



India: Prompt Action Towards Nationalization and Institutionalization of PEER Courses



The Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, has designated the following institutions to conduct MFR and CSSR courses in the country: Fire Safety Training Institute at NISA, Hyderabad, Basic Training Centre at ITBP, Chandigarh, Border Security Force in Gwalior, and Central Reserve Police Force in Coimbatore. The GOI has ordered these institutions to train a total of eight battalion paramilitary forces by the end of December, 2006.

All training materials and equipment necessary to conduct the Medical First Responder and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue Courses were provided by the GOI. Aside from those provided by PEER from phase 1 and 2, to date, all four institutions have at least one set of training equipment and materials. The CISF, NISA built eight sets of CSSR training props, ITBP four and one each for BSF and CRPF.

India has also explored its training to hazardous materials and confined space search and rescue skills by equipping itself with advance equipment for SAR. It is now working towards learning advanced search and rescue techniques through training.

Just recently, India, through its Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has commenced the program which will strengthen the response capacity of its hospital by sending its most potential instructors to PEER's Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) Course. Together with PEER, India has conducted two HOPE and two HOPE-Training for Instructors Courses and has graduated a total of fifty-two HOPE and forty-two H-TFI graduates.



The first batch of HOPE and H-TFI courses was held at the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) in Delhi in February, 2006 while the second batch was in Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) in Pondicherry in March, 2006.

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- Figure of the month: First Male to Complete all PEER Courses...
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MIW produced 28 certified course monitors and coordinators

In collaboration with the Safety Solutions Incorporated, NSET-PEER has conducted the Master Instructor Workshop which was held in Makati City, Philippines on February 27 to March 3, 2006. The workshop was attended by twenty-eight MFR and CSSR instructors from the five partner countries intended to become course monitors and coordinators.



The purpose of the workshop is to enhance the knowledge and skills of instructors and develop more effective course coordinators and monitors in conducting the MFR and CSSR courses.

Facilitators to the workshop are instructors from Safety Solutions Incorporated, USA, namely, Gary Richards, Giovannie Ulloa and Mr. Edward Wollf. Two Indian MIW graduates from previous workshop in India joined the SSI team and assisted in the sessions.

As a result, PEER has produced a total of twenty-eight certified course coordinators and monitors in the region, with a minimum of five from each country. Only those who have completed this course will be invited to monitor succeeding courses in the region.

Course Adaptation: Completed in Nepal, Philippines and Indonesia

As one of the objectives of PEER is to tailor the course materials to the national context, NSET-PEER has planned and organized to conduct the adaptation courses and workshops. Among the five partner countries, NSET-PEER has completed the adaptation courses and workshops in Nepal, Philippines and Indonesia.

A core group in each country was formed consisting of experienced MFR and CSSR instructors. Their recommendations were taken and discussed within the group, forwarded to nodal agencies for approval and further comments. The result of the workshop shall be tested through a regular course utilizing the adapted version in each of the three countries.

Should there be a need to translate the materials to the countries' respective native language, it shall be done after testing and finalizing the materials.

For year IV of PEER-2, the objective is focused on developing more instructors who will assist the respective countries in conducting courses utilizing the small grants of the program. In these courses, adapted version of the materials shall be utilized.





Program Accomplishment: Year 3: 4th Quarter

India



Country Planning Meeting: PEER, in coordination with the Government of India, conducted its second Country Planning Meeting on January 31, 2006, preceded by an Implementation Workshop with representatives from the four PEER implementing institutions in India. The

meeting was participated by the agencies who are currently involved with PEER and conducting MFR and CSSR courses, Boarder Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), and Indo-Tibetan Boarder Police (ITBP). The agencies shared their accomplishment, resource capacities, experiences, and problems encountered in conducting the courses.

Recommendations were duly forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for their review, comments and consideration. From this meeting, plans to improve the program implementation were discussed and requirement of each institution was laid out. Standardization of courses will be worked out with one adaptation workshop and course to be organized with PEER in the near future. Likewise, the need to conduct the Advance Search and Rescue Course was also discussed in this meeting.

HOPE and HOPE-TFI: PEER conducted back-to-back courses on HOPE and H-TFI in Delhi and Pondichery in India in February and March, 2006 which produced a total of 52 HOPE and 42 H-TFI graduates. These graduates are eligible as assistant instructors and eventually full instructors after due experience in practice.

Indonesia

Three courses for instructor development process were conducted and completed in Indonesia: TFI, MFRIW and CSSRIW. These courses added 28 graduates in TFI and 24 IW graduates for MFR and CSSR courses. These graduates are eligible to serve as assistant instructors for their first instruction and after which can be considered full instructors as they gain more experience in due course.

Both TFI and MFRIW were held at the Cyber Campus of the Department of Transportation in Bogor, Indonesia on January 12-16 and January 19-23, 2006, respectively. The core of facilitators was composed of experienced facilitators from India, Philippines and Indonesia. Monitors were Mr. Leonardo Ebajo and Ms. Marites Tandingan, both from the Philippines, for TFI and MFRIW, respectively.

