

WORKSHOP ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN HOTELS, CINEMA HALLS AND SHOPPING MALLS

Emergency management plays a significant role in the hospitality industry, Shopping Malls and Entertainment Sector. Providing the highest levels of safety standards and security is essential for this sector for preventing an accident before it becomes a major issue causing loss of life and property. With this purpose in mind, ASDMA conducted a workshop for the owners/ senior officials of the Hotels, Cinema Halls and Shopping Malls at Guwahati **on 19th September 2017 at Assam Administrative Staff College** to sensitise them about the needs and mandates for safety, security and disaster preparedness measures including disaster management planning, response and recovery.

Shri Rajesh Prasad, IAS, Commissioner Secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management and Chief Executive Officer, Assam State Disaster Management Authority inaugurated the Workshop. In his inaugural said that Guwahati is hosting two major events viz. the FIFA U-17 World Cup in October 2017 and Assam Global Investors Summit in early 2018 where delegation and participants from all over the world will come to the city. To ensure their safety and security from all natural and mad made hazards, all kinds of preparedness measures needs to be taken by hospitality industries. It is based on this premise the workshop was organised for the Hotels, Cinema Halls and Shopping Malls.

Dignitaries who were present to grace the occasion as Guest of Honour were Shri A.P. Rout, IPS, DGP & Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Assam, Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon, Founder member, National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India, Shri Hiren Chandra Nath, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Dr. M Angamuthu, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup (Metro).

Dr. M Angamuthu, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup (Metro) said that every establishment, be it Hotels, Shopping Malls or Cinema Halls etc. should designate a senior official for looking after the safety aspect of their respective institution or organisation. Also, every such establishment should have their Disaster Management Plan. District Administration will be firm on any organisation who flout the safety norms.

Shri Samudra Gupta Kashyap, Senior Assistant Editor, Indian Express was also present as the Guest of Honour to grace the occasion. He laid stress on the importance of inclusion of Disaster management in the school syllabus and curriculum as a compulsory subject so that the seeds of disaster preparedness are rooted deep inside their mind set.

Shri Rajib Prakash Baruah, ACS, State Project Coordinator, ASDMA gave the welcome address and Shri Mukta Ram Deka, Project Manager (DRR), ASDMA gave the vote of Thanks at the Inaugural session. Over 250 Participants attended the day long workshop.

In the technical session, Shri Luish Aind, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) made deliberation on the safety and security in Hotels, Cinema Halls and Shopping malls and Brigadier Kuldip Singh, Sr. Consultant, NDMA spoke on the Incident Response System & Principles of Mock Exercises. The topic on Safety in Public Places was given by Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon, Founder member, National Disaster Management Authority. Shri R.C. Sharma, Former Director, Delhi Fire Services & former DIG, Fire, CISF shared his experiences and knowledge. R. M. Passah, Dy Commandant, 1st Bn, NDRF ended the workshop highlighting the principles of Mock Drill & Evacuation.

The basic objective of this workshop was to sensitise the management of the Hotels/ Cinema Halls and Shopping Malls about the need for disaster management planning, safety and security of their establishment and the consumers/ guests and, also to facilitate a dialogue for appropriate mitigation measures to be adopted by the organisation. Owners and management of most of the Shopping Malls, Cinema Halls and Hotels of Guwahati participated in the workshop and expressed their gratitude for such an enriching learning experience in an appropriate time.

Use of an effective information system and being well prepared for emergencies could prevent or minimize loss for these industries. It is very important to understand the crisis emergency frameworks to mitigate effects and be well prepared before the crisis strike, and furthermore, to minimize losses during evacuation when the disaster happens.