

## **MDS ANNUAL REPORT**



### **International conference on Tsunami, Disaster Management and Coastal Development**

Held in Chennai from 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2005 and organized by Madras Development Society (MDS), a Non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Chennai, with the support of four ministers of the Central government of India, UNIDO-ICAMT, and a governmental agency from Malaysia.

The conference was conceptualized because MDS felt a holistic plan for the development of the people and places in the extensive coastal areas in India was badly needed. We cannot stop natural disasters from occurring, but certainly the impact wrecked by such disasters can be reduced with adequate disaster preparedness and management. The recent Tsunami of December 26<sup>th</sup> 2004 brought into focus how ill prepared we were in the face of such disaster. Thus, MDS responded to the necessity of raising awareness on disaster mitigation and sought to provide a common platform for NGOs to consult and discuss with one another in order to decide on the best methods for acquiring and utilizing funds to implement projects in the wake of the 2004 Tsunami.

The conference features experts from different parts of India and other countries their valuable views and suggestions on the cause and impact of the recent Tsunami, preparedness, early warning systems, and mitigation and management of disasters of any kind, as well as relief and rehabilitation measures and the role of NGOs, youth, community, media, governmental and international organizations.

The two days of the conference were including paper presentations and special addresses on various related issues, as well as project presentations. It is our hope that this conference enabled participants to exchange experiences and expand their knowledge about the pressing issues in need of innovative solutions and international cooperation.

The aims of the conference were to facilitate a platform to learn established best practices, innovate approaches for recovery programs, and influence proactive measures to mitigate the impact of disasters. The conference was also seeking to create awareness on the subject and give an opportunity for academics, governmental and non-governmental organizations to discuss the prevailing issues and problems of this region.

**We were proud to welcome our honorable guests:**

**Mr. A. Raja** – *Honorable Union Minister for Environment & Forests*

**Ms. Jaya Parthiban** – *Member of Parliament, Malaysia*

**Mr. Yoshiaki Kodaki** – *The Consul General of Japan, Chennai*

**Mr. E.V.K.S. Elangovan** – *Honorable Minister of state, Commerce and Industry, Government of India*

**Mr. S. Regupathy** – *Honorable Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs, Disaster Management, Government of India*

**Mrs. Subbulaksmi Jagadeesan** – *Honorable Minister of State, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India*

### **This conference was sponsored by:**

- *Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India*
- *Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India*
- *Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India*
- *Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India*
- *UNIDO-ICAMT, India*
- *Construction Industry Development Board, Malaysia*

### **Participating Governmental Organizations:**

- Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India
- Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India
- Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India
- Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India
- Ministry of Communication, Govt. of India
- Department of Revenue (Rehabilitation) Govt. of Tamil Nadu
- Department of Revenue (Rehabilitation) Govt. of Kerala
- Department of Revenue (Rehabilitation) Govt. of Karnataka
- Department of Revenue (Rehabilitation) Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
- Department of Revenue (Rehabilitation) Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
- New Mangalore Port Trust
- Visakhapatnam Port Trust
- Chennai Port Trust
- Mumbai Port Trust
- Geological Survey of India
- India Meteorology Department

- Karnataka Pollution Board
- **Foreign**
- Nigerian Meteorology Department
- China earthquake Administration
- Federation of Chambers and Commerce, Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka Ports Authority
- **Inter Governmental Agencies**
- UNIDO – ICAMT, New Delhi
- United Nations Country team, India, New Delhi

### **Non-Governmental Participating Organizations:**

- Sadanad Trust, Ahmedabad
- Rural Community Trust, Villupuram Dt, Tamil Nadu
- Amar Shaheed Chetna Sanstan, Mau, UP
- Bhoomika Trust, Chennai
- PLANT (Participating Learning Action Network & Training) Amabtur, Tamilnadu
- Alternative for India Development, Iyappanthangal, Chennai
- Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ANRA), Pondicherry
- Helpage India, Chennai & Cuddalore, Seva Vardhini, Pune
- Infant Jesus Mission Trust, Tiruvannamalai
- Rural Education Working Society
- Macro Trust India
- Christian Missions Charitable Trust
- The Covenant Center for Development
- CARE India
- Face-Costal Relief task force, Tanjavur
- Society for Serving Humanity, Dindigul Dt, Tamilnadu
- Teri India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

