



**RISK OF PRINCIPAL DISASTERS IN INDIA  
AND IMPACTS OF DISASTERS ON ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT – Improve Disaster Manage-  
ment with the help of fact based information  
by**

**Klaus Röder / Consultant**

At the Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Admini-  
stration (HIPA) Shimla  
05. 05 .2012



**Disclaimer:** The Author is solely responsible for the content which are not necessarily the views of GIZ

09.05.2012

**Report of Seminar Proceedings and Recommendation for further activities**

A successful, seminar on RISK OF PRINCIPAL DISASTERS IN INDIA AND IMPACTS OF DISASTERS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT has been conducted on 05/05/2012 at the Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration Shimla. The final timetable and participants list is attached. The presentation of the paper and in addition of the essential contents via a PowerPoint presentation raised much interest of the participants and stimulated some lively discussion.

Close to 100 participants were present for this days, the seminars' content was roughly split in three parts:

1. Welcome and Inaugural Session:

- Welcome, Address by Sh. Dinesh Malhotra, Director HIPA
- Welcome, Address by Chief Guest Dr. Bharti S. Shiag, IAS (India Administrative Service), Principal Secretary (AR and Training & FA) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh
- Key Note Address by the Guest of Honour: Klaus Röder and Presentation of Essentials (PowerPoint).
- Tea Break

2. First part of Technical Sessions:

- Technical Session-I Main Conference Hall
  - Technical Session-II Sun Room
  - Technical Session-III Ivy Room
  - Lunch Break
- } in parallel

3. Second part of Technical Sessions:

- Technical Session-IV Main Conference Hall
  - Technical Session-V Sun Room
  - Technical Session-VI Ivy Room
  - Question Hour
  - Valedictory Session and Farewell Address by Chief Guest: Sh. Bhrat Khara Managing Director, RP State Industrial Development Corporation, Shimla (responsible for Disaster Management: Industrial Disasters).
- } in parallel

About 50 papers were presented in the 6 different sessions. All papers are available as a HIPA publication

• **Essential contents:**

It was not easy to follow all the presentation and papers, however among the several presentations the

## Improve Disaster Management with the help of fact based information

author had the opportunity to attend to his opinion three stood out:

- Sh. Abhishek Jain, IAS: Vulnerability Assessment And Risk Analysis In Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh – A Study
- Sh. R.N. Bata, IAS: Shaping Climate Resilient Development Mainstreaming Climate Change
- Prof. Chandan Ghosh: “Dam Safety Issues Where India Stands”

The attitudes of the practitioner were common to these presentations. At the core of these papers were not the theoretical concepts of Disaster Management but the practical approaches to tackle the problems for very precise cases, in the first two papers of District approaches in Himachal Pradesh, the last for dams in India. In all cases examples of economical risks were presented by neglecting Disaster Risk Management measures and existing results and potential dangers and economical impacts were presented.

In a seminar of this size and scope it is always risked, those participants repeatedly address the common knowledge of Disaster Management. This was also the case in this seminar but it can be assumed that not all participants were experts to the subject, so a learning effect should be admitted to some.

### • Recommendations of the author:

The author repeatedly stated that he is not and cannot claim to be an expert in Disaster Management in India nor of Disaster Risk Management in Himachal Pradesh, but he recommends addressing the issue of **monitoring** the effects of Disasters as well as the efforts of Disaster Management in quantity. If the administration has no idea of the quantity of disaster results the effect of Disaster Risk Management can hardly be assessed. So in essence the recommendations in his paper and the presentation were as follows.

- Measure disaster results in a comparable way on settlement, district level and state level.
- Economical effects should be measured in various ways, even qualitative losses should be recorded (e.g. loss of quality of life, poverty assessment)
- Use the Disaster Results Assessment Sheet (as proposed in the **State Disaster Management Plans**) for comparative analysis of best practices
- Plan Disaster Management measure on regional level oriented at national guidelines on NDMA but allow priority for regional measures of practitioners.
- Keep up a recording and monitoring system to assess the effectiveness of Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Management on all regional and national levels.

The special thanks of the author go to **Sh.Bhrat Kherra** for his final words. He cited several international statistical materials about the economical effects of Disasters and so encouraged the quantitative measurement and scientific approach for the improvement of Disaster Management in Himachal Pradesh.

**Final remark of the author:** India has a potentially outstanding and remarkable reporting system on disasters and a set-up infrastructure, mainly supported by NDM to combat and prevent many of the adverse effects of disasters. It is not only a humane necessity to prevent loss of lives, livelihoods and assets but also a precondition of welfare and development to improve the existing Disaster Risk Management systems. As all development commences on a regional scale the regional aspects and necessities of these systems are of outmost importance. The establishing of SDMAs (State Disaster Management authorities) has been an admirable initiative to this. The application of the guidelines established there and the monitoring of effective use and application is essential for a successful implementation. The author recommends the use of fact based information for an even better, efficient and timely preparation and reaction for Disaster Management in India, may it be for Settlements, Districts, States or the whole country.

Annex:

- Timetable of the Seminar
- Participant's list
- Presentation of Improve Disaster Management with the help of fact based information (Power-Point)

Klaus Röder ☎ Seidelbaststr.7 ☎ D-80939 München / Germany ☎ 📞:+49-89-23925824 83 ☎ mobil:+49-162-4067907

Fax: +49-89-32705463 ☎ e-mail: [Kroeder@gmx.net](mailto:Kroeder@gmx.net)