

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
COMMONWEALTH EXECUTIVE MASTER OF BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION/ PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMME  
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2012/13  
MCP2609– DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS**




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**DATE: 08.12. 2013**

**TIME : 09.30 am - 12.30 pm**

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**IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:**

- THIS PAPER CONTAINS TWO PARTS .
- PART I IS COMPULSORY.
- ANSWER ANY **THREE (03)** QUESTIONS FROM PART 11
- ALL TOGETHER ANSWER FOUR (04) QUESTIONS

**PART I**

**Question No. 01 (Compulsory Question)**

**Read the following passage and answer all questions (a – g)**

**Facing Human Disasters**

A human disaster is a crisis situation that affects human population causing widespread loss of life and physical damage. Often such a disaster situation precludes our ability to recover spontaneously. Human disasters are of two types. They are on one hand nature induced as seen in droughts, floods, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis and cyclones. On the other they are human induced and result from man's modification of natural systems, which finds transmission through the natural processes of the environment as seen in chemical leaks, water pollution and land degradation etc.. In recent times the scope of human induced disasters has been widened to include the outcomes of human conflict and social iniquities e.g. refugees, the internally displaced, victims of bomb blasts, and famines etc. Health hazards arising from man's disrespect for nature such as malaria epidemics or outbreaks of dengue can also be considered as human induced disasters. The idea is also gaining ground that there is a need to recognize an altogether new category of refugees' viz. 'environmental refugees'. But it is equally important to recognize that there are also those displaced within countries for environmental reasons. It has been estimated that the number of people uprooted for environmental reasons probably totals 25 million, compared with 22 million displaced by civil wars and conflicts. It is claimed that there will be as many as 50 million environmental refugees

in the world in five years' time. The point is that there are not only many environmental issues involved, but there are also interconnections between them.

Human disasters leave behind three types of survivors. The primary survivors are those who are exposed to the disaster first hand but manage to survive. They are also called survivor victims. The secondary survivors are those who grieve over the loss of primary victims e.g. a wife who has lost the husband. A secondary survivor may or may not be a primary survivor. Where a primary survivor also finds himself in the category of a secondary survivor the challenges he has to face in recovering from the disaster syndrome are far more complex and difficult. The disaster literature also identifies third level survivors meaning rescue and relief personnel. They are people who are affected by the disaster by being at the site of a disaster and undergo mental trauma similar to primary survivors.

Human disasters have both direct and indirect impacts. The direct impacts resulting in the loss of life and property are known as the first disaster. Indirect impacts (known as the second disasters) are those derived from the first disaster and result in the loss of livelihoods and income and other problems leading to depression, suicides, homicides etc. What is significant is that the second disaster may even impact those who are remote from the original place of disaster. For this reason the post disaster rehabilitation of primary survivors has to be carefully handled to break the chain of events leading to the second disaster. It is also worth noting that disasters can either be rapid or slow in onset. Earthquakes and cyclones, for example, belong to the former category while droughts and famines belong to the latter category. While the response phases are the same for either category mitigation measures have to be adapted to suit the specific conditions presented by the manner of onset of the disaster.

*Extracted from: (Sunday Observer – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2005)*

- (a) What are the two types of human disasters mentioned in the paragraph? Give two examples for each. (2 marks)
- (b) What type of human induced disasters have widened recently? (02marks)
- (c) Distinguished the terms a refugee and an environmental refugee. (06 marks)
- (d) Name two possible incidents which create environmental refugees in the world. (04 marks)

- (e) Give four examples of direct and indirect impact of disaster (06 marks)
- (f) Who are the three types of survivors in disaster situations? Explain with examples. (08 marks)
- (g) Explain the two terms 'slow onset' and 'rapid onset'. (09 marks)

## PART II

**Answer any three of the questions.**

**Each will carry 21 marks.**

### Question No. 02

- (I). Distinguish the terms given below providing two examples for each.
- (a) Proactive Vs Reactive approaches in disaster management
  - (b) Preparedness and Mitigation
  - (c) Relief and Recovery
- (II) Explain specific functions carried out in each phase of the disaster management cycle in relation to a Tsunami hazard in Sri Lanka.

(21 marks)

### Question No: 03

- (I) Give two examples for Climatological hazards, Astronomical hazard and Geological hazard.
- (II) What are the three stages involved in prediction? Explain those stages briefly.
- (III) Explain the importance of remote sensing in relation to predicting and preventing hazards in Sri Lanka.

(21 marks)

**Question No : 04**

- (I) “All hazards are not disasters”. Comment on the this statement giving examples.
- (II) Name key organizations which directly deal with early warnings of following natural hazards in Sri Lanka. Discuss their main role in relation to early warnings of natural hazards
- a. Tsunami
  - b. Earth tremors
  - c. Land slides
  - d. Floods
  - e. Lightning
  - f. Droughts
  - g. Cyclone

(21 marks)

**Question No : 05**

- (I) List common elements of an emergency plan and discuss the importance of each element.
- (II) Name three phases need to be operationalized in an emergency situation.
- (III) Explain the importance of Emergency Operation Centre and list key functions of the EOC.

(21 marks)

**Question No. 06**

- (I) What are the basic functions of the Incident Command System. (ICS).
- (II) Discuss the potentiality of ICS for the district level disaster management in Sri Lanka.
- (III) Discuss what is a business continuity plan and its significance in relation to a company

(21 marks)

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