

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
COMMONWEALTH EXECUTIVE MASTER OF BUSINESS/PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2007
MCP 2609 – DISASTER MANAGEMENT
DURATION : THREE (03) HOURS



Date: 15th December 2007

Time: 9.30 a.m. 12.30 p.m.

Answer four (04) questions including question number one (01)

01. Read the following passage and answer all questions.

(40 marks)

Most events, including natural disasters, can be described in a variety of ways. A disaster can be described in terms of the number of deaths, number of buildings collapsed, tons of food-crops destroyed, kilometers of roads washed away, number of bridges lost, tons of soil dumped, number of power transmission towers downed, and so on. These are the descriptors of such an event. Some of these descriptors refer to damages that will have to be made good, if the social life of the community is to return to normal. Typically the community might seek some outside assistance. After all that is the defining characteristic of a disaster. But there is also intrinsic merit in seeking to determine the total social losses associated with a particular disaster. However, we suggest an important additional reason; global climate change is likely to increase the severity and frequency of disasters that are climate related. Thus the cost of disaster will be an important input in the broad measures required for adaptation to climate change.

Disasters are sometimes classified by their country or region of origin. In particular, the distinction between developed and developing countries is useful since the vulnerabilities of those societies tend to be very different. Though the cost of natural disasters has been rising world wide over the past few decades, the data shows that the loss of life has increased in developing countries, but decreased in developed countries. Generally, developing countries are more vulnerable for a number of reasons, including poverty and an inequality of wealth. In addition, programs in poor countries to share risk such as insurance or government disaster assistance are not well developed. Moreover, development often takes place without consideration of risks resulting from natural hazards, and their infrastructure is often less resilient. Thus while Hurricane Andrew in 1992 killed 62 people and caused damage of US\$ 27 billion, mostly in the US, Hurricane Mitch killed an estimated 11,000 people in Central America and caused damage estimated to be only US\$ 5 billion.

The 1990s was also the decade for disaster reduction, especially in the developing countries, and the UN General Assembly even established a special secretariat in Geneva called International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The strategy was introduced at the final meeting of the IDNDR in July 1999, with the title "A safer World in the 21st Century, Disaster and Risk Reduction".

The stated objective of International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) is to enable communities to become resilient to natural hazards and to proceed 'from an approach of protection against hazards to the management of risk'.

The strategy is structured around four main themes for action;

Public Awareness, Commitment by Public Authorities; Disaster Resilience; and the reduction of Socio-economic loss.

*(Extracted from Additional Reading book.
MBA/MPA 2609 – Disaster Management)*

- a) How is a disaster described in the passage?
- b) What is meant by social losses?
- c) What is the relationship of global climate change and Hazard frequency?
Give examples.
- d) Explain what is meant by "Risk"?
- e) Discuss the differences in Vulnerability to hazards in developed and developing countries given in the passage.
Explain with examples.
- f) When was IDNDR implemented?
- g) What does ISDR stand for and what are its main objectives?
- h) Under ISDR there are four main themes.
Explain each theme by your own words.

Answer any three (03) of the following. Each will carry 20 marks.

02. i) Distinguish between the following terms and give examples for each.
 - a) Preparedness and mitigation
 - b) Relief and Rehabilitation
- ii) "Training is essential in Disaster Mitigation"
What are the different stakeholders who need such training and why are they important?

03. i) $Risk = Hazard\ Probability \times \frac{Potential\ Loss}{Capacity}$
With reference to a Sri Lankan situation explain how capacity building can reduce the risk.
- ii) Discuss factors that affect vulnerability.
04. "Community participation is essential in Disaster Mitigation Planning".
Discuss with examples.
05. i) What is emergency response in the context of disaster management?
- ii) Name three important phases of an emergency.
- iii) What are the basic requirements that need attention during relief operations?
- iv) What is ICS – Incident Command System?
06. i) What are the factors that need to be considered when preparing a Disaster Mitigation Plan?
- ii) "Women and children are more vulnerable to disaster impact". Briefly discuss the above statement.

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