

**THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
COMMONWEALTH EXECUTIVE MASTER OF BUSINESS/PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMME
FINAL EXAMINATION – 2018 JULY
MCP2609/MSP A309– DISASTER MANAGEMENT
DURATION: THREE (03) HOURS**



DATE: 22.07.2018

TIME: 09.30 PM – 12.30 PM

Answer Question No.01 from Part – A (40 Marks) and any three (03) questions from Part - B (20 each).

Part A

1. Read the following passage and answer all questions.

Torrential rains and mudslides have displaced more than 100,000 Sri Lankans, with more extreme weather expected

Landslides and floods in Sri Lanka have killed at least 151 people and the country faces the risk of more mudslides as torrential rains continue.

More than 100 people are still missing after the worst rains in the Indian Ocean island since 2003. The state-run National Building Research Organization warned people in seven out of the country's 25 districts on Sunday to evacuate from unstable slopes if rains continued for the next 24 hours.

The meteorology department of Meteorology said there could be heavy rainfalls of above 100 millimetres in central Sri Lanka within the next 36 hours.

The death toll has risen to 151, while 111 people are still reported missing and 95 injured, according to the state-run Disaster Management Center. Nearly 500,000 people have been affected by the disaster, the worst since the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, and the downpours have displaced more than 100,000.

People in the town of Agalawatte said they were losing hope of water levels falling soon. "All access to our village is cut off. A landslide took place inside the village and several houses are buried. But nobody could go to that place," resident Mohamed Abdulla, 46, told Reuters. Agalawatte, a town in western coastal district of Kalutara, 74km (46 miles) from the capital, Colombo, has recorded 47 deaths and 62 people are missing.

Rescue efforts are hampered by lack of drinking water, lack of electricity and continued rain. Reuters witnessed some people stranded on the upper floors of their homes and some houses were flooded up to roof level. Civilians and relief officials, sailing in boats, distributed food, water and other essentials.

Sri Lanka has already appealed for international assistance from the United Nations and neighbouring countries.

Some areas in the southern coastal district of Galle, popular with foreign tourists, have not received relief materials because of a lack of access.

"My entire village is cut off and nobody can come to this village," CM Chandrapla, 54, told Reuters over the phone from the tourist village of Neluwa. "There are no supplies for the past two days. Water has gone above three-storey buildings and people survive by running on to higher ground."

Sri Lankan military and rescue teams have used boats and helicopters, but they said access to some areas was very difficult. Military spokesman Roshan Senevirathne said more than 2,000 military personnel had been deployed to help the police and civilian agencies.

The wettest time of the year in Sri Lanka's south is usually from May to September. Sri Lankan meteorology officials said the rains were the worst since 2003 and they expected more in the coming days.

[The Guardian – International Edition – Sunday, 28 May 2017]

- a. Give two (02) reasons as to why Kalutara district is considered as one having high risk of being affected by floods **(04 Marks)**
 - b. Describe briefly the hydro-meteorological phenomena that cause heavy rain in Sri Lanka **(05 Marks)**
 - c. Name two (02) organizations that provides data and/or advise on the landslide risk in Sri Lanka **(04 Marks)**
 - d. Describe briefly the measures that could be taken to reduce the risk of flooding in Kalutara district **(05 Marks)**
 - e. Give four (04) indirect effects that could be observed as a result of floods **(04 Marks)**
 - f. Describe briefly, in your opinion, why rescue operations even by boats is difficult during floods **(05 Marks)**
 - g. Name four (04) government officials at local level (District level and below) who are responsible for providing relief to disaster affected people in Sri Lanka **(04 Marks)**
 - h. Describe briefly the immediate requirements of persons displaced due to floods **(05 Marks)**
 - i. Name four (04) Non-governmental Organizations that could support the government in providing disaster relief **(04 Marks)**
- (Total Marks 40)**

Part B

2. Reference to the terminology used in Disaster Management,
- a. Describe the following terms used in disaster management **(08 marks)**
 - i. Vulnerability
 - ii. Reconstruction
 - iii. Technological disaster
 - iv. Response plan
 - b. Describe the difference between **(12 marks)**
 - i. Prevention and mitigation
 - ii. Refugee and Internally displaced person (IDP)
 - iii. Safety and security (of persons affected by disasters)
3. Under the Disaster Management Framework of Sri Lanka,
- a. Describe briefly the organizational structure, composition and functions of the National Disaster Management Council **(12 Marks)**
 - b. Name four (04) Departments coming under the Ministry of Disaster Management **(08 Marks)**
4. Briefly describe,
- a. How the population growth is contributing to increased number of disasters? **(10 Marks)**
 - b. Different human activities that contribute to increased number of disasters **(10 Marks)**
5. Several agencies coming under the United Nations provides assistance on disaster management to its member countries
- a. Name four (04) such agencies that has such mandate **(08 Marks)**
 - b. Describe briefly the mandates of different UN agencies in the management of refugees **(12 Marks)**
6. Provision of required relief to affected people need to be started as quickly as possible in the immediate aftermath of a disaster
- a. Name four (04) important infrastructure/services that should be essentially intact for such provision of immediate relief **(08 Marks)**
 - b. Describe briefly the role of the District Secretary in restoring and maintaining such infrastructure/services in the immediately aftermath of a disaster **(12 Marks)**