Second Workshop Report
Asian University Network of Environment and Disaster Management (AUEDM)

Organized by:
Kyoto University
Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies

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1. Participants

   BRAC University, Bangladesh (1)
   Beijing Normal University, China (1)
   University of Madras, India (2)
   Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India (1)
   Institute of Technology Bandung, Indonesia (1)
   Tokyo Denki University (1)
   Kyoto University, Japan (2)
   National University of Malaysia (UKM), Malaysia (1)
   Myanmar Engineering Society, Myanmar (1)
   Nepal Engineering College, Pokhara University, Nepal (1)
   University of Philippines Los Baños, Philippines (1)
   Peradeniya University, Sri Lanka (1)
   Danang University, Vietnam (1)
   SEEDS (1)
   United Nations University (1)

2. Objectives of the Second Workshop

   The first meeting in Kyoto in July 2008 has agreed on the following:
   1. To share and work together (bilaterally or multilaterally) in promoting environment and disaster management in higher education (focusing on, but not restricted to, post-graduate education)
   2. To seek possibilities of mutual collaboration on field-based action research
   3. To broaden the scope of education and learning in the environment and disaster management field through collaboration with other stakeholders like NGOs and local governments

   Future tasks agreed in the first meeting were: workshop report, AUEDM logo, brochure, mission statement, goal, Guidelines for current development in disaster management, Book outline (a text which can be widely used in the post-graduate studies), Website development.

   The second workshop had the following objectives:
   - Educational objective:
     ➢ To discuss the higher education guidelines of environment and disaster management
   - Research objective:
     ➢ To discuss specific issues of bilateral and/or multi-lateral collaboration on disaster reduction and/or climate change adaptation
     ➢ To discuss the research outreach and publications
   - Network objective:
     ➢ To discuss and agree on the management group of AUEDM
3. Proceedings and Discussion

The meeting lasted for one day, which was mainly divided into three parts:
- Educational Aspects, with specific examples of disaster management courses and curriculum
- Research Aspects, focusing on bilateral and multilateral collaborative research
- Networking Aspects, focusing on the management group formation

Following part provides salient points discussed and agreed in the workshop. It also provides results of bi-lateral discussion and proposals on specific thematic groups.

3.1 Educational Aspects

This part focused on presentation by Janki Andharia of TISS and Fuad Mallick of BRAC U.

3.1.1 TISS Experiences: Disaster response in TISS started since 1947 and TISS sent student volunteers as “citizen volunteers” for disaster response. Hence the TISS DM curriculum incorporates 60 years of disaster response experience. Constraints in disaster response identified during TISS response experience were: Weak government policies, Fragmented efforts & DM strategies, Weak institutional memory, Exclusion of vulnerable communities in decision making process, Absence of comprehensive approach and hence this all pointing to a need for qualified, skilled and committed professionals in the field of DM. Therefore TISS decided to work on a multidisciplinary Masters’ in Disaster Management. While explaining the process of curriculum development, she mentioned that TISS followed following approach:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewing courses (Desktop review) related to disaster management offered by institutes &amp; universities the world over</th>
<th>Presenting the framework to 14 African and 10 American Universities for feedback which already have DM courses</th>
<th>Sharing the course contents &amp; structure with a national level group of experts from NGOs and INGOs; making changes according to inputs received</th>
<th>Presenting Course outline and content to Academic Council, consultations with members. Presenting revised course to a second AC meeting. Academic council ratifies the course</th>
<th>Formulating and reviewing study methodology &amp; study materials for all courses</th>
<th>Introduction of the Master’s program at TISS Mumbai</th>
</tr>
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</table>

- Students in TISS course includes doctors, social scientists, engineers, IT Professionals, geographers, Engineers etc and they all enhances the teaching with variety of views. The outcome of TISS analysis revealed that: Disaster Management (DM) yet to be recognized as a specialized discipline in Universities; Although it is offered in formal education systems, modules and courses it is offered as Fulltime Masters’ in only a couple of universities worldwide. Therefore TISS started offering – Multidisciplinary, locates its work within Social and Environmental justice framework