The CSSRIW was conducted at the Fire Service Training Institute, Ciracas, Indonesia on January 28 to February 3, 2006. Facilitators from India and Philippines composed the core of instructors assisted by Indonesian instructors. Mr. Marlito Bautista monitored the workshop.



Dr Suryadi Soedarmo, In-Country Consultant for PEER in Indonesia, assisted in the organization, preparation and actual conduct of the workshops.

Philippines

Master Instructors Workshop: PEER conducted the second regional MIW in the Philippines with a total of 28 participants from the five partner countries. Two observers from Pakistan also attended the workshop. The Safety Solutions Incorporated facilitated the course. Two assistant instructors were invited from India to help in the facilitation of the workshop.

The workshop was held at Best Western Hotel, Makati City, Philippines. The National Coordinating Council-Office of Civil Defense, nodal agency for PEER in the Philippines assisted in the preparation and organization of the workshop. The Makati City Government supported by providing the venue for the reception which was held at the 21st floor of the Makati City Hall. To date, PEER has 55 MIW graduates who are certified coordinators and monitors in the PEER courses.

PEER Figure of the Month...

ROMULO FERNANDO F. VILLAVECER: The First Male PEER graduate for MFR, CSSR, and HOPE Courses in Asia

During the conclusion of the Country Planning Meeting in the Philippines, PEER awarded a certificate of recognition to Mr. Romulo Fernando Villavecer as the first male who have completed all three core courses of PEER in the region. The certificate of recognition was handed over by General Glenn Rabonza, OCD Administrator and NDCC Executive Officer.



Mr. Villavecer, working as Officer-in-Charge at the Silay City Fire Station, has started his career in PEER by completing the MFR course in the Philippines in 2000, CSSR in Thailand in 2001 and HOPE course in 2004. He became MFR and CSSR instructor during phase 1 of the program, completing TFI, MFRIW and CSSRIW.

At present, he is one of the most experienced and traveled instructors in the region, has served as either instructor, coordinator or monitor in almost all of the five partner countries.

PEER joined the celebration of *Earthquake Safety Day* in Nepal

Celebrating the Earthquake Safety Day in Nepal, PEER program participated by showcasing the materials being utilized in implementing the program in the region. The exhibit was held in Bhaktapur, Nepal in January 15-17, 2006. PEER posters, course materials, brochures, PEER newsletter and other program materials were displayed and distributed.

Vice chairman of Council of Ministers, Mr. Kirti Nidhi Bista, inaugurated the exhibit. Key officials from the government participated in the 3-day celebration of Earthquake Safety Day.



From Training to Action

Bangladesh

PEER-Trained Rescuers Saved 42 People

February 25, 2006



On February 25, a nine-storey Phoenix building in Tejgaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh collapsed and trapped up to 150 people beneath tons of rubble. Rescuers from the Bangladesh Fire Service & Civil Defence immediately launched rescue operations, and were joined shortly by the Army, Police, Scouts, Ministry of Health and other volunteer organizations. In the days that followed, the rescue teams reported that 42 people were extricated and saved alive from the rubble and retrieved 19 dead victims.

Philippines

Stampede at ULTRA

February 5, 2006

Celebrating the first anniversary of "Wowowee", a noontime show at ABS-CBN, a stampede caused an emergency leaving hundreds of people injured. Accordingly, people have waited at the gates for 3 days to get the chance to enter the premises since big prizes await the winners. The fans trying to get in pushed forward until the closed gate gave in and people in front were crushed. People fell like dominoes on the pathway sloped by about 30 degrees downward from the main road. The Medical City, nearest hospital, received most of the patients. There are about 73 people who died instantly.



The Medical City opened the ER to these patients. Dr. Jun Teodoro, one of the HOPE course instructors, reported that approximately 50 dead patients and close to 150 injured patients were brought to TMC.

What's New in PEER?

Instructor Workshop. Lesson Plan for MFRIW and CSSRIW was recently developed and tested by PEER in its conduct of the workshops in Indonesia.

Training for Instructors. A new evaluation form was developed by PEER to objectively evaluate the participants following the standards of presentation set forth by the USAID-OFDA.

Medical First Responder. A new evaluation form for group presentation was developed to objectively evaluate and score the participants in their presentation and avoid subjectivity of instructors.

HOPE-Training for Instructors. More lessons were incorporated to TFI lessons to suit the requirement for the HOPE course and developed the materials for instructor workshop for the HOPE course. Four new lessons were added to the course and individual presentations were tailored from MFR/CSSR Instructors Workshop.

PEER and WHO: Worked together for developing HOPE instructors in India

The PEER and the World Health Organization have worked together and organized the conduct of H-TFI course in Pondicherry, India on March 11-15, 2006. WHO has provided financial assistance to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India in pursuing its aim of developing instructors for HOPE course. This endeavor will move India further in its goal of sustaining the training capacity of hospitals and strengthen their hospital plan in times of emergencies.

There will be two more HOPE courses to be organized by the MHFW in India with funding support from WHO. PEER will assist MHFW by sending assisting instructors and monitors to the courses to maintain the set standards of the program.

