

State Disaster Management Institute to come up at Pakyong

PANKAJDHUNGEL/PR

GANGTOK, July 24: Expressing serious concern on the lack of a legislative stand to counter and mitigate disaster in the State, Land Revenue and Disaster Management minister Kunga Nima Lepcha today said an integrated approach must be followed for disaster management in the State.

Sharing the State government's proposal for setting up a Disaster Management Institute at Pakyong, East Sikkim, Lepcha informed that the institute will have a pan-Himalayan reach through devoted capacity building in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The minister was addressing the distribution of training module and emergency responder kits for

management for Aapda Mitra volunteers at mini auditorium Manan Bhawan here today.

The minister along with Land Revenue secretary Ambika Pradhan highlighted the Glacial Lake Out Burst (GLOB) with 11 such lakes being identified as vulnerable in the State through satellite imagery.

Further he said that as for now South Lhonak Lake located at an altitude of more than 17,000 ft has been studied and siphoning of water through 5 numbers of 8" diameter HDPE Pipes is done along with clearance of debris from the mouth of lake executed through SDC-UNDP programme where Sonam Wangchuk from Ladhak was appointed.

On the frequent landslides in the capital region, minister Lepcha said Gangtok falls in seismic zone-V and land surveyors have been



instrumental in mapping disaster prone areas and also channelling the cumulative activities for such frequent landslides. "Run off of rain water along with erratic weather can be some of the reasons," he opined while terming disasters the curse of development and assured of an integrated approach from all the concerned departments.

"Due to global climate

change, Sikkim too is facing frequent cloud bursts the result of which has been multiple landslides in the State, with most of them having occurred during this year's monsoon season. The mobility and communication is cut off in different parts of the State along along with loss of life and property," he said.

Recalling his own experience as a disaster

management volunteer during the infamous 1968 cloud burst and flash floods across river Teesta and its tributaries, minister Lepcha asserted that a disaster management volunteer has a noble task in saving people's lives.

Land Revenue secretary Ambika Pradhan highlighted about GLOB, Glacial Lake Outburst Flood and talked

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about 1968 flood which was caused due to cloudburst in which the State was badly affected. She mentioned that at those times there were no such preparedness measures. Times have changed and as of now the State government has become more aware and committed in dealing with disaster management and informed that in 2005 the Disaster Management Act was enacted which mandated in creating and establishing the State Disaster Management cell under the Land Revenue Department.

She also said that since Aapda Mitra training is mainly focused on rescuing and responding towards flood, its role, participation, responsibility of all the volunteers towards communities at the times of need is optimum.

It was informed that Aapda Mitra aims to train volunteers in disasters response and these trained volunteers are known as Aapda Mitra. The Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) has been executing the NDMA scheme on flood preparedness and the four batches had been trained under it.

Among the items for Emergency Responder Kit distributed, the SSDMA distributed Life Jackets made of polyurethane foam, solar torch or emergency lights,

safety globes, 30-metre long BOB Nylon ropes, pocket knife, first aid kit, gas lighter, whistle, rain coat, cut hooks, throw bag, water bottles, ruck sacks, water resistant clothing, gum boots, safety goggles, and safety helmet for water rafting to 107 Aapda Mitra volunteers. The department will also deliver the emergency responder kits to volunteers in other parts of the State.

Sumit Times 25/07/19

170 Aapda Mitra volunteers trained in Flood Management

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 24 JUL:

A Distribution of Training Module & Emergency Responder Kits for Management for Aapda Mitra Volunteers was held at Mini Auditorium, Manan Bhawan, an IPR release informs.

Aapda Mitra is a centrally sponsored scheme focused on training 6000 community volunteers in disaster response in 30 most flood prone districts (200 volunteers per district) of 25 States of India.

The scheme aims to provide community volunteers with the skills that they would need to respond to their community's immediate needs in the aftermath of a disaster thereby enabling them to undertake basic relief and rescue tasks during emergency situations such as floods, flash-floods and urban flooding.

The programme was attended by Land Revenue & Disaster Management Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha along with State Relief Commissioner cum Secretary Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Ambika Pradhan, Director HRDD, Hondala Gyaltzen, Commanding Officer Of 3rd Battalion NCC Sikkim, Col Rajeev Kumar, Additional Director, SSDMA, GC Kharel, representatives of Sikkim Mountaineering As-



sociation [SMA], DANS Energy Pvt Ltd, National Cadets Corps, students, teachers, dignitaries and other Officials and staff of SSDMA, LR&DM and AAPDA Mitra volunteers.

Minister Mr Lepcha in his address congratulated all the 170 young and enthusiastic volunteers for getting themselves trained in Flood Management from Shillong and appreciated their efforts.

He talked about the threat of Glacier Lake Outburst (GLOF) in the State.

So far, four batches of volunteers from Sikkim have undergone training. The first batch had 45 volunteers from SMA, DANS Energy. The second batch had 52 School students while the third batch had 27 volunteers

from SMA. The fourth batch had 46 NCC girls and boys.

LRDM Secretary, Ambika Pradhan also talked about GLOF and said that today the State is better prepared to handle disasters. She urged all the volunteers to work responsibly and proactively in the communities to disseminate information and to train others.

Earlier, a presentation on Aapda Mitra was held followed by experience sharing from the volunteers. Passang Sherpa, Prabha Tamang and Abhishek Chettri talked about their training period at Shillong.

Later, Emergency Responder Kits were distributed to the Volunteers by Minister, Kunga Nima Lepcha.

