

PEER NEWS BULLETIN

PEER Stage 3
Issue 1
April - November 2009

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PEER STAGE 3 (2009-2014) LAUNCHED

PEER Stage 3 Regional Planning Meeting (RPM) was held in Bangkok on July 27-29, 2009. The three-day RPM served as launching pad for PEER Stage 3; a platform to present the scope and strategy of the program.

PEER implementing partners, namely, the National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET) and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) presented their respective scope of work and ensured common understanding to all PEER beneficiary countries.

At the same time, representatives from PEER country partners belonging to nodal agencies/National Disaster Management Organizations (NDMOs) and other partnering agencies like Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies and Health Ministries presented their ideas on how to proceed on capacity development and emergency response enhancement within PEER Stage 3.

PEER Stage 3 has 3 main objectives, namely, Objective 1. Community Action for Disaster Response (CADRE); 2. Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies



L-R: Ms. Rebecca Scheurer (ARC), Dr. Bhisit Rattakul (ADPC), Ms. Mariza Rogers (U.S.AID/OFDA), and Mr. Amod Mani Dixit (NSET) graced the Opening Program of PEER Regional Planning Meeting, July 2009, Bangkok.

(HOPE) Course; and 3. Medical First Responder (MFR) and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) courses. CADRE and HOPE are being implemented by ADPC with supplemental support from the American Red Cross (ARC); whereas MFR and CSSR courses are being managed by NSET. Both implementing parties join hands and create the synergy in achieving the overall program

goal of reducing mortality in mass casualty events and increase the survival rates of disaster victims in the target countries in Asia. MFR and CSSR courses are implemented in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and Philippines. CADRE and HOPE courses are also implemented in these 6 countries, expanding to new project countries namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam.

PEER (Objective 3) Events:

- *Medical First Responder (MFR) Course: Amity Public Safety Academy, Bacolod City, Philippines*
November 16-28, 2009
- *Country Planning Meeting (Indonesia):*
December 2-3, 2009
- *Country Planning Meeting (Philippines):*
December 7-8, 2009

NSET STRENGTHENS MFR AND CSSR COURSE IMPLEMENTATION UNDER PEER OBJECTIVE 3

The US Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) awarded the contract to **NSET** to implement **Objective 3 of PEER Stage 3** (April 01, 2009 to March 31, 2014). Project countries under Objective 3 are: Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Nepal, Pakistan and the

Philippines. PEER Stage 3 carries on with the strategic objective of improved standards of national disaster response and preparedness in Asia.

PEER Stage 3 Objective 3 aims to:

Strengthen the capabilities of

PEER countries to provide collapsed structure search and rescue and basic and advanced life support during emergencies by further strengthening and institutionalizing the medical first responder and collapsed structure search and rescue courses. (Continued to page 2)

PEER Country Quick Facts:*PEER Nepal*

- ◆ Project country since 1998.
- ◆ Nodal Agency: **Ministry of Home Affairs**
- ◆ Focal agency for implementation of MFR-CSSR courses: **Nepal Police**
- ◆ Signed MoU with Nepal Police on July 1, 2009 for PEER Stage 3.
- ◆ PEER Core Course Graduates:
123 MFR
110 CSSR
184 HOPE
2 MFR Refresher Course
2 CSSR Refresher Course
20 K-9
- ◆ PEER Instructor Development Graduates:
133 TFI
70 MFRIW
45 CSSRIW
17 MIW
45 H-TFI

NSET STRENGTHENS*Continued from page 1*

NSET aims to promote a seamless transition of PEER Stage 2 (2003-2009) to Stage 3 (2009-2014), replicating the successes from PEER Stage 2.

Under PEER Stage 3, NSET will strive to assist partner countries in the following areas:

- ◆ Implement PEER training courses for instructor development under Partial Funding Assistance Program (PFAP);
- ◆ Development of more responders through institutionalization process;
- ◆ Draft country strategy for emergency response human resources development; and
- ◆ Strengthen national and regional networking and strategic planning for overall enhancement in emergency response.

NSET AND ADPC CONVENE COORDINATION MEETING

NSET and ADPC held a joint meeting in NSET office on August 25-26, 2009. ADPC team was led by Mr. Bradford Phillips, Chief of Party; with Mr. Frederick John Abo, Deputy Chief of Party and Training Manager; and Ms. Esther Lake, Information and Network Coordinator. The two-day meeting focused on PEER communication strategies to effectively convey program information through website, database, newsletter and other current modalities, such as social networking that may apply to PEER.

Aside from meeting with PEER counterparts at NSET, ADPC team's mission to Kathmandu was highlighted by conducting coordination meetings with their respective program partners for PEER Objectives 1 and 2, i.e. with the Nepal Red Cross Society and the Ministry of Health and Population, for CADRE and HOPE course, respectively.

