

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
BA DEGREE PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – 2015/2016
FINAL EXAMINATION – LEVEL 4 (1ST SEMESTER)
SSU2123 – COMMUNICATION IN DISASTER MITIGATION
DURATION: THREE HOURS (03 HOURS)



Date: 21st November 2015

Time: 01.30 p.m. – 04.30 p.m.

Instructions:

- ***Answer five (05) questions only.***
- ***All questions carry equal marks.***

1. Two professionals argue about the most difficult phase of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) cycle for a national government. Mr. Hemachandra says it is the long term recovery. Ms. Karunathilake says it is the immediate aftermath. What do you think? Explain why.
2. DesInventar is a software tool used to methodically gather and store information about characteristics and effects of different types of disasters. Describe how it has been used to fight disasters in different parts of the world with examples.
3. Give five specific activities by the media during a natural disaster with elaborations.
4. Read the following two paragraphs about mobile phones and explain how telephones (fixed and mobile) can be used for early warning during a disaster. Elaborate your answer giving examples for different modes.

A mobile phone allows its user to make and receive telephone calls to and from the public telephone network which includes other mobiles and fixed line phones across the world. It does this by connecting to a cellular network owned by a mobile network operator. A key feature of the cellular network is that it enables seamless telephone

calls even when the user is moving around wide areas via a process known as hand off or handover.

In addition to being a telephone, modern mobile phones also support many additional services, and accessories, such as SMS (or text) messages, email, Internet access, gaming, Bluetooth and infrared short range wireless communication, camera, MMS messaging, MP3 player, radio and GPS. Low-end mobile phones are often referred to as feature phones, whereas high-end mobile phones that offer more advanced computing ability are referred to as smart phones.

5. Explain the role played by community organizations in the aftermath of a disaster? Elaborate your answer with examples (preferably from Sri Lanka).
6. What can be the common mistakes a national government could make in the early warning process in the context of an unprecedented disaster? Elaborate your answer with evidence from 2004 South Asian Tsunami.
7. Explain how Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing Techniques can help in the planning, mitigation and preparedness stages of the Disaster Risk Reduction.
8. What is 'WHO Global Alert'? What has it done to reduce disaster risks worldwide?
9. Write short notes on any **two (02)** of the following:
 - (a) Biological hazard
 - (b) Disaster Risk Reduction Plan
 - (c) Hydro Meteorological Hazard
 - (d) Sustainable Development

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