Sikkim Reporters 25/07/14

Minister Lepcha urge Aapda Mitras to get prepared for action during disasters



Nita Nirash

Gangtok, July 24: Minister Land Revenue & Disaster Management, Kunga Nima Lepcha distributed Flood Safety equipment, to Aapda Mitras, here today. The 107 participants included volunteers from Offices, NCC, Schools & Colleges. They were told to help out in times of need and were given training modules & Emergency Responders Kit. They have been trained at Shillong, recently. Minister said, 'Though 170 volunteers have been trained we have 107 present here today. They should be the First respondents in time of Disasters'. He added they could help in rehabilitation during Earthquake, Floods, Landslides, Forest Fires and Glacier melting. He talked of vulnerable glaciers of Sikkim.

'11 vulnerable lakes have been identified in Sikkim. These are being studied by Committees formed by State Government. South Lhonak at 17000 ft is being studied. The

ice is being siphoned out applying the expertise of Consultant from Ladakh, under a UNDP Project.'

He asked the volunteers to get prepared for action during disasters as the hills here are fragile. He shared his experience as Disaster Management Incharge, earlier.

Commissioner cum Secretary Ambika Pradhan, LRD spoke about melting of Glacial Lakes during to global warming, causing constant danger. She expressed hope that 'Aapda Mitras' will respond in case of floods. They have been identified keeping in view their performance in 2011 Earthquake. She warned them against responding to Disasters individually. 'You must take others with you, when trying to help any disaster victim, said Pradhan. GC Khanal, Additional Secretary Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority was also present at the function organised by his wing (SSDMA). 3 trainees shared their experience of recent Training.

Training Module & Emergency Responder Kits given to Aapda Mitra Volunteers

Gangtok, July 24 (IPRO): A Distribution of Training Module & Emergency Responder Kits for Management For Aapda Mitra Volunteers was held at Mini Auditorium, Manan Bhawan. The programme was graced by Kunga Nima Lepcha Minister Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Law & Legislature & Parliamentary Affairs, HRDD & Sports & Youth Affairs Departments along with Anshika Pradhan, State Relief Commissioner cum Secretary Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Himachal Pradesh Director BRDD, Col. Rajeev Kataria Commanding Officer Of 3rd Battalion NCC, Sikkim, G. C. Khawet Additional Director, SSDMA, representatives of Sikkim Mountaineering Association, DANS Energy Pvt. Ltd, National Cadets Corps, students, teachers, dignitaries and other

Officials and staff of SSDMA, LR&DM and AAPDA Mitra volunteers. Kunga Nima Lepcha in his address congratulated all the 170 young and enthusiastic volunteers for getting themselves trained in 'Flood Management "AAPDA MITRA" from Shillong and appreciated their noble task of volunteering themselves for saving human lives. He said that since Sikkim has various types of potential hazards that at times it may face two disasters and one such disaster which is now active is with Climate Change activities that is making glaciers melt at very high rate making glacial lakes increase in their size tremendously posing a threat of situation like Glacier Lake Outburst (GLOF). Adding to it he stated that Scientific Organizations have identified eleven such Vulnerable Glacial Lakes and this, now the Government



has formed interdisciplinary Committee to take up studies of such lakes in ground, assess the situation, recommended for possible mitigation measures to be taken up. Further he said that as for now South Lhonak Lake located at an altitude of more than 17000ft has been studied and siphoning of water through 5 numbers of 8" diameter HDPE Pipes is

done along with clearance of debris from the south of lake executed through SDC-UNDP programme where Mr. Sonam Wangyel (Kulex and Nagayay Award Winner) from Ladakh was appointed. Lastly he stated some of his experiences pertaining to disaster (1997) and appealed all to curtail harmful activities which lead to man made disaster

and reminded all the volunteers to work in co-ordination and not to seem it alone. Anshika Pradhan in her special welcomed all the dignitaries, guest and volunteers of AAPDA MITRA. She highlighted about GLOF, Glacial Lake Outburst Flood and talked about 1997 flood which was caused due to landslide in which the lake was badly affected. She mentioned

something that saved 8 lives. Lastly she urged all the volunteers to work responsibly, proactively to disseminate information and to reach other people and said that the Department of Disaster to train all the emergency members from across states of life and every citizen, every citizen people especially the first along the disaster zone area should be to be working together in to help with the purpose of strengthening resilience in to experience. Further there was a special presentation about "AAPDA MITRA" followed by experience sharing from to members of volunteers state Panchang Tharpa, Pancha Tenzang and Hishelak Chetri talked about their training period at Shillong. It was informed that AAPDA MITRA was in to train volunteers in disaster response and has been voluntary an

known as Aapda Mitra. Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) has been executing National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India Scheme "AAPADA MITRA" on Flood Preparedness and the first batches had been trained under it: 1st Batch - 45 Volunteers - Commissioned Volunteers, SMA, DANS Energy, 2nd Batch - 37 Volunteers - School Students, Commissioned Volunteers, Departmental Volunteers. 3rd Batch - 27 Volunteers - Commissioned Volunteers & SMA 4th Batch - 46 Volunteers - NCC both girls and boys Cadets. Later there was a distribution of Emergency Responder Kit to the Volunteers by Minister in-charge Shri Kunga Nima Lepcha who earlier took the stock of the arrangements. The programme concluded by vote of thanks by Mr. Nima Pradhan, Under Secretary, SSDMA.