

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
COMMONWEALTH EXECUTIVE MASTER OF BUSINESS/PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMME
FINAL EXAMINATION 2011 /12
MCP2609- DISASTER MANAGEMENT
DURATION THREE (03) HOURS**



DATE: 17th March 2012

TIME: 1.30pm to 04.30pm

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer all the questions in **part I** and any **three (03)** questions from **part II**.
- The compulsory questions in **part I** carry **40 marks** and each question in **part II** carries **20 marks**.

PART I

Question No. 01 (Compulsory Question)

Read the following passage and answer all questions (1 – 8)

Indian troops rescue 350 children trapped by flood

Troops in motor boats rescued around 350 children from the first floor of their school hostel after it was surrounded by floodwaters in India's Gujarat state, where at least 123 people have died in monsoon flooding.

Soldiers and police snatched the students from the first floor after the ground floor of the building was submerged in Harup village, 75 km (45 miles) south of Gujarat's main city of Ahmedabad, witnesses and officials said. "Our prime focus was to evacuate the children and take them to safer places, senior Gujarat government officials Rajesh Kishore told Reuters.

Most deaths in Gujarat's floods have been due to drowning, electrocution and house collapses. Officials said the severe week-long flooding had left more than 150,000 people homeless or stranded in their houses in the western state. Residents complained of shortages of food, medicines and materials to build temporary shelters.

Heavy rain and thick cloud prevented helicopters from flying, limiting relief operations. "It is an aerial tsunami," Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi told reporters in the state capital of Gandhinagar. Heavy monsoon rains have caused rivers to burst their banks. Authorities admitted they were being stretched to the limit. "The real challenge is to provide food, medicine and clothes to the needy. We are trying to reach out but bad weather has prevented us," Gujarat Home Minister Amit Shah said. Further flooding is feared as heavy downpours have been forecast for the next 48 hours.

Early on Saturday, waters receded in some areas, allowing about 400 passengers stuck in a train for over 30 hours leaving their carriages. Many walked to higher ground but some

had to be rescued by army boats and local volunteers. About 90 of the passengers were rescued after a man who, on receiving a mobile phone message from his trapped wife, drove to dry land near the train and formed a human chain of local volunteers who stood in the water and brought women, children and older passengers to safety.

"It was my duty to help save others, besides my wife and daughter. The authorities were not doing anything," businessman Rajesh Seth told Reuters. New Delhi has announced an aid package of 5 billion rupees (\$ 115 million). But residents said more needed to be done.

"The situation here does not seem to be improving. We are helpless and waiting for the water to recede and get back to our normal lives," said S.G. Thomas, whose agricultural products warehouse in Vadodara, 110 km (70 miles) southeast of Ahmedabad, was damaged by flood waters.

Hundreds of factories were shut in the western state, India's second most industrialized, as were schools and colleges and offices. "Water has entered my factory. To prevent any mishap, I have shut down production till the water level comes down," said Dhiren Mehta, who owns a textile plant in Ahmedabad. Authorities were providing drinking water to homeless people living in schools and makeshift relief camps on higher ground.

Ahamadabad ,India (Reuter News)

Questions

- (1) Based on the tri-party process of the disaster management in which phase is described in the passage. (02 Marks)
- (2) What is the Hazard in the given situations? (04 Marks)
- (3) What are the vulnerable elements in the incident? (06 Marks)
- (4) What is meant by "Aerial Tsunami"? (04 Marks)
- (5) According to the Reporter, do you see the proper preparedness planning in the situation? If your answer is "yes" give reasons or if your answer is "no" give reasons. (06 Marks)
- (6) Why affected people were not satisfied by the responses of the government? (06 Marks)
- (7) Theoretically what are the major actions need to be taken immediately after the disaster event. (06 Marks)
- (8) Identify the strengths and the weakness of the Indian disaster management authorities in relation to the incident. (06 Marks)

(Total 40 marks)

PART II

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

Question No. 02

- i) Distinguish the terms given below providing two examples for each term.
 - a. hazard & disaster
 - b. preparedness & mitigation
 - c. vulnerability & disaster risk
- ii) Explain specific functions need to be carried out in each phase of the disaster management cycle in relation to a man made hazard in Sri Lanka.

Question No. 03

- i) Briefly discuss the importance of Early Warning system in disaster situations.
- ii) Name organizations which directly deal with early warnings of following natural hazards in Sri Lanka.
 - a) Cyclone
 - b) Flood
 - c) Land slides
 - d) Earth Quake / Tsunami
 - e) Droughts
- iii) Identify three modern early warning systems used in Sri Lanka and their importance in disaster prevention and impact mitigation.

Question No. 04

“Pollution of air (CO₂ emissions) due to human actions leads to changes in the ecological balance”

- i) Briefly discuss the above statement.
- ii) Name the ultimate result of the changes in the ecological balance.
- iii) What are the major gasses involve in these changes? Give at least 3 examples.
- iv) What kind of actions need to be taken by the National Government and International Governments in avoiding the bad implications due to the changes in ecological balance. Explain

Question No. 05

- i) What do you understand by proactive approach of disaster management?
- ii) Explain briefly the difference between emergency planning and mitigation planning.
- iii) What are the 3 phases need to be operationalized in the emergency situation?
- iv) Name the common elements of an emergency plan and discuss the importance of each element.

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