

Advancing Development
**Knowledge Building Workshop on
Disaster Risk Reduction**

28 September 2007

Madurai Symposium

24 - 29 September, 2007
Thamukkam Grounds, Madurai



Madurai Symposium

The biennial Madurai Symposium was designed by DHAN Foundation to celebrate recent development related initiatives and innovations. The celebration acts as a platform to share, comprehend, network, learn and plan for all future development interventions. All stake holders of development—community institutions, civil societies, government organizations, NGO's, financial institutions, academicians and researchers—are invited to the celebration. This year's Symposium—the third so far—is scheduled from 24 – 29 September. As with the two prior symposiums, conferences will be organised as either People Convention (6 sessions) or Development Convention (22 sessions). Tata-Dhan Academy's Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction will lead a Knowledge-Building workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction on 26 September, 2007.

Workshop background

Today's development scenario poses serious challenges to governments, national and international NGOs, research and academic institutions, corporates, individuals, and anyone else concerned with development. The severity of recent disasters—both natural and man-made—impede the process of development and increases poverty world wide. Analysing the current global scenario, one now finds a paradigm shift in disaster response from relief and rehabilitation to disaster risk reduction through prevention, preparedness, and mitigation approaches. Restoring the situation alone will not be sufficient and hence warrants addressing continuing vulnerabilities. This further strengthens actions to promote disaster risk reduction as a prime developmental issue. However, mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in poverty reduction is a long-term process. Disaster or emergency situations vary widely—as do the methods for managing these situations. Fortunately, amongst the multiple stakeholders working in disaster risk reduction, there is a wealth of experience and knowledge available. Making use of this resource, however, requires strong collaborative action between all stakeholders. Through such collaborations, new creative ideas can emerge as effective tools for disaster risk reduction.

It is in this context, the Tata-Dhan Academy has organised a Knowledge Building Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction which will be attended by practitioners from NGOs, government organisations, and academic and research institutions to provide a platform to share the best practices and learnings across different stakeholders and from different contexts. The proceedings of the workshop will be well-documented as it adds to the knowledge pool.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the workshop are to:

1. Appraise the current status and challenges in disaster risk reduction in India;
2. Identify research and capacity building needs for overcoming the challenges; and
3. Form areas of collaboration and scope for effective networking among different stakeholders with similar interest and commitment.

Participants

The workshop invites participation from policy makers, national, international voluntary organisations, research and academic institutions, community organisations, development professionals, donors, and all other individuals and organisations involved in disaster risk reduction and management.

Expected output

The workshop envisages the following outputs:

- An effective network of policy makers, practitioners, academics, and community organizations.
- Leads for case studies and documentation
- Areas for research and training followed by a plan of action

Programme Schedule

Day: 26 September, 2007 (Wednesday)

Venue: Thamukkam Grounds

10.00 a.m – 10.10 a.m	Invocation followed by Welcome Address
10.10 a.m – 10.40 a.m	Keynote address
10.40 a.m – 11.00 a.m	Background paper presentation on Challenges in Disaster Risk Reduction
11.00 a.m – 11.45 a.m	Lead paper presentation — 1 Approaches in Disaster Risk reduction – Present status and future requirements
11.45 a.m – 12.30 p.m	Lead Paper Presentation — 2 Early warning system for Disaster Risk Reduction – Present status and future challenges
12..30 p.m – 1.15 p.m	Lead paper presentation — 3 Experiences in Disaster Risk Reduction – Problems and Prospects
1.15 p.m – 2.15 p.m	Lunch Break
2.15 p.m – 3.00 p.m	Lead Paper presentation — 4 Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction in development planning and processes
3.00 p.m – 3.45 p.m	Lead Paper presentation — 5 Training and Research needs in Disaster Risk Reduction
3.45 p.m – 4.45 p.m	Discussion and workshop synthesis by panel members
4.45 p.m – 5.15 p.m	Conclusion and way forward

Note: Each Lead paper presentation will be for 30 minutes followed by 15 minutes for discussion.

The Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction of Tata-Dhan Academy cordially invites interested candidates and organizations to participate and share their views and experiences for enriching the workshop.

About Tata-Dhan Academy

Tata-Dhan Academy is promoted by DHAN Foundation, a pioneering grassroots organisation, and Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT), Mumbai, to identify, nurture, and groom young graduates into development professionals through its flagship 23-month programme in development management (PDM). The PDM is a careful blend of classroom and field segments. In addition to long-duration education programme and research, the Academy has identified short-duration development management programmes to enable the world of practice. The thematic programmes include Development Management Appreciation Programme (DMAP), the Art of Upscaling Microfinance (ART Programme), Micro Insurance, Social Development Research Capacity building (SDRC), and Leadership Education in Advancing Development (LEAD). The purpose of these programmes is to professionalise the development sector and make it more efficient and effective.

The Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction is a proposed centre at Tata-Dhan Academy with the goals of developing a qualified skilled committed cadre of professionals and volunteers from communities and non-governmental organisations who will work towards disaster management and mitigation by supporting research, training, knowledge-building workshops, networking, and policy advocacy efforts related to disasters in the country.

Through its varied efforts, the Academy hopes to position itself as a Centre of Excellence in development management.

For further information, please contact

Workshop Coordinator

Tata-Dhan Academy

Boys Town Campus, Pulloothu, Madurai - 625 016. Tamil Nadu, INDIA

Tel: + 91 - 452 - 2475219, 2475318 Fax: + 91 - 452 - 2602247

Email: tatadhanacademy@satyam.net.in Website: <http://www.dhan.org>