- South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies, Trivandrum
- Disaster mitigation Institute, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- Kerala State Nirmiti Kendra
- Plan – International, Chennai
- Shabnam Resources, Chennai
- Vision Charitable Trust, Chennai
- Oxfam India
- Danish Hydraulic, India, Delhi
- Costal Area Disaster Migration Efforts – Rajamaundry Cerem, Cochin
- Red Cross India, Chennai
- Action for Agriculture Renewal in Maharashtra (AFRAM)
- Rejuvenate India Movement
- Pulse of Life Trust
- Tefran – Sri Lanka
- Youth Strategy to Risk Disaster Reduction, Burindi
- Service and Research Foundation of Asia on Family and Culture, Chennai
- Rural Education & Agricultural Labour Society, Andra Pradesh

### **Participating Universities & Colleges:**

- K.K. Wagh College, Nasik
- Porarura Rural Engg. College, Ahmednagar
- Fishers College, Tuticorin
- C.L. Parikh college of Commerce, Palanpur, Gujarat
- P.E.T. Engg. College, Vallioor
- Regional Institute of Education, Ajmer
- Meenakshi Amman Engg. College, Nammandi (Kanchi Dt)
- Thiruvslur Engg. College, Vandavasi
- Guindy Engg. College, Chennai

- Singhad college of Engg., Pune
- School of Maine Sciences, Cochin
- Sri Sarada College, Salem
- Crescent Engg. College
- Arts, science and Commerce College, Salem
- College of Military Engineering, Pune
- Abasaheb Garware College, Pune
- Madras University
- Dayanand Saraswarhi University, Aimer
- Vikram University, Gwalior
- S.K. Porwal College, Nagpur District
- Jiwaji University, Gwalior
- Pachaiyappas College, Chennai
- Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University
- University of Pune
- SITE College, Chennai
- MGR Janaki College, Chennai
- BYK College, Nasik
- Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal
- Sri Sankara University, Kalady
- MNM Jain College of Engineering, Chennai
- Government Polytechnic, Bhavnagar, Gujarat
- Bharativar University, Coimbatore
- Bharatidasan University, Tiruchirapally
- Tamil Nadu Rice research Institute
- Medical University, Chennai
- Rizvi Law College, Mumbai

## **Participating Countries:**

- India
- Sri Lanka
- China
- Hong Kong
- United Kingdom
- Iran
- Tanzania
- Cameroon
- New Zealand
- Nepal
- Japan
- U.S.A.
- Denmark
- Nigeria
- Burundi
- Canada

To summarize: 450 delegates, 25 governmental and 34 non-governmental organizations and 36 Universities and Colleges have participated in the conference, which was a reason to released 450 pages Report on Tsunami, Disaster Management and Costal Development.

## **Recommendations of International conference on Tsunami, Disaster Management and Coastal Development**

### **A. Nodal Agency:**

1. Madras Development Society expresses its willingness to act as a nodal agency between governmental agencies and NGOs for funding, project clearance, coordination in the area of relief, rehabilitation and humanitarian work;
2. Madras Development Society plans to establish an international center for disaster management to cater to the needs of this geo-region with the help of Government of India and state governments and other governments and agencies;

### **B. GOI Level: Disaster Preparedness Measures**

3. A Central Ministry for Disaster Management to be created with statutory authority to act as nodal agency to coordinate the work of all central ministries and agencies for disaster reduction, mitigation and management with ability to liaise directly with international actors, agencies with guidance from the Ministry of External Affairs;
4. An early warning system to be in place which will among others include a national emergency communication plan linked to vulnerable areas, using satellite technology and mapping;
5. Hazard line mapping to be carried out along the entire coastal stretch with ecologically sensitive areas to be accorded high priority;
6. A robust national coastal environment plan to be in place which will make stringent regulations on construction and developmental plans along the coast;
7. To designate a day or even a week as Disaster Preparedness day in disaster prone areas where people participate in disaster preparedness exercises all over the country;