Up-Coming PEER Events: April to June 2006

April Regional Networking Meeting, India

May National MFR Course, Nepal
National HOPE Course, Nepal
National MFR Course, Philippines

June National MFR Course, Bangladesh
National HOPE Course, Bangladesh
National H-TFI Course, Indonesia

etc

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Share your events be a contributor of the PEER's newsletter. Send your article to peer@nset.org.np.

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Next Issue

Result of RNM

HOPE Programming and Progress in the Region

Feature: In-Country Consultant for PEER

And a lot more....

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More Networking Strategies for PEER Launched



Additional networking strategies for PEER were launched during the Regional Networking Meeting held at the National Industrial Security Academy, Hyderabad, India on April 26 – 28, 2006. The meeting was attended by twenty-one key officials from the five partner countries representing the nodal agencies, In-Country Consultants and master instructors. The web-based Discussion Forum, sharing of database information, and the use of mail groups were proposed as additional networking strategies to be utilized in order to increase communication among the PEER management team and the five partner countries.

These strategies were recommended and ratified during the Regional Planning Meeting held in Manila, Philippines in October, 2005. Through these efforts, PEER countries can share information on current and upcoming program events in their respective countries.

During the Networking meeting, deployment of PEER trained responders was also a key discussion topic. Soon, PEER partner countries will share their instructors and monitors in order to better maintain the program standards when implementing its courses. Furthermore, in cases of emergencies requiring external assistance, partner countries shall be able to deploy their teams of PEER trained responders and other required specialists to PEER partner countries.

Other agenda discussed during the RNM were the recertification of course instructors and graduates. PEER will now offer certification templates and identification cards to all graduates upon completion of the course. It was agreed that both MFR and CSSR courses, certification will be valid for five years only. In-country courses in all PEER partner countries shall utilize the same template for certificates and identification cards in order to provide for regional recognition.

In this issue:

- Additional Networking Strategies Launched
- Success Stories: HOPE Programming
- PEER Figure of the Month...
"Subramanian Suma: First Female PEER Instructor in Asia"
- Accomplishment for the 1st Quarter, PY IV
- New PEER Deputy Chief of Party
- Up-coming events

Success Stories: HOPE Programming

India

Together with the Emergency Medical Relief, NSET-PEER has conducted two HOPE and H-TFI courses with full financial support and one round of HOPE and H-TFI courses with partial assistance in India from February to June this year. The first HOPE course in India was held in February, 2006 and followed by the two other in March and June. The EMR is planning to conduct more courses in different strategic locations in India to enhance its hospital preparedness.

Indonesia

Under the leadership of Dr. Aryono Puspongoro, the Medical Association of Indonesia, focal point for HOPE programming in Indonesia, has conducted a total of seven in-country HOPE courses with the aim of improving the hospital preparedness nationwide. Similar courses are being planned for other areas of the country as the result of a national government assessment, with assistance from the HOPE core group in Jakarta.

Nepal

After completing the HOPE course recently conducted in Kathmandu, Nepal in May, two graduates from Tansen Hospital convened their hospital's disaster management committee and revised the hospital disaster plan according to the HOPE standards. Clearer structural organization was emphasized in the revised hospital preparedness plan, and facilities and personnel were reoriented to include the HOPE principles and concepts outlined for hospitals in response to mass casualty incidents.



In addition to Tansen Hospital, Patan Hospital has also developed a disaster management plan for their hospital and has been conducting a mock drills once a year to prepare its facility and personnel for mass casualty incident.

Philippines

In collaboration with the Department of Health and Office of Civil Defense, three HOPE courses were conducted by the team of Dr. Teodoro Herbosa in the Philippines. Two of the three courses were held in the Visayas region of the country with support from the Provincial Government. In order to expand the concept and principles of HOPE, more instructors for HOPE shall be developed in the Philippines.

PEER Figure of the Month...



SUBRAMANIAN SUMA: The First Female PEER instructor for MFR and CSSR Courses in Asia

Upon the successful completion of the MFR and CSSR Instructor Workshop in 2003, Ms. Subramanian Suma became the first female instructor for PEER in Asia. Ms. Suma is currently working as instructor at the Fire Services Training Institute (FSTI), National Industrial Security Academy (NISA), Hyderabad, India.

During phase I of the program, Ms. Suma received the special recognition certificate from the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center for being the first female instructor for PEER in the region.





Program Accomplishments Year 4: 1st Quarter

India

National Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) and HOPE-Training for Instructors (H-TFI) courses were conducted at the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Kolkata, India in June, 2006, with a total of 18 HOPE and 17 H-TFI graduates. Both the courses were organized by the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India with the financial support from World Health Organization (WHO) and National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal-Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response through its Partial Funding Assistance Program.



Nepal

In collaboration with the Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University, NSET-PEER delivered a national Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) course in Kathmandu, Nepal on May 30-June 2, 2006, with a total of twenty seven graduates. Of noteworthy significance in this course was the large number of female participants, constituting 46% of the total participation.