NSET SIGNS MOU WITH NEPAL POLICE

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Government of Nepal, is the Nodal Agency for PEER program implementation in Nepal. MoHA has identified Nepal Police as a focal PEER training institution for the implementation of Medical First Responder (MFR) and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) courses.

With the cooperation and support from Nepal Police, NSET/PEER has successfully conducted numbers of MFR and CSSR courses in Nepal during PEER Stage 2.

To carry on with program works in PEER Stage 3, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was duly signed between NSET and Nepal Police. The MoU signing ceremony was held at DIG office, Nepal Police Headquarters on July 1, 2009. Signing authorities from both the institutions were represented by Amod Mani Dixit, Executive Director, NSET and Chief of Party, PEER/NSET; and Deputy Inspector General Dinkar Shamsheer JB Rana, Training Director, Nepal Police

The MoU is to set forth the environment of mutual understanding between the Nepal Police (Government of Nepal, Ministry of Home Affairs, the nodal agency) and NSET on the need to implement the program in the best interest of Nepal, and create an environment of mutual cooperation towards successful implementation of MFR, CSSR and related streams.



DIG Dinkar Shamsheer JB Rana, Nepal Police; and Mr. Amod Mani Dixit, NSET as they sign the Memorandum of Understanding for PEER Stage 3 (Objective 3) implementation in Nepal, July 1, 2009, Kathmandu.



ADPC and NSET PEER counterparts during a coordination meeting on PEER information management systems, August 2009, Kathmandu.

PEER COUNTRY PLANNING MEETING - B'DESH



The Honorable Secretary Mokhlesur Rahman, Secretary, MOFDM, joined NSET, ADPC, USAID Bangladesh and PEER country partners during Country Planning Meeting (CPM), October 26, 2009, Dhaka.

PEER Country Planning Meeting (CPM)-Bangladesh was held on October 26-27, 2009 at Disaster Management Bureau (DMB), Dhaka.

The CPM officially launched PEER Stage 3 in Bangladesh. It aimed to promote smooth transition from Stage 2 to 3; presentation of Stage 3 program objectives; and planning for

PEER courses by partnering institutions.

Honorable Secretary Mokhlesur Rahman, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM), PEER nodal agency in Bangladesh, expressed continued commitment and support to PEER. From the donor's side represented by Ms Jo Lesser-Oltheten, Director,

Office of Food, Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance, USAID Mission in Bangladesh, encouraged MOFDM to continue the strong commitment and work on institutionalization of the program, identify the most appropriate people, and PEER graduates should be positioned in Bangladesh where they can exploit their skills to save lives.

Meeting highlights included the signing of MoU with MoFDM/DMB (PEER nodal agency in Bangladesh); and planning for two-year MFR-CSSR training program of the Fire Service and Civil Defence (PEER partner institute) under Partial Funding Assistance Program (PFAP). NSET and ADPC teams facilitated meetings with their partners for MFR and CSSR; CADRE and HOPE, respectively.

"...PEER graduates should be positioned... where they can exploit their skills to save lives."



NSET-MoFDM/DMB MoU Signing. Signing authorities are Mr. Amod Mani Dixit, NSET Executive Director and PEER/NSET Chief of Party; and Mr. Md. Farhad Uddin, Director General, DMB. Also in photo are DMB Directors Mr. A.H.M. Abdullah (Training and Planning) and Mr. Md. Manzoor Alam Bhuiyan (MIM), October 2009, Dhaka.

AMOD MANI DIXIT RECEIVES INDIA DISASTER MITIGATION AWARD



Mr. Amod Mani Dixit receives the Disaster Mitigation Award from the National Institute of Disaster Management (India) November 4, 2009, New Delhi.

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, awarded Mr. **Amod Mani Dixit, Executive Director of NSET and Chief of Party, PEER/NSET**, with the prestigious **Disaster Mitigation Award - 2009**. The awarding ceremony was one of the highlights of Second India Disaster Management Congress held on November 4, 2009 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The Award citation mentions: 'Mr. Dixit was driven by a firm conviction that scientific knowledge of geology, seismology and engineering should be demystified and a massive awareness built

among all the stakeholders, particularly the vulnerable communities in the rural and urban areas, to build a safe habitat that can withstand the hazards of nature. For this purpose, he took a number of innovative projects for reducing the risks of disasters, many of these funded by bilateral and multilateral agencies. Some of these projects include the School Earthquake Safety Program, Municipal Earthquake Risk Management Program, Mason Training Program, Shake Table Demonstration Project, Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response, etc. Many of these programs have been implemented in several countries of South and Southeast

Asia. NSET today is one of the very few South Asian NGOs that have a global presence.

