

NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Center, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines



PEER

PROGRAM FOR ENHANCEMENT OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Strengthening disaster preparedness and response capacities of vulnerable countries in Asia

PRESS RELEASE

March 28, 2011

Releasing Officer:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benito T Ramos".

USEC BENITO T RAMOS

**Executive Director, NDRRMC and
Administrator, OCD**

PEER Regional Planning Meeting

March 29-31, 2011

Manila, Philippines

A. BACKGROUND

The Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) is a regional training program initiated by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), to enhance local and regional disaster preparedness and strengthen the response capacities of vulnerable countries within the Asian region. The first phase of PEER (1998-2003), managed by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Bangkok, targeted four of the Asia's most earthquake prone countries – India, Indonesia, Nepal and Philippines.

The second phase of PEER (2003-2009), managed by the National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET), includes the initial four PEER countries with the addition of Bangladesh in 2003. During Year Five of Phase II, Pakistan was also added after the devastating Kashmir Earthquake in October 2006. This was positively seen as a capability-building measure for the country's emergency responders. All six countries have a high risk of seismic vulnerability, a need for improved disaster response readiness, and keen governmental and civil society interest in the program.

In order to achieve the goal of strengthening disaster preparedness and response capacities of select Asian countries, PEER is working on the institutionalization of sustainable disaster preparedness training programs and emergency response systems. PEER has completed two stages of the program in Asia and the third Stage (2009-2014) is being implemented by ADPC for Program Objective 1: Community Action for Disaster Response (CADRE) and Objective 2: Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE); and by NSET for Objective 3: Medical First Responder (MFR) and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) courses.

As part of periodic review and planning process, NSET/PEER is organizing a **PEER Regional Planning Meeting (RPM)**, to be held in **Eastwood Richmond Hotel, Bagumbayan, Quezon City, Philippines, on March 29-31, 2011.**

B. MEETING OBJECTIVES

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The objectives of this activity are to:

1. Review highlights of accomplishments in the first two years of PEER Stage 3.
2. Identify what was done well in order to share and replicate those successes (PEER impact).
3. Identify opportunities for improvement. Serve as forum for implementing partners (PEER countries, nodal agencies and training institutions) and PEER instructors to share their thoughts and experiences in the conduct of the program, specifically on areas of preparation, materials, management and impact.
4. Plan for ways in addressing the concerns/challenges for better program implementation in future.
5. Share vision for enhancing emergency response capability in each country and the regional collaboration.

Expected Outputs:

1. Review of accomplishments within Program Years 1 and 2, PEER Stage 3.
2. Sharing of impact / success stories in PEER implementation which may be replicated in future.
3. Strategies to address gaps / challenges in program implementation (e.g. minimum standards of knowledge and skills of emergency response personnel and instructors, retention of responders and sustaining number of PEER instructors, etc.)

C. PARTICIPANTS

Representatives from the 6 PEER beneficiary countries – Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Philippines will be attending the meeting. The participants are representatives from partnering organizations in each of the countries:

- Nodal agencies: Senior officer from PEER nodal agency, one who is responsible in policy and planning on Disaster Management
- PEER partner training institutions
- PEER instructors
- PEER In-Country Consultants
- Donors and Implementing Organizations:
 - U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)
 - National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET)
 - Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
 - American Red Cross (ARC)

PEER ACHIEVEMENTS

PEER MFR-CSSR Graduates and Instructors in the Region

As of end of Program Year 2 of PEER Stage 3, there are a total of 1,027 graduates of MFR, 778 for CSSR; MFR Refresher Course (MFR RC) has 41 graduates and 43 graduates in CSSR Refresher Course (CSSR RC).

Out of the above number of graduates, there are a total of 604 TFI graduates; 405 MFRIW and 334 CSSRIW graduates, of which 125 are Master Instructors (qualified to serve as course coordinator, then later as monitor in PEER MFR or CSSR course).