- Mentioned about challenges in DM education: very little theoretical work is available in this discipline (on what is being done and what is learned); strong “reaction” approach
prescribing “what is to be done”; how DM practice influence institutional power policies? Scarcity of DM faculty (specialists are available in specific domains such as environmental science etc.); willingness to get involved in the field is very limited (one wants to exclude messy field realities); salaries in NGO/Consulting sector are high; general shortage of quality teachers. However there are few opportunities such as: government is open to staff training; most agencies involved in DM work are willing to partner in education process.

3.1.2 BRAC University Interventions: It was mentioned that the DM education should be to not just practice driven but “establishing a theoretical basis of disaster education”. A few actions on the educational agenda are as follow:

● Inventories of disaster education institutions and network in the region
● Coordinate with research groups; work towards developing a curriculum structure for DM.
● It is required to develop a skeleton which is adaptation, and can be contextualized based on the needs.
● We have good number of practitioners in DM but we need to create academics of DM
● Towards future actions Fuad Mallick proposed to explore avenues of environment and DM education at levels of primary, secondary and higher secondary and undergraduate levels. Also emphasized on non-formal teaching methodologies by citing example of the girl who saved many lives with her non-formal knowledge about Tsunami.

3.1.3 Discussion

● Vinod Sharma mentioned about gaps in academics and policy research in India. He acknowledged that TISS is well known and hence are part of the policy making. But in general, ‘teaching-research-policy’ - have hardly influenced each other and reports are kept in bookshelves. He informed that a Cell on Climate Change is being set up in IIPM my Ministry of Agriculture, Indian government. Policy makers are the one who will be associated with this Cell and hence please try to see if policy makers can also be part of this Network.

● Faud Mallick informed that BRAC University offers masters in government policy and the course outline also includes 3-4 modules from disaster management. For example Joint Secretary from DM Department sponsored by UN for DM course, however they get transferred regularly.

● Vinod Sharma informed that IIPA has MoU with 17 countries to give training to administrators (for example from Nepal, Maldives etc.) This initiative can be linked to AUEDM.

● Krishna Pribadi raised the issue of demand and supply based education. He stressed that most educational institutes are supply based now. Moreover, many universities are offering too specific knowledge in the name of DM. for example one university offers course in GIS and in the name of DM Course, emphasis still lies in developing GIS skills predominantly. Similar is the case with Business Management or Medical universities.

● Krishna Pribadi also expressed concerns about qualifications of recruitments whether we need students from just one background or many because if we focus on “science of disasters”, how many other disciplines might be able to follow this?
• Fuad Mallick also informed that at one point of time, we thought of offering one course in each type of disaster but then the list of disasters we need to address could me long, hence it is not-practical.
• Janaki Andharia informed that in the course on introduction to disasters science of disasters is also covered and TISS have built in flexibility based on demand from the students.
• Weihau Fang informed that in Beijing University they offer programs covering many disasters but it work like if student A has interest in floods, student A can take that course in neighboring university and can take credit. Similarly, they have collaboration with Ministry of Civil Affairs to give exposure to students to field work.
• Prof. Sharma enquired that what part of disaster courses are dedicated to study earlier disasters and Faud replied that AUEDM can collect such cases and file them for reference. He further suggested that education group can form subcommittees to focus on repository, curriculum development etc.
• Rajib pointed out that education is very much culture specific hence we are trying to prepare a guidebook - a kind of “nutrition guide” around which structure of database can be prepared on specifics such as Earthquakes, social studies in disasters etc.

3.2 Research Aspects
Two specific research projects were described and discussed.

3.2.1 Disaster Reduction Hyperbase (DRH): Presentation was made by Professor Hiroyuki Kameda of EDM/ NIED.
• His talk was basically intended to introduce ‘Disaster Risk Hyperbase (DRH)’ and let the participating university partners know that they can do better networking through this and also propose contents for DRH. He also informed that DRH is a very powerful knowledge base for implementation technology.
• He also informed that recently issue related to incentive to users and contributors is just added in this DRH which is basically a web based facility.
• He explained that Implementation Technology is categorized in three types as: implementation oriented technology, process technology and transferable indigenous knowledge.