Dr. Pradeep Vaidya of the Institute of Medicine and Professor Ravi Saksena of India participated in the course as course coordinator and monitor, respectively.

Philippines



Commencing the initial PEER program at the Amity Public Safety Academy in the Philippines, a national Medical First Responder (MFR) Course was conducted on May 29-June 10, 2006 in Bacolod City, Philippines.

Duly endorsed by the nodal agency in the Philippines, Office of Civil Defense, APSA aims to develop a team of instructors for the institute to continuously implement the MFR and CSSR courses and train emergency responders not only for Bacolod City, but also for adjacent cities and provinces.

National instructors have facilitated the course under the leadership of Insp. Romulo Villavecera and Dr. George Rojo who served as course coordinator and monitor for the course.

MOU for PEER Implementation

Nepal



A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Health and the Institute of Medicine on May 4, 2006 for the continuous implementation of Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) programs in Nepal.

The Ministry of Health expressed its commitment to supporting the program for the country. The MOU was signed by Dr. Nirakar Man Shrestha, Chief, Policy Planning and Foreign Aid Division, Ministry of Health and Prof. Dr. Ramesh Kant Adhikari, Dean, Tribhuvan University Institute of Medicine.

Philippines

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Amity Public Safety Academy and the National Disaster Coordinating Council was signed on May 29, 2006 for the implementation of Medical First Responder (MFR) and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) courses in Philippines. The MOU was signed by Mr. Carlos Ganihong, Administrator of APSA and Atty Priscilla P Duque, Assistant Civil Defence Executive Officer, Office of Civil Defense.



What's New in PEER?



PEER is pleased to welcome Ms. Dione M. Cottrill, the newest member of the program's senior management staff. Ms. Cottrill started her new post in Kathmandu, Nepal as PEER's Deputy Chief of Party on May 25, 2006.

Etc.

Join the PEER mail group... and receive program information, news, course updates and share ideas with co-instructors. All certified PEER instructors, coordinators, ICC's, institutions and nodal agency representatives are qualified to join the mail group. Other PEER friends are also welcome. Subscribe at peer@nset.org.np.

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Upcoming PEER Events

July

HOPE, July 10-13, 2006 - Bangladesh
MFR-A, July 17-29, 2006 - Bangladesh

August

CSSR-A, August 2-9, 2006 - Bangladesh
CSSR, August 8-15, 2006 - Philippines
CPM, August 12-13, 2006 - Bangladesh

September

CPM, September 6-7, Philippines (TBC)
CPM, September 13-14, Indonesia (TBC)

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Third PEER Country Planning Meetings

NSET-PEER commenced this year's country planning meetings in August. In order to continue to improve the course delivery and maintain standards, this year we included an Instructors Conference on the first day of the Country Planning Meeting (CPM) to share their experiences and recommend more effective course implementation strategies. The second day of meetings focused on the accomplishments in delivering PEER courses, and launching the PEER Partial Funding Assistance Program (PFAP). As of September 30, 2006 we have held meetings for Bangladesh, Philippines and Indonesia. CPMs for India and Nepal will be held in December.

In this issue:

- Third PEER CPMs
- PEER Partial Funding Assistance Program
- Pakistan: PEER Newest Partner-Country
- Accomplishments for this Quarter
- PEER Impact : How CSSR Equipment Caches are put to use in Indonesia
- PEER Highlight: FSCD Training Complex
- Upcoming events

CPM Dhaka, Bangladesh August 12-13, 2006



The Bangladesh Country Planning Meeting was held at the Spectra Convention Center, Gulshan, Dhaka. Selected instructors from the Fire Service and Civil Defense and the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine discussed course delivery and materials at

the Instructors Conference on August 12. The Country Planning Meeting included key officials from the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, USAID/Bangladesh, the US Embassy, the Fire Service and Civil Defense, the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine, as well as representatives from NGOs and potential PEER partners. The meeting concluded with a proposed list of PFAP courses and plans for delivery.

CPM Manila, Philippines September 6-7, 2006



This year's CPM in the Philippines was held at the National Defense College in Quezon City in Manila. Both days of the meeting included instructors and key officials from the Office of Civil Defence, the Bureau of Fire Protection – Fire National Training Institute, Amity Public

Safety Academy, and the Department of Health. USAID/Philippines also joined the meeting on the second day. The Instructors Conference included an interesting discussion and exchange on lessons learned and PEER Impact relating to the Leyte landslide emergency. At the close of the CPM, each institution presented a comprehensive plan for delivering PEER courses under the PFAP through December 2007.

CPM Jakarta, Indonesia September 13-14, 2006

Like last year, the Indonesia CPM was held at the Acacia Hotel in Jakarta and included instructors, key officials and administrators from Ambulan 118, BASARNAS, BAKORNAS, the Jakarta Fire Service, and the Indonesian College of Surgeons.



The Instructors Conference included a discussion by AGD 118 and BASARNAS on issues with coordination and resources coming out of the Jogjakarta earthquake. In addition to those delivered by our in-country agency officials, messages from USAID/OFDA and USAID/Indonesia were also presented at the CPM. The meetings concluded with a planning session and next steps toward further PEER instructor development in Indonesia.