MFR and CSSR Instructors (from PEER Stage 1 to Stage 3)

Countries	TFI	MFRIW	CSSRIW	MIW
Bangladesh	54	34	34	13
India	124	104	94	59
Indonesia	62	36	29	17
Nepal	133	70	45	17
Pakistan	43	41	37	-
Philippines	188	120	95	19
Total	604	405	334	125

MFR and CSSR Graduates (from PEER Stage 1 to Stage 3)

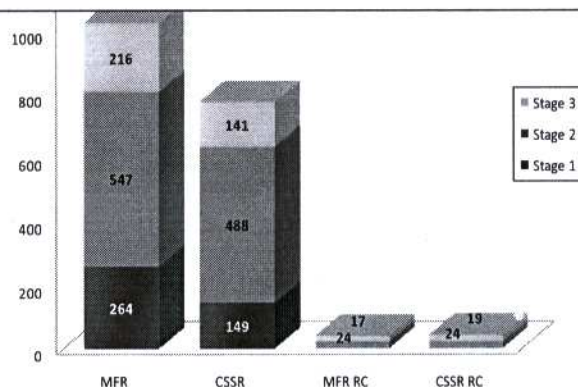
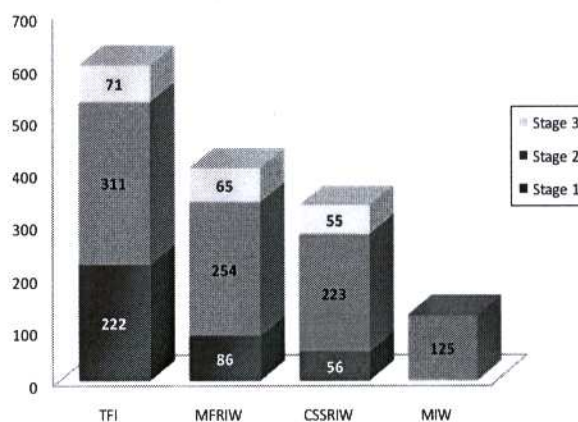
Countries	MFR	CSSR	MFR RC	CSSR RC
Bangladesh	145	120	2	2
India	178	120	-	-
Indonesia	147	105	2	1
Nepal	169	133	2	2
Pakistan	125	92	-	-
Philippines	263	208	35	38
Total	1,027	778	41	43

Events Conducted under PEER Objective 3

So far, there are 37 program events conducted under Objective 3 of Year 2 of PEER Stage 3; 12 were fully funded and 25 were funded under the PEER Partial Funding Assistance Program (PFAP). So far, there are 37 program events conducted under Objective 3 of Year 2 of PEER Stage 3; 12 were fully funded and 25 were funded under the PEER Partial Funding Assistance Program (PFAP).

PEER MFR and CSSR Instructors in the Region

As of February 28, 2011


PEER Objective 3 Events Completed as of PEER3 Yr 2

COUNTRIES	Fully-Funded Events	PFAP events
	4	3
Bangladesh	1 Country Planning Meeting 1 MFR Translation Test Course 1 CSSR Translation Test Course 1 Database Management Training	2 MFR Courses 1 CSSR Course
India	1 1 Country Planning Meeting	6 2 MFR Courses 1 CSSR Course 1 TFI 1 MFRIW 1 CSSRIW
Indonesia	1 1 Country Planning Meeting	2 1 MFR Course 1 CSSR Course
Nepal	2 1 Country Planning Meeting 1 Database Management Training	3 2 MFR Courses 1 CSSR Course
Pakistan	1 1 Country Planning Meeting	
Philippines	2 1 Country Planning Meeting 1 Database Management Training	11 2 MFR Courses 1 CSSR Course 1 MFR Refresher Course 1 CSSR Refresher Course 2 TFI 2 MFRIW 2 CSSRIW
Total	11 + 1 (MFRIW and CSSRIW Refresher Course Development)	25

Other PEER Objective 3 achievements MFRIW and CSSRIW refresher course development;
PEER Database Management Training and translation of MFR and CSSR courses into
Bangla, Nepali and Urdu.