

Disaster Risk Management Master Plan (DRMMP) **implementation in Metropolitan Manila**

Field Trip No. 4
November 29 – December 5, 2005

Executive Summary

Field Trip No. 4 of the implementation of the DRMMP for Metro Manila consisted of a second “focus group” meeting and two separate seminar/workshops centered on the theme of *mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in Metro Manila*. The field trip were part of the activities of EMI’s 3cd Program Implementation Team (PIT) and was hosted by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the City of Marikina, one of the three pilot cities engaged in the program. These three specific activities were part of a week-long agenda that also included the promotion of the recently launched **Megacity Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Base** (www.pdc.org/emi) and an internet-based **Map Viewer** for Metropolitan Manila. The lessons learned from these activities will serve as input for developing a specialized training aimed at building local institutional capacity in land use and urban planning and disaster risk reduction at the city level.

A complete report is attached and will be distributed to the participants. Salient points include:

1. Given MMDA’s authority to engage in development planning, urban renewal, and public safety, it has a key role as the lead facilitator in the process of integrating disaster risk reduction measures in the day-to-day operations of local government units, by being a role model in disaster risk management, by setting standards, and by promoting a safer, disaster-resilient metropolis.
2. Through its coordinating function, MMDA has the capacity to create a unified vision for a safer Metropolitan Manila, setting a framework of action for risk reduction and promoting cross-sectoral, cross-boundary and inter-institutional partnerships at all levels.
3. MMDA could also play a key role in improving coordination between local, regional and national levels land use and urban development agencies; and promote a partnership to harmonize the individual efforts of cities and municipalities towards a concerted risk reduction effort.

Five focus or task groups are currently developing their own action plans, integration and time frames. As a product of this interaction several concrete actions to facilitate the implementation of a comprehensive DRMMP in Metropolitan Manila have taken place:

1. Enhancement of risk communication tools through an internet based GIS Map Viewer and the collection and dissemination of sound risk reduction practices.
2. Initial set of capacity building programs targeted to the reduction of megacities disaster risk starting with a training program aimed at practical techniques for incorporating risk factors in land-use and urban planning.
3. An evaluation of existing training on DRM in Metropolitan Manila and an assessment of gaps and needs.
4. The integration of the private sector, professional organizations and NGOs in the process of disaster management in the city
5. Amendment of a new bill sponsored by NDCC/OCD that integrates disaster risk management criteria and a statement to be included in the Mid-Term Philippine Development Plan addressing the need of incorporating risk reduction perspective in future development plans.

MMDA's consideration to this report can lead to policy changes that affect current ways of introducing risk reduction actions in this city's customary operations, thus setting a world-wide example for improved Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in the megacity context.