PEER Partial Funding Assistance Program

In support of PEER's overall objective to enhance the capacity of PEER partner countries to organize and deliver their own PEER training courses, and to assist the partner countries with their efforts to nationalize the PEER program, the PEER Partial Funding Assistance Program was formally launched in August.

Through this initiative, NSET-PEER will provide limited financial assistance to our partner agencies in support of nationalizing the PEER program. Based on the PFAP guidelines, the focal training institutions may request PEER funding support in conducting courses and workshops, program monitoring and evaluation, course materials adaptation and translation, instructors exchange, replacement of non-expendable training equipment, networking and coordination, and database set up and maintenance.

To date, NSET-PEER has supported two PEER courses under its PFAP. HOPE courses conducted in Kolkatta, India was supported by sending 3 regional instructors while the HOPE course in Dharan, Nepal was supported with materials, course supplies and national instructors exchanges.

Pakistan: New PEER Partner-Country

With the disaster experience in Pakistan and need for enhancing its emergency response capacity, PEER is pleased to announce that we shall begin implementing PEER training activities in Pakistan. Our nodal agency for Pakistan, the National Disaster Management Authority, has started working to identify implementing partner agencies and organizations. More information on upcoming training events in Pakistan will be coming in our next issue.





PEER Impact: CSSR equipment in Indonesia



PEER has provided one set of training equipment for PEER courses to each partner country for implementing the courses, one during phase-1 and another set in phase-2. It was agreed that the partner country, through its nodal agency or focal training institution, will maintain the equipment and keep it ready and available for the courses.

In Indonesia, Ambulan 118 has designed a vehicle to carry the full set of equipment for CSSR, ready to go at anytime for a response. The vehicle is a converted van, specifically redesigned to fit all of the CSSR tools, equipment and accessories. The two trucks are being kept and maintained by Ambulan 118 at their facility in Jakarta.

PEER Focus : FSCD Training Complex, Dhaka

The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, PEER nodal agency in Bangladesh, identified the Fire Service and Civil Defense as a key implementing partner for the development of instructors. FSCD is located in Mirpur 10, Dhaka, Bangladesh and is currently supervised by M. Abdus Salam, Principal and a PEER certified MFR and CSSR instructor.

In order to adjust to the growing demand for PEER and other training within the training complex, the FSCD management, headed by Director General Rafiqur Rahman, ordered an upgrading of the facility by adding an additional level to the building for classrooms and instructors' rooms. This upgrading will make FSCD more suitable for conducting PEER courses as well as other programs at FSCD.



Program Accomplishments This Quarter

Bangladesh

In coordination with the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management and the Ministry of Health in Bangladesh, NSET-PEER held one of each of the three PEER courses in Bangladesh.

In coordination with the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM), a national HOPE course was held on July 10-13, 2006 at the International Training Complex, Savar, with twenty-six graduates. Medical and engineering professionals from various institutions in Bangladesh attended the course. Regional instructors from Nepal and the Philippines assisted the national instructors in conducting the course.

The adaptation courses for MFR and CSSR were conducted in Dhaka with main purpose of modifying the materials and suiting them to the national context of Bangladesh. The courses were attended by twenty-four FSCD personnel.



Indonesia

The Third Country Planning Meeting was conducted in Jakarta, Indonesia on September 13-14, 2006. Key officials from the nodal agency and partner organizations attended the meeting. Program plans in continuing the implementation of PEER in Indonesia were discussed in this meeting.

India

In preparation for the Medical First Responder (MFR) and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) Adaptation Courses scheduled in November, 2006, NSET-PEER, in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, India, conducted the adaptation workshops for both the MFR and CSSR courses at the Fire Service Training Institute of the National Industrial Security Academy-Central Industrial Security Force, Hyderabad, India on September 14-16, 2006 and September 17-18, 2006, respectively. The materials will be tested in the forthcoming adaptation courses planned for November.



Nepal

In addition to the HOPE course held in Dharan which was supported by NSET-PEER under its Partial Funding Assistance Program (see first page), NSET-PEER conducted one fully-funded MFR course at the National Police Academy on September 13-25, 2006. The course had participants comprised of potential MFR instructors from Nepal Police and Armed Police Force. A total of twenty-one participants successfully completed the course.

Philippines

In collaboration with the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), and Amity Public Safety Academy (APSA), NSET-PEER conducted a national Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) Course on August 8-15, 2006 in Bacolod City.

The purpose of this course was to train potential CSSR instructors in APSA for the continuous implementation of PEER courses. A total of twenty-four participants from various APSA partner organizations from Bacolod attended and successfully completed the course, totaling one hundred forty-one CSSR graduates in the Philippines to date. The large number of female participation, constituting 25% of total participation, was of particular note during this course.