3.2.2 Selamat Project: The project was initiated by ADRRN and Kyoto University aiming at collaboration between civil society and university. From the university side, four universities participated: Kyoto University, University of Madras, University of Peradeniya, and Institute of Technology Bandung.
• Dr. R. Krishnamurthy, University of Madras, India
  o The project started in February 2008. Since then, 4 training modules have been developed: schools safety in coastal areas (India focus, coastal watching and hazard map preparation were main activities); climate change adaptation training program (Tamilnadu State Planning Commission was also involved, Indian specific, local government-planners-NGOs
were involved); community based coastal zone management (for Maldives); community based information systems.
   o He also explained the process of module development and mentioned that training in Chennai and Maldives resulted in getting useful feedback from participants and which were incorporated in the modules appropriately.
   • Dr. Krishna Pribadi, Institute of Technology, Bandung, Indonesia
     o He shared experience of developing Training Modules on: Participatory Urban Risk Management for Planners; DRR Leadership Training Program for NGOs
     o Mr. U Than inquired whether this is an open courseware and Rajib replied that by June 2009, all these modules will be available in public domain as well as on AUEDM website.
   • Dr. Rekha Nianthi, University of Peradenia, Sri Lanka
     o She shared experience of developing two Training Modules on: Disaster risk reduction; Post Disaster Impact Assessment (PDIA).
     o She informed that these modules have been prepared for planners and practitioners and 18 research persons and consultants were involved in developing these modules.
     o Soon after the Tsunami 2004, a Disaster Management Center was established in Sri Lanka and it was also involved in the module development. Three days program towards that was focusing on river flood area and tsunami affected area. First day concepts and theory was explained and second day field visits were organized and third was used for writing reports and documents.
     o PDIA was done with Muslim and Tamil majority groups and impact evaluation was also done. Each module consists of eight chapters.

3.2.3 Research Agenda of AUEDM: Dr. Sharifah Munirah Alatas, from University of Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) made presentation on the research agenda. The key points were as follow:
   • To propose research and publication areas and identify themes and publication areas. She also emphasized to initiate bilateral and multilateral cooperation to address the policy environment in the states.
   • She also suggested to hold regular technical meetings, workshops and symposiums; exchange of researchers including PG, and doctoral students.
   • She also proposed to develop a calendar for 2009-10 meetings to be organized by AUEDM members.
   • She also suggested for ‘host researchers’ depending on the availability of funding the duration could be 2-week, 1-month or 6-months. She also suggested to keep the website updated to pursue this.
   • Elaborating gaps and opportunities she pointed out: Need to focus on growing crises situations relating to Human Security; Realization that the continued deterioration of the environment is due to unchecked human activity; Acceptance that these activities have resulted in various hazards due to climate change; Identify how climate change has affected the scientific, social, economic & political dimensions of human existence.

3.2.4 Asian Journal of Environment and Disaster Management (AJEDM): A new journal is proposed as the outreach of the AUEDM activities. This is the first journal focusing on the environment and disaster related issues in the Asian region. This journal provides a forum to
communicate research findings, not only through academic research, but also incorporating field based action research. The journal will have wider authors and readers, which will include the research and academic community, non-government organizations, policy makers and international organizations. Thus, the journal encourages the field practitioners and managers to share their thoughts and experiences and to interact with the academic community so as to fill the gap of research, education and implementation. Details of the journal can be found in: [http://www.rpsonline.com.sg/journals/ajedm.html](http://www.rpsonline.com.sg/journals/ajedm.html)

