

Workshop on Dissemination of Recommendations for City Disaster Management Plan- Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation has organised a half day workshop on dissemination of recommendation for updating and finalising City Disaster Management Plan on 9th of September 2013 at Hotel Magic Days, Thiruvananthapuram. The workshop was chaired and inaugurated by the respected Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation; Advocate K. Chandrika and co-chaired by Deputy Mayor Shri. G. Happy Kumar. Fifty participants attended the workshop representing various agencies and offices like; the Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, Regional Town Planning Department, Trivandrum Social Service



Shri. Ansar. J. Assistant Executive Engineer delivering welcome speech

Society (TSSS)- a local NGO, Kerala Fire and Rescue Services, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Institute of Land and Disaster Management (ILDM), HVRA Cell and officers of development programmes being implemented in the Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram. The programme started at 11 AM with a welcome speech delivered by Shri. Ansar. J. Assistant Executive Engineer of Thiruvananthapuram MC. Ramesh Krishnan, City Project Coordinator in introductory speech spoke on the objective of the dissemination workshop. Ramesh Krishnan said that in year 2011, under Gol-UNDP-Disaster Risk Management Project a City Disaster Management Plan was prepared. UNDP has now engaged a consultant to review the City DM Plan and the consultant has given the recommendations for updating the CDMP. The prime objective of the workshop is to share the recommendations with various stakeholders who are involved in disaster management at state level.



Mayor; Advocate K. Chandrika addressing audience

Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation; Advocate K. Chandrika in her presidential address said that, association with UNDP was started way back in 2010 when MHA and UNDP has selected the MC for the implementation of Urban Risk Reduction Programme. Many good works were done under the URR programme including preparation of city CM Plan. Another pioneering initiative was the establishment of City

Emergency Operation Centre. She also talked about the

importance of disaster management at city level. Thiruvananthapuram MC is fast growing, with new infrastructures and development projects coming in. Hence the MC shall have a robust and workable City Disaster Management Plan.



Shri. G. Happy Kumar Deputy Mayor delivering speech

Shri. G. Happy Kumar Deputy Mayor in his speech, said that Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation has prepared a draft Master Plan and it is now about to be finalised. The City DM Plan which will be updated under GoI-UNDP-CRM Project shall go hand in hand and shall not be a standalone document. There shall be linkage with Master Plan and CDMP. He said that the makers of the master plan are infact the engineers of RTP office and Engineering department of Thiruvananthapuram MC and all are now participants of the workshop.

Hence convergence will not be difficult.

Dr. Sureshbabu, Assistant Secretary Kerala State Disaster Management Authority in his key note address spoke on the relevance of Disaster Management Plan whether it is at state, city or at district level. His speech revolved around DM Act 2005. He spoke on the need for providing more powers to police and fire force in the field of disaster management.

Shri. Ashok Malhotra, Programme Officer of UNDP made a brief speech spoke on the mandate and DM initiatives of UNDP including Climate Change. He said that state must show greater interest and own up the programmes so that, many other activities can be carried out in the State of Kerala.

Ms. Abha Mishra, National Project Co-ordinator of Climate Risk Management Project made splendid PowerPoint presentation covering entire aspects of the review of CDMP. She said that, UNDP has engaged a national consultant to review the CDMP based on its clarity, comprehensiveness, process, efficiency, appropriateness, dissemination; and current status of its implementation and use, whether CDMP has captured climate-related impacts and provide specific



Ms. Abha Mishra, NPC-CRM Project sharing recommendations' to update CDMP

recommendations to the city administration to address gaps and its updating. She spoke on the strengths, weaknesses and recommendations and shared the framework of CDMP. The recommendations to strengthen / upgrade the City Disaster Management Plan of Thiruvananthapuram city are as follows;

- Institutional structures with linkages to state, city and district levels need to be stated.
- Need more quantitative as well as qualitative data on Hazards, vulnerability, capacities, potential risks with the city and engage with relevant departments/ agencies/ academic institutions/community.
- Sex segregated data with other vulnerabilities need to be captured in the plan.

- Potential risk and vulnerability of various wards to be identified and analyzed.
- Seasonality of the Hazards to be mentioned in the plan.
- Data to be further strengthened especially to identify the available resources and gaps.
- Mitigation plan should include action points with fund allocation, time frame for periodic review and implementation and,
- Process, updating and review plans are to be included in the plan.



Regional Town Planner Shri Ajay Kumar sharing his ideas and opinions on strengthening CDMP

After the presentation of Ms. Abha Mishra a open house discussion was initiated under the facilitation of UNDP Team lead by Shri. Ashok Malhotra, Ms. Abha Mishra, Ramesh Krishnan and former SPO of UNDP shri. Ajith Chacko. Officers from Regional Town Planning, the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Kerala Fire and Rescue Services, ILDM, local NGO – TSSS, HVRA Cell and engineers of Thiruvananthapuram MC shared their views and

opinion. Nutshells of the Question/Answer session are as follows;

- Refer CDP/Master Plan- for social and economic vulnerability/spatial analysis/maps.
- Refer Heat Island Study- SCCAP.
- Relook at the Schemes/Programme currently being thought for Trivandrum city- potential risks/disaster being created due to development activities.
- Lack of resources – with special focus on equipments for rescue operation.
- Pre and post disasters scenario planning is to be done.
- Contact details to be devised as per hazards/disasters.
- Clearly define Role and Responsibilities of various parties.
- Phasing of the Implementation activities and funding to be done.
- Structural assessment / analysis of old buildings.
- Solid Waste management, Coastal erosion, Epidemics, River of the city being used as drainage system leading to other issues.
- Human induced disaster needs mitigation planning with funds.
- Include format for collection of information during response.
- Capacity Analysis- equipment and human resources.
- All phases of DM should be planned; especially the capacity building plan including community capacity building.
- Include technology within the plans to improve the quality of the plans-GIS, M & E, improving surveillance systems-epidemics, solid waste management.
- Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Plans to be included.
- Include Mitigation Plan.
- Include Response Plan (brief)
- Accountability- who is accountable for what?
- Look at the governance issues from close quarters.

- Ward wise profiling can done by Kudumbasree and training to SHG members.
- Include SOPs and make Roles and Responsibilities clearly defined.

Towards the end of the workshop, an action plan (Sept 2013) for Thiruvananthapuram city was discussed with the participants and finalised. Following are the decisions;

1. Revisit City Disaster Management Committee - add members as per genuine need.
2. Nominate a Nodal officer from Municipal Corporation to anchor the development of the City DM plan.
3. Form a Task Force including MC Officers, District officers, eminent persons, NGO's.
4. Review already existing plans and,
5. Develop an action plan with clear responsibilities of persons / agencies, funds, and time lines.

At 1.45 PM, the workshop was concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Ramesh Krishnan, City Project Coordinator.

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View of workshop audience