Upcoming PEER Events

October:

CSSR Course - October 12-20, 2006, Nepal

November:

HOPE Course - November 1-4, 2006, India

TFI Course - November 1-5, 2006, Nepal (TBC)

H-TFI Course - November 6-10, 2006, India

MFR Adaptation Course - November 7-14, 2006, India

MFR Instructor Workshop - November 8-12, 2006, Nepal (TBC)

CSSR Instructor Workshop - November 17-23, 2006, Nepal (TBC)

CSSR Adaptation Course - November 18-25, India

December:

Country Planning Meeting - December 5-6, 2006, India (TBC)

Country Planning Meeting - December 12-13, 2006, Nepal (TBC)

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PEER in Pakistan: The first phase of PEER courses will begin in early 2007.

As a new partner country for PEER implementation, PEER has started working with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan to get plans underway to begin PEER activities in early 2007. NDMA has identified key training institutions, coordinators, and partner agencies for PEER programs. The Pakistan Civil Defense and the Red Crescent were identified as training institutions for MFR and CSSR, while the Ministry of Health will lead the HOPE program. A Country Planning Meeting will be held in February 2007 to discuss and finalize implementation strategies and activities for the first year. The PEER Training Consultant and Office Manager visited the training institutions and implementation partners earlier this month and discussed the preliminary steps for implementation.



PEER Impact:

The Philippines takes steps to organize and store CSSR and other rescue equipment in Metro Manila.

In preparation for the disasters in the Metro Manila areas, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has organized and stores its rescue equipment in strategic locations in the city, ready to use in case of emergencies. There are trained rescuers assigned to operate the equipment 24-7.



The rescue tools and equipment are carried by cargo-type vans ready to be lifted as needed in any part of the metropolis. These vans contain rescue equipment suitable for all types of emergencies including floods, landslides, collapsed structures and others.

MMDA has served as one of the key partner agencies for PEER implementation in the Philippines since phase one, and it has a number of personnel trained in Medical First Responder and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue Courses among other emergency-related courses.

Its PEER-trained instructors have been involved in conducting our MFR and CSSR courses in the focal institutions for PEER as well as other requesting agencies through the Office of Civil Defense, the nodal agency for PEER program in the Philippines.

PEER Highlight:

Meet NIPSOM, our focal training institution for HOPE in Bangladesh.

For PEER implementation in Bangladesh, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has designated the National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM) for the Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies Program. PEER started working with NIPSOM in 2003.

NIPSOM is operated under the control of the Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOH&FW). It is located in Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. Prof. (Dr.) Md Zafor Ullah Choudhury serves as the director or the institute.

NIPSOM is the only national level public health institute under the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was established in 1978 with the aim to produce post-graduates capable of satisfying the needs of the community in promoting and restoring health. The institute is also supporting the formulation of health policy with of the government and



and assisting community health programs through research, training and services. The Institute is accredited by the University of California and Liverpool University

In coordination with MOH&FW, PEER has conducted several HOPE events with NIPSOM. Dr. Salim Ullah Sayed is the lead coordinator for HOPE in the institute. To date, NIPSOM has a total of fifty HOPE course graduates from two PEER-conducted courses. It has four certified HOPE instructors and future plans to develop more instructors to propagate the concepts and principles of the HOPE program, and apply the same in the medical facilities throughout the country.

In this Issue:

- **PEER in Pakistan: Starting in 2007**
- **Success Story: The Philippines CSSR Equipment in Metro Manila**
- **PEER Highlight: NIPSOM**
- **Accomplishments for the 4th Quarter**
- **Upcoming PEER Events**





Program Accomplishments

4th Quarter, Project Year Four

India

At the initiative of Emergency Medical Relief, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Government of India, has conducted another round of HOPE and H-TFI courses, adding another more trained medical personnel for hospital preparedness. On November 1-4, 2006, 28 medical professionals attended the HOPE course held at the Hotel Haveli, Gujarat, Ahmedabad, India followed by the H-TFI course on November 6-10, 2006. Twenty-two participants graduated. The national instructors were supported by regional instructors from Nepal and Philippines. Dr. Pankaj Kundra of JIPMER served as the Course Coordinator for both courses while Dr. Pradeep Vaidya of Nepal and Ms. Jasmin Lagahit of the Philippines served as the Course Monitors for HOPE and H-TFI courses, respectively.



Like the previous round of courses, this batch was supported by the World Health Organization and the PEER-Partial Funding Assistance Program.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, NSET-PEER also conducted a Medical First Responder Adaptation (MFR-A) course from November 07- 19, 2006 in NITSRDR 6th Battalion, Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force, Panchkula, Haryana, India with main purpose of testing the materials modified during the adaptation workshop for MFR in September to suit the national context of India. A total of 24 participants from CISF, BSF and ITBP attended the course with nine graduates.

Nepal

To further strengthen the emergency response capacity in Nepal, NSET-PEER and Nepal Police organized a Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue Course on September 13-25, 2006 held at the National Police Academy, Maharajgunj, Kathmandu. The course included potential CSSR instructors from the Nepal Police and the Armed



Police. The national instructors were supported by instructors from FSCD, Bangladesh and monitored by Marlito Bautista from the Philippines. Inspector Bishwa Adhikari of the Nepal Police served as the Course Coordinator for the course. A total of 23 participants successfully completed the course, many of whom will participate in the upcoming Instructor Workshops.

