

環境・災害マネジメントに関する 遠隔ラーニングプログラム

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Background and Context

The relationship between human security and the environment is most pronounced in areas of human dependence on access to natural resources. Environmental resources are a critical part of the livelihoods of many people. When these resources are threatened because of environmental changes, people's human security is also threatened, and people move from the rural areas to the marginal lands, and household income falls. This relationship is captured in the promotion of sustainable development.

Disaster management has its direct connotation to human security. Many of the natural disasters like flood, drought etc., are found to be directly related to the environmental degradation, and climate change. These disaster events affect the poor people the most by affecting their lives, properties and livelihoods. Therefore, by creating disaster resilient communities, it is possible to enhance human security.

There have been several international declaration/ resolutions on disaster and environment, most of which have proposed a Plan of Action. On the disaster related issues, the United Nations Yokohama Strategy for disaster reduction was a significant one, which calls on accelerated development of a culture of prevention as an essential component of an integrated approach to disaster reduction, adoption of a policy of self reliance in each vulnerable country and community comprising capacity building as well as allocation and efficient use of resources and community participation. Recent realizations indicate a move towards risk reduction through mitigation and preparedness as a preferred line of action rather than continued focus on relief and rehabilitation. This approach will need much groundwork to be able to make a change in operational systems at field level. Prime amongst the needs is that of human resource development.

Though existing initiatives are commendable in terms of getting the disaster and environmental management training agenda visible on a certain scale, much remains to be done for ensuring field impact of a scale that does justice to the dimensions of the problem. One critical view on many of the program currently available in the developing world has been that they are loosely structured and lack concise, comprehensive, locally appropriate and well-structured content.

They also are too inadequate to have a significant impact at field level. The programs available through acclaimed international institutions are too expensive and logistically difficult to form the backbone of the field disaster and environmental management training structure of developing societies. Lessons learnt thus far, and resultant human resource development initiatives taken up, have focused more on formal education in a top-down fashion. The tacit knowledge used, and useful, in frontline situations remains un-researched and unutilized at a wider scale for human resource development.

Distance learning is important, specifically for the developing nations, to reach the maximum mass, to fill the gap between knowledge and practice. The World Bank has taken strong initiatives in Distance Learning (DL), and has promoted the establishment of DL centers in different parts of the world, as a part of its Global Development Learning Network (GDLN). Vietnam is one of these centers for the East Asia, and has been successfully engaged in running different courses on development issues. With the above context, therefore, there is a strong need to start the distance learning program on Disaster and Environmental Management. To initiate the process, a pilot testing will be conducted on 27th August 2004, by linking Delhi, Hanoi and Tokyo GDLN centers.

- Disasters are affecting poor communities most
- Knowledge on how to deal with disasters and environmental issues, or how to reduce risk, is neither easily accessible nor affordable
- Therefore, the need is to:
 - Create a platform that may educate field operators on risk reduction issues through an experiential learning methodology
 - Target the tacit knowledge that people cannot explain
 - Turn such field knowledge explicit and available to all
 - Establish a network that provides spontaneity in communication

Goal and Objectives of the Pilot Testing

The pilot testing aims the following:

1. To have a first-hand experience on the Distance Learning mechanism using the GDLN
2. To disseminate the outputs of the Pre-event of 'Partnership in Community Based Disaster Management in Asia
3. To discuss future strategies on sustainable community initiatives for environment and disaster management