8. Regional research centers and institutes of higher learning to study and research disaster mitigation and management and to work closely with international research and academic institutes;
9. The Disaster Management Ministry, suggested above should institutionalize a mechanism for sustained action oriented interface with NGOs/NGO networks.
10. Strengthening the State Level Disaster Management Cell into a Disaster Preparedness Cell, with enhanced scope of work, structures, systems and Procedures and timeline. Such Cell would lead NGOs functioning in the Coastal areas with significant experience;
11. Setting up a Disaster Preparedness Committee at District Level;
12. Integrating Disaster Preparedness in the ongoing development and safety net programs of Government;
13. Institutionalized coordination with NGOs/NGO networks to assure peacetime disaster preparedness work (Vulnerability mapping; planning and implementing Community based disaster preparedness strategies like establishing taskforce and training them and assisting them develop contingency plan, mock-drills and facilitating strategies to improve food, water security and animal security);
14. Institutionalized reviews of disaster preparedness with all line departments and NGO Networks;
15. Agreeing on roles and responsibilities between the Government structures and NGOs/NGO networks in disaster response programs and strict compliance to it

### **The Conference welcomes**

The Government of India's proposal to map coastal areas and prepare management plans for their protection and conservation. The Conference welcomes the Government of India's new approach to the coastal zone management to be adopted based on community participation and management rather than regulatory measures alone. The scope for improving the ongoing tsunami response programs: Conference seeks that the Central Government declare the December 2004 tsunami disaster as a national disaster;

**a) Targeting and Reaching the Unreached:** The communities out of the Government's relief and survival package should be included and reached without further delay. Families affected in the tsunami must be identified and enlisted for various packages and list made available to all stakeholders

**b) The need for improved coordinated approach to programming:** Through improved coordination among all stakeholders (donors-INGOs-NGOs and Governments), overlapping and duplication must be avoided to prevent inequity. Response mapping exercises should be done by coordinating agencies like NCRC, Nagapattinam, TNTRC-Chennai with details of program by village and program. The gaps identified in such exercises in terms of villages and program interventions must be identified and ensured that Government/NGOs reach them out effectively. Approach to filling critical gaps and complimenting and program convergence rather than being competitive is expected to achieve greater geographic coverage and program impact.

**c)The need for program intervention in Public Health and Water Sanitation:** The living conditions in the temporary shelters put up by Government and NGOs is far from satisfactory. Basic sanitation facilities and improved access to water are of paramount importance. Govt and NGOs need to intensify their efforts in this area, to prevent any major epidemic situation;

**d)There is an urgent need for improving livelihood situation of agricultural farmers whose land is sainted.** The Government's package is insufficient. If no attention is paid to this sector, the adverse effect would be significant for many years to come;

**e)Community decision making in the permanent shelter program:** Drawing lessons from Gujarat and Latur, it is important to ensure that the key decisions(in the areas of appropriateness of land in terms of access of basic social services, being able to still pursue their choice of traditional/alternative livelihood options, suitability of interior design especially to women's needs (Action : Govt and NGOs).

## NGO Level:

- 1) Forming and strengthening NGO networks consisting of NGOs in coastal areas)
- 2) Institutionalized interface with State and District Level Government structures and communities to perform peacetime disaster preparedness tasks (Vulnerability mapping; planning and implementing community based disaster preparedness strategies like establishing taskforce and training them and assisting them develop contingency plan, mock-drills and facilitating strategies to improve food, water security and animal security);
- 3) Participating in the Disaster Preparedness Reviews by Government;
- 4) Organizing disaster preparedness workshops for NGOs and Government Systems to plan and integrate disaster preparedness in the ongoing programs;
- 5) Compiling and disseminating best practices;
- 6) Planning and organizing capacity building training programs/workshops for NGOs and Government Systems;
- 7) Creation of centers of excellence with selected NGOs and communities.

## Community Level:

- 1) Identification and selection of self-motivated men and women to be a part of Task Force;
- 2) Establishment and training of Task Force;
- 3) Development of Micro Plans/Contingency plans;
- 4) Organizing mock drills;
- 5) Implementation of strategies to improve food security, water security, animal security;
- 6) Operating communication system with District Authorities.



Ministry of  
Environment & Forests,  
Govt. of India



Ministry of  
Commerce and Industry,  
Govt. of India



Ministry of Social  
Justice and Empowerment,  
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