

**ASSAM STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
OBSERVES INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION 2017**

The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) is a day to celebrate how people and communities are reducing their risk to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of DRR. It's also a day to encourage every citizen and government to take part in building more disaster resilient communities and nations. The 2017 edition continues as part of the "Sendai Seven" campaign, centred on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework. This year the focus is on Target B, of which the aim is to reduce the number of people affected by disasters by 2030. The theme of IDDR for the year 2017 is "Home Safe Home: REDUCING EXPOSURE, REDUCING DISPLACEMENT"

**WORKSHOP**

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority, observed the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR, 2017), in collaboration with UNICEF, Assam to achieve the global target of *Reducing exposure of communities to different Hazards and thereby reducing displacement during disasters* on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at the Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara Guwahati. A workshop on Safer Homes & Livelihood and an exhibition on Innovation Challenge on Disaster Risk Reduction was organised as a part of the event.

Chief Secretary, Government of Assam was the Chief Guest on the Occasion and in his inaugural speech said that he is glad to find that Disaster management initiatives of Assam is aligned to the 10-point agenda for disaster risk reduction as outlined by Shri. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, in the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR. He stressed on the fact that there should be greater consistency and coordination in our response to disasters. He particularly appreciated the innovations which were displayed at the Exhibition. He said that Assam should give focus on technology in order to enhance the efficiency of our disaster risk management efforts.

Shri A.P Rout, DGP & Director, Fire & Emergency Services was also present to grace the occasion. Shri Rajesh Prasad, IAS, Commissioner Secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management and Chief Executive Officer, Assam State Disaster Management Authority gave the welcome address. He said that the effort of the ASDMA is to bring together different stakeholders such as policy-makers, administrators, departmental functionaries, WDMCs, NGOs, community leaders and private stakeholders for a comprehensive consultation on disaster risk reduction and preparedness and to identify opportunities for disaster risk management. Shri Rajib Prakash Baruah, ACS, State Project Coordinator, ASDMA gave the vote of thanks at the Inaugural session. Over 250 Participants attended the day long workshop. Disaster ready kits were also distributed to all at the end of the workshop

In the technical session, Shri Kamesh Salam, Founder, South Asia Bamboo Foundation, Member, World Bamboo Organization, spoke on the Usage of Bamboo Technology for Disaster Resilient Housing. Disaster Risk Reduction aspects on Safer Built Environment was given by Prof. Chandan Mahanta, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT, Guwahati. Prof. Jayanta Pathak, Deptt. of Civil Engineering, Assam Engineering College gave an overview on Safe Construction Practices. Disaster Risk Reduction issues in Livelihoods and Mitigation was highlighted by Shri. Dilip Kumar Bhanja , Technical Advisor to the Govt. of Ethiopia, UNDP. An overview of Earthquake Damage estimation for Guwahati City and Road ahead was given by Prof. Dominik Lang, from NOR SAR, Norway. It was followed by an interactive session.

### **EXHIBITION**

The exhibition titled “Innovation Challenge for Disaster Risk Reduction” which was conducted on the occasion witnessed some unique innovation from various institutions and individuals from within and outside the state giving solutions for various hazards like Storm, Fire, Earthquake and Flood. Over 200 students from various schools also visited the exhibition.

Assam State Disaster Management Authority, through this exhibition, tried to collate innovative ideas for disaster risk reduction from different parts of the State and from different stakeholder communities. These ideas were well accepted by different sections of people starting from children to the adults. The ideas ranged from community prepared floating houses, bamboo boats, locally developed life jackets, early warning systems, disaster ready kits, flood resilient toilets, raised hand pumps with platforms to highly sophisticated drones for flood monitoring. However few of these local practices can be adopted by people in different parts of Assam for achieving resilience. Such solution centric approaches can also form a part of the community linked DRR policies and practices, which in turn can be integrated into state level and national level policies.

The prizes were given as follows

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Rameez Ahmad Dar, B.Tech (CSE), Tezpur University, Assam and Suhail Ahmad Dar Jamia Milia Islamia University in New Delhi. Their innovation was the fire-resistant cloth bag, which can be useful in evacuating people trapped in an inferno in a building

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Dr Mridul Kumar Deka, MBBS, MPH, Doctors For You who developed a model of a floating toilet. The model can ensure proper sanitation for flood victims.

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Mr. Dharma Raj Karki, Rural Volunteers Centre (RVC) designed tubewells on raised platforms

## **MOCK DRILL IN DISTRICTS**

It must also be mentioned here that in order to observe the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR), Mock Drills on Earthquake and Fire Safety was organised simultaneous in 10 districts of Assam viz. Cachar, Dhemaji, Sibsagar, Jorhat, Majuli, Sonitpur, Darrang, Morigaon, Tinsukia and Kokrajhar. SDRF, NDRF, Fire and Emergency Services, Civil Defence, Home guards, Police took active participation in these exercises. A total of 1500 people were involved at the district level mock drills and the district level exercises were supported by the National Disaster Management Authority.