Philippines

Under the Partial Funding Assistance Program, the National Disaster Coordinating Council-Office of Civil Defence (NDCC-OCD) and Amity Public Safety Academy (APSA) conducted the TFI and MFRIW for potential MFR instructors for APSA. The courses were conducted at the APSA training complex in Bacolod City on November 21-25, 2006 November 27 to December 1, 2006, for TFI and MFRIW, respectively. Twenty-four participants have successfully completed the courses, resulting in the first pool of MFR instructors for APSA.

To develop instructors for CSSR, NDCC-OCD and APSA will be conducting the CSSRIW in January, 2007 with the MFRIW graduates as participants.

Similarly, Office of Civil Defence Region VI, under the leadership of Dir. Rose Cabrera, conducted a HOPE-TFI for selected HOPE graduates from December 6-10, 2006 at Iloilo Grand Hotel, Iloilo City, Philippines, also under the PEER Partial Funding Assistance Program. Maritess R. Tandingan served as the Course Coordinator for this course with Dr. Edgar Posadas as the Course Monitor. A total of 21 medical professionals participated in this course with 19 graduates.

What's New in PEER?

PEER Welcomes Mr. Kabindra Pradhan



Mr. Kabindra Pradhan started his new post with NSET-PEER on October 30, 2006 as the Information Management Specialist.

Upcoming PEER Events: Jan-Mar 2007

January:

TFI Course – January 9 - 13, 2007, Philippines
 CSSR Instructor Workshop - January 11 -17, 2007, Philippines
 MFR Instructor Workshop - January 16-20, 2007, Philippines
 Country Planning Meeting - January 16-17, 2007, Nepal
 Country Planning Meeting -January 23-24, 2007, India

February:

Country Planning Meeting – Feb 12-13, 2007, Pakistan
 CSSR Instructor Workshop – Feb 18-24, 2007, Philippines

March:

Regional Planning Meeting – March 6-8, 2007, Indonesia
 TFI Course – March 11-15, 2007, Bangladesh (TBC)
 MFR Instructor Workshop – March 18-22, 2007, Bangladesh (TBC)
 CSSR Instructor Workshop – March 27-April 2, 2007, Bangladesh (TBC)

Join the PEER mail group and receive program information, news, course updates and share ideas with co-instructors. All certified PEER instructors, coordinators, ICC's, institutions and nodal agency representatives are qualified to join the mail group. Other PEER friends are also welcome. Subscribe at peer@nset.org.np.

Share your stories by contributing to the PEER newsletter. Send your articles and news to peer@nset.org.np

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PEER Sustainability - Third Regional Planning Meeting, Jakarta

NSET organized the Third Regional Planning Meeting for PEER at the Century Hotel Atlet in Jakarta, Indonesia on March 6-8, 2007. The meeting was attended by key officials from nodal agencies, implementing institutions, master instructors and In-Country Consultants from the six partner-countries, including, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, and Philippines. Program sustainability and improved national coordination strategies were the themes for the meeting. All sessions and planning exercises were directed in meeting program sustainability within the country as well as institutionalizing the PEER courses. Dr. Manaoor Napitupulu of BAKORNAS inaugurated the meeting on March 6, 2007. Mr. Amod Mani Dixit, Executive Director of NSET and Ms. Dione Cottrill, PEER Deputy Chief of Party, facilitated the three-day meeting.

Among issues discussed in the meeting, it was agreed that the nodal agencies will sign memorandums of agreement with the implementing institutions to better monitor the courses in relation to standards, database, material upkeep and equipment requirements. It was also acknowledged that continuous development of instructors for all the courses is necessary in order to maintain the required number of instructors. Complete minutes of RPM may be found at the PEER website for more details.



PEER Pakistan is Underway



As planned, the PEER program commenced activities in Pakistan on the first quarter of 2007. The First Country Planning Meeting for PEER in Pakistan was held at the Planning and Development Commission of the Pakistan Secretariat in Islamabad on

February 12-13, 2007. The meeting aimed to discuss strategies in reaching PEER nationalization and institutionalization Pakistan.

General Farooq Khan of the National Disaster Management Authority chaired the first day's sessions. Mr. Amod Mani Dixit, Executive Director of NSET and Ms. Dione Cottrill, PEER Deputy Chief of Party, facilitated the two-day meeting.

During the CPM, training institutions identified for MFR and CSSR courses were Pakistan Army, Rangers, Civil Defence, Red Crescent, Police Emergency Services, Fire Services and Rescue 1122. The National Institute of Handicapped, operating under the Ministry of Health, was endorsed to coordinate HOPE programming in Pakistan.

HOPE Course, Islamabad, March 17-20, 2007

The first PEER course was conducted in Islamabad, Pakistan on March 17-20, 2007. The Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) Course was held at the Health Services Academy and was facilitated by regional instructors from Nepal and Philippines. A total of twenty-four participants from various medical institutions under the Ministry of Health and Armed Forces attended, with twenty participants successfully completing the course.



