

A Model for Disaster Risk Management in Megacities: The Metro Manila Case Study

Investing in prevention and mitigation has been suggested as one of the best ways to reduce the negative impact of natural hazards. Nevertheless, when searching models and actual practices to assist city administrators, in developing countries, in their efforts to implement comprehensive and cost-effective risk reduction and risk management systems, the reality shows that there are very few sources to rely on.

EMI and the Pacific Disaster Center, in alliance with other local, regional and international initiatives are promoting three tools to bridge this gap:

1. the design and implementation of a city wide Disaster Risk Management Master Plan (**DRMMP**), that requires a highly inclusive and participatory process that involves all interested parties and stakeholders in the city.
2. The collection of sound disaster risk management practices through a ample knowledge base (**MDRM-KB**), accessible to everyone through the internet (www.pdc.org/emi).
3. The use of web-accessible dynamic GIS maps to facilitate the communication of hazards, vulnerabilities and risk, and to facilitate land use and planning options (**Map Viewers**).

The described methodology is currently being pilot-tested in Metropolitan Manila, where major accomplishments can be summarized:

- a. With the leadership of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (**MMDA**) and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (**PHIVOLCS**) five local Focus Groups, to provide sustainability to the implementation process, have been constituted. The groups have convened several times to establish a prioritized consensus action plan, and have created the required partnerships amongst stakeholders, the private sector, national, regional and municipal government agencies, and the academic sector.
http://emi.pdc.org/DRMlibrary/Metro-Manila/MM_dec_05_FT_report_finalver.pdf
- b. To address the megacity complexities, three pilot cities out of 17 comprising Metro Manila have been engaged to share and exchange successful programs, projects and practices to further risk reduction at the city level. Eleven different examples and a city-wide Disaster Risk Management City Profile are available in the MDRK-KB (www.pdc.org/emi).
- c. The Metropolitan Manila internet map viewer has been completed, and at present, a feedback process and next steps for implementation and training are being discussed with the local groups.

This two-year long experience has significantly advanced the objective of encouraging the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in the regular planning and operations of local governments and will be instrumental to better understand the application of this methodology to other megacities.