3.2.5 Discussion: Following issues were discussed:

- Rajib Shaw informed that the research collaboration among AUEDM members will be topic and theme specific and that should be the beginning point prior to collaborate. He also pointed out that bilateral collaboration between two neighboring countries is much easier to get funding and mandates may also be clearer. The partnership could be: Nepal-India-Bangladesh; Malaysia-Indonesia; etc. He also strongly advocated to collaborate with regional centers like SAARC, ASEAN and suggested that few universities from the region can collectively submit proposals to these agencies. He opined that funding for whole Asian region is difficult to get however SA, SEA, EA is easier. Towards this, AUEDM members will have leverage to show the expertise gained through AUEDM Network. He also encouraged to exchange researchers, faculties and doctoral students among AUEDM members. He also emphasized that we need to be creative for generating funding for example we may submit a proposal for ‘Ocean Development’ and bring DRR perspective in it.

- Fuad Mallick informed that Myanmar and Bangladesh shared cyclone shelter issues and visited each other for more information.

- Krishna Pribadi agreed to act as interface between research and education working group. It was suggested that a lot of work is being done on climate change, health and poverty linkages and we may create inventories of it.

- Janaki Andharia appreciated Sharifah Munirah’s human security agenda for research. She also informed that TISS will organize a roundtable on human security dimensions in disaster management in April-2009 which is an annual event. She also alerted that Dm is typically seen as ‘technofix’ and by itself it is not adequate. TISS also organized student symposia on ecological security and DM. She advised that the research need to be grounded: how to link governance and corruption, however cross cultural linkages of benefitting one country to other to draw strengths from one to other. She suggested doing internal audit in ourselves towards this. Sharifah Munirah mentioned that calendar of activities can help in achieving this.

- Rajib Shaw informed that Human Security Engineering course is started by Kyoto University with GCOE support. It is a five year funding and doctoral course is starting this year from April.

- Juan Pulhin advised on building on individual interests and strengths and suggested to look at IPCC report and recommendations.
- U Than Myint suggested to define all proposals within a time frame and devise a workable plan.
- Weihau Fang mentioned that for education sector, our products are students. And they are asking Chinese Government that before setting up a factory in addition to ERA, disaster risk assessment (DRA) should also be done so that demand for DM professionals can be generated. He also mentioned about China’s 1-1-1 project under which they have 5-year plan to compile several textbooks for the courses. He also informed that this summer, summer school will be organized with 20 Chinese and 10 international students.

3.3 Networking Aspects
It was emphasized that it is required to have a formal structure to attain network objective and hence AUEDM Management Structure is proposed and agreed for the time frame 2009-2010.
- President: Tsuneo Katayama
- Vice President (Education): Fuad Mallick
- Vice President (Research): Joy Pereira
- Executive Committee (5 members)
  - Tsuneo Katayama
  - Fuad Mallick
  - Joy Pereira
  - R. Krishnamurthy
  - Rajib Shaw (Secretariat)

3.4 Final Comments from President, AUEDM
A few final comments were made by Tsuneo Katayama, President of AUEDM.
- He appreciated that we cannot overemphasize significance of such networks.
- AUEDM is basically a network of tertiary education institutes but problem at the present structure is that community side is very weak. It seems like one way traffic from academics to the community and there are too many academics compared to field workers, which needs further attention.
- He strongly opined to invite less heard universities to this AUEDM network. He suggested to the basic framework of AUEDM may remain same but not-well-known universities should also be included.
- He also cautioned that the new journal should be focusing on community and it should not be just another place for academics to publish non-useable research work. Thus, the new journal can be a very good vehicle to bring out innovation in field practice.
- Argued that the basic differences in characteristics of environment, climate change, disaster management need to be understood and accordingly journal should draw a line or make it clear that it is an ‘interface type journal’. He cautioned that ‘environment’ means global
(energy crises, food crises etc) and discuss whether DM and EM can discuss these broad areas.

- He also pointed out that it is required to make equal focus on water and wind related disasters as well as geological hazards like earthquakes.
- He concluded that this workshop is interesting and educative and the idea of journal publication is very timely and expressed his willingness to strongly support such good work.