Medical institutions represented in the course were Combined Military Hospital, Health Services Academy, Armed Forces Directorate General, Maternal and Child Health Center, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, Federal Government Services, Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Authority, Jinnah Post-Graduate

Medical Center, Shaikh Sayed Hospital and National Institute for Handicapped. Dr. Teodoro Herbosa of the Philippines, a course

developer, has served as the course coordinator and Dr. Pradeep Vaidya of Nepal served as the course monitor in the course.

First Two MFR Courses, Lahore April 2-14, 2007 and April 17-29, 2007



The first two batches of the Medical First Responder course were held at the Emergency Services Academy (Rescue 1122) located in Lahore. Dr. Rizwan Nazeer, Director General of Rescue 1122 expressed his commitment to adopting PEER into their existing training curriculum to develop emergency responders for the country.

The course was inaugurated by Brig. Kamran Shariff, Advisor to the NDMA. The courses were facilitated by regional instructors from Indonesia, Nepal and Philippines. Insp. Romulo Fernando Villaverde of the Philippines has served as the course coordinator and course monitor for MFR 1 and 2, respectively. Ms. Jasmin Lagahit of PEER served as the course monitor for MFR 1. SSP Kamal Singh Bam of Nepal served as the course coordinator for MFR 2. Both batches of the course had twenty-four participants from the identified training institutions. Twenty personnel completed the first course, and nineteen the second batch. All of these graduates are eligible for the succeeding courses for instructor development.

Third Country Planning Meetings

Focused on Partially Funded Activities

Nepal

To provide an opportunity to plan for the sustainability and continuous implementation of the PEER program through the PEER Partial Assistance Program, a third Country Planning Meeting was held on January 16-17, 2006 at Hotel Yak and Yeti in Kathmandu. Mr. Pratap Kumar Pathak, Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs and AIGP Amar Singh Shah graced the two-day meeting as chief guests for days 1 and 2, respectively. Selected instructors and key





officials from the partner agencies in the Nepal, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Nepal Police, National Police Academy, Armed Police Force, Nepal Army, Institute of Medicine, and o non-government agencies with potential to be future partners as PEER continues in Nepal gathered in this meeting and discussed the plans to further PEER in Nepal.

India

The Third Country Planning Meeting for India was held on January 23-24, 2007 at the Conference Hall of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), New Delhi, India. Mr. Anurag Sharma, Director of NISA-CISF served as the chairperson for the meeting while Ms. Nina Minka, Senior Disaster Management Advisor, USAID/India, graced the meeting and shared their thoughts for better implementation of PEER in India.



Key officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, National Institute for Disaster Management, US Agency for International Development in India, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, and Central Industrial Security Force, attended the two-day meeting. Representatives from potential donor agencies, namely, World Health Organization, American Red Cross, United Nations Development Program, attended the meeting.

For the coming months, it was proposed that program events leading to develop more master instructors in the four training institutions will be conducted.

Program Accomplishments

January-April, 2007

Bangladesh

As agreed during the Country Planning Meeting held in Bangladesh in August, 2006, the Fire Service and Civil Defence conducted back-to-back Training for Instructors, MFR and CSSR Instructor Workshops under the PEER's Partial Funding Assistance Program. NSET-PEER supported the courses by providing regional instructors from Nepal and Philippines. The courses were held at FSCD Training Complex in Dhaka on March 25-29, April 1-5, April 10-17, 2007, with 17 graduates completing the last workshop. SSP Kamal Singh Bam of Nepal served as the course coordinator for TFI and Dr. Vilma Carlos of Philippines as the course monitor for both TFI and MFRIW. Mr. Muhammad Mamun served as the course coordinator for MFRIW and CSSRIW. Mr. Ryan Abrera served as the course monitor for CSSRIW.

India

Adaptation courses on MFR and CSSR were conducted to test the materials adapted to suit the national context of India. Both courses were held at the National Institute for Training in Search, Rescue and Disaster Response (NITSRDR), 6th Battalion of Indo Tibetan Border Police Force, Panchkula, Haryana, India on April 2- 14, 2007 and April 18-25, 2007, for MFR and CSSR courses, respectively. Participants for the course came from the Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police Force with national instructors from Central Industrial Security Force and Indo Tibetan Border Police. Dr. R. Deshpandey of ITBP served as the course coordinator for both courses and Mr. Thule Rai of Nepal and Mr. Colasito Morong of the Philippines served as the course monitors for MFR and CSSR, respectively. A total of 19 participants for MFR and 24 for CSSR successfully completed the courses.

Nepal

The Institute of Medicine, with support from the Ministry of Health and Population and NSET-PEER, conducted a HOPE Course held at the Manaslu Hotel in Kathmandu, with participants from regional

hospitals in Nepal, with 24 graduates. The course was the first course to be conducted under the MOHP's Nrs. 1.8M financial support for HOPE programming in Nepal. National HOPE instructors conducted the course with Dr. Digvijay Timilsina and Col. Naresh