Mr. Amod Mani Dixit has played a key role in the development of several policies and programs on disaster management in Nepal, including the recently announced National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management. It was largely due to his initiative that January 16 is observed as Earthquake Safety Day in Nepal to commemorate the devastating earthquake of 1934. His contributions for several global initiatives on earthquake risk management have been widely acknowledged.

In recognition of his significant contribution to disaster risk reduction in Nepal and rest of the world, the Second India Disaster Management Congress honors Mr. Amod Mani Dixit with Disaster Mitigation Award.'

Other recipients of said Disaster Mitigation Award were Dr. A.S. Arya, Professor Emeritus, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee; and Professor Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel Laureate and Founder of Grameen Bank from Bangladesh, awarded on November 2006 during the First India Disaster Management Congress. Both awardees were commended for their outstanding contributions in the field of disaster risk reduction in South Asia.

Got something to share or say?

Let PEER family and the international community know about your PEER activities, and expand your network! Be a contributor to PEER News Bulletin. Send your news articles, comments and suggestions to peer@nset.org.np.

PEER Impact...

CSSR TEAM IN PADANG EARTHQUAKE



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The September 30, 2009 Sumatra earthquake that occurred off the southern coast of Sumatra, Indonesia had a magnitude of 7.6. Said jolt struck Padang (West Sumatra). Reports confirmed 1,115 dead, 1,214 severely injured and 1,688 slightly injured.

Several agencies - domestic and international took part in extending assistance to Padang. 118 Emergency Ambulance Service (EAS) Foundation (also known as Ambulan 118) is one among the groups to respond first. Ambulan 118 is one of PEER

implementing partners in Indonesia. One CSSR Team led by Dr. Suryadi Soedarmo and Engineer Teddy Boen, was deployed by Ambulan 118 to the disaster site.

Having applied CSSR knowledge and skills, Ambulan 118's CSSR team was able to extricate trapped victims, both alive/injured and dead. Amid challenges faced during the disaster response operations in Padang, PEER's impact on the country's improved emergency response cannot be understated.



Ambulan 118's CSSR team in Padang earthquake search and rescue operations, September 2009, West Sumatra.

PHILIPPINES STRENGTHENS MFR-CSSR-HOPE NETWORKING

Towards the culmination of PEER Stage 2 in January 2009, NSET in collaboration with the Office of Civil Defense-National Disaster Coordinating Council, PEER nodal agency in the Philippines, and other implementing partners in Region 6, conceptualized a disaster drill that will test, gauge and assess the response capabilities of both the pre-hospital and hospital responders in the Visayan region. The drill was named **1st NSET-PEER-Coalition of Emergency Response Groups (CERG) - Western Visayas (WV) Response and Networking Drill.**

Said drill was conducted on July 3, 2009, in conjunction with the observance of National Disaster

Consciousness Month in the Philippines. The scenario simulated a 7.3 magnitude earthquake hitting Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, at around 9AM, causing considerable damage to the city's district hospital and various parts of the city. The drill ensued with MFR-CSSR and HOPE trained personnel leading the response, along with emergency response units of participating local governments, such as the fire department, police, Red Cross, Negros Rescue Foundation; volunteer groups such as the Amity Volunteer Fire Brigade; local health and hospital personnel. Local leaders, VIPs, representatives from the Regional, Provincial, and City Disaster Coordinating Councils; Provincial Disaster Management Office,

Provincial Health Office, civil defense deputized coordinators, media and the community were also present during the exercise to observe and extend valuable support to the activity.

The simulation exercise aimed to put the 3 core courses of PEER to test as one continuum of response, gathering all response efforts of both pre-hospital and hospital-based responders. It also tested the emergency response system of the local government.

Overall, the drill was successful, based on evaluation, observations and critique. The organizers resolved that similar exercises will be enhanced and will become the template for future disaster drills in Negros Occidental, Philippines.

We're on the Web!

<http://www.nset.org.np/peer>

PEER

Strengthening disaster response capacities in Asia

Newsbriefs



Nazik Salih, Disaster Operations Specialist-Asia, USAID/OFDA, was briefed on PEER by NSET/PEER team led by Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, NSET Deputy Executive Director. October 12, 2009, Kathmandu.



Mr. Amod Dixit and Mr. Varun Shrestha receive ADPC Team led by Dr. Bhichit Rattakul, ADPC Executive Director, Mr. NMSI Arambepola, and Professor Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, during the team's visit to Nepal, September 2009, Kathmandu.

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*The **National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET)** is a multidisciplinary professional society registered with the Government of Nepal as a Non-Government Organization in 1994. NSET is a non-profit organization whose main focus is on Earthquake Risk Management (ERM). Membership of the Society comprises professional engineers, architects, scientists and others, seriously interested in earthquake phenomena or in the reduction of the effects of earthquakes. For more information, log on to www.nset.org.np.*