceremony, Ms. Mariza Rogers, Acting Regional Advisor, USAID/OFDA, highlighted the conduct of PEER courses, including HOPE course, as in line with USAID/OFDA's commitment to capacity-building of Asian countries vulnerable to disasters. Interlinking HOPE with MFR and CSSR courses, it provides the logical transition from pre-hospital care towards ensuring hospitals' preparedness to receive patients during disasters. She, likewise, encouraged everyone to give feedback on how to further improve HOPE course.

The new HOPE course will also be re-introduced in the six PEER beneficiary countries through the conduct of national HOPE course, under NSET/PEER-USAID/OFDA full funding scheme.

**PEER Nepal: Nepal Police boosts Nepal MFR and CSSR instructors**



With the vision to develop more PEER instructors to cascade MFR and CSSR courses in Nepal and its communities, Nepal Police conducted series of instructor development courses in 2008, with support from PEER Partial Funding Assistance Program.

Under the leadership of Nepal Police, the series of MFR and CSSR instructor development courses were conducted successfully at Nepal Police Academy, utilizing Nepal national PEER instructors and regional instructors from Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines.

The courses were conducted on the following dates of 2008: CSSR Course on May 29 to June 6; TFI on June 9-13; MFR IW on June 16-20; and CSSRIW on June 25 to July 1.

Aside from Nepal Police, other PEER partner organizations also participated, namely, Armed Police Force, Nepal Army and Nepal Red Cross Society.

To date, Nepal has a total of 70 PEER certified instructors for MFR, 45 for CSSR and 26 for HOPE.

**PEER Pakistan moves on with Adaptation Courses**



Moving fast forward with PEER implementation, Pakistan, the newest PEER-beneficiary country, conducted MFR and CSSR Adaptation Test Courses on June 10-22, 2008 and June 26-July 4, 2008, respectively.

Following the above courses were instructor development courses, namely, Training for Instructors (TFI) on July 10-14, 2008; Medical First Responder Instructors Workshop (MFR IW) on July 16-20, 2008 and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue Instructors Workshop (CSSRIW) on July 25-31, 2008. The





adaptation courses were fully funded by NSET/PEER-USAID/OFDA, while instructor development courses were funded under the PEER Partial Funding Assistance Program (PFAP). Military College of Engineering (MCE) in Risalpur, Pakistan, was the host training institution for said trainings.

Regional instructors from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Philippines assisted Pakistan national PEER instructors during these activities.

To date, Pakistan has a total of 41 instructors for MFR, 37 for CSSR, and 23 HOPE instructors.

## Other PEER PFAP Events: Indonesia and Bangladesh conduct MFR and CSSR Courses

In line with the mission to continuously develop highly skilled emergency responders, Indonesia and Bangladesh conducted MFR and CSSR Courses for its emergency responders through PEER PFAP.

Ambulan 118 spearheaded the conduct of back-to-back MFR and CSSR Courses in Indonesia on January 14-26, 2008 and January 30- February 7, 2008. Participating groups are Jakarta Fire Service, Badan Search and Rescue Nasional (BASARNAS), National Security Council, Saiful Anwar Hospital and Ambulan 118. Jakarta Fire Training Center was the host training institution for both courses. To date, Indonesia has 123 MFR graduates, 82 for CSSR, and 43 for HOPE course.

On the other hand, Bangladesh, through Fire Service and Civil Defense, has conducted two (2) MFR courses (May 4-16 and May 19-31, 2008), and one CSSR Course (June 8-16, 2008), exclusively for responders of Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense. These trainings augmented the core of Bangladesh PEER-certified responders to date as 89 for MFR, 72 for CSSR and 63 for HOPE.

The above courses were facilitated by national and regional PEER instructors.

## PEER Graduates Join INSARAG Exercise 2008

Selected PEER graduates joined the INSARAG Asia-Pacific Earthquake Simulation Exercise 2008 held at Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines on April 15-17, 2008.

There were 18 countries, 52 organizations and more than 270 individuals participated in said activity. Among these, 15 PEER graduates (MFR and CSSR) from the Philippines and one (1) from India, joined said exercise. The INSARAG Exercise in the Philippines was a joint undertaking of the Philippine National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA).



The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) is an international network of countries and disaster response organizations under the United Nations. INSARAG aims at establishing standards and methodologies for USAR teams, particularly in disaster response involving earthquakes.

Selected Philippine CSSR instructors also conducted a 3-day Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Familiarization Course for participating Philippine SAR teams on April 11-13, 2008, at Olongapo City, Philippines, prior to the conduct of INSARAG exercise proper.

## Upcoming Events: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, Program Year 6

**October** (Tentative)  
Nepal National HOPE Course

**November**  
Bangladesh National HOPE Course - Nov 24-27, 2008

India PFAP Courses:  
Medical First Responder (MFR) Course - Nov 2-14, 2008  
Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) Course - Nov 19-26, 2008  
Training for Instructors (TFI) - Dec 05-09, 2008  
MFR Instructor Workshop (MFRIW) - Dec 12-16, 2008  
CSSR Instructor Workshop (CSSRIW) - Dec 21-27, 2008

**December** (Tentative)  
Regional Database Management Training, Nepal  
Regional Networking Meeting, Nepal

## Who's new in PEER?

NSET is pleased to announce that the following staff recently joined NSET/PEER:



**Edgar L. Posadas, MD, CFP**  
PEER Country Consultant - Philippines



**Ms. Maritess R. Tandingan**  
Training Consultant



**Mr. Rabin Kumar Shrestha**  
Information Management Specialist



**Ms. Bidhya Maharjan**  
Office Assistant

**Share your stories, feedback or send questions** through email: [peer@nset.org.np](mailto:peer@nset.org.np); [mtandingan@nset.org.np](mailto:mtandingan@nset.org.np).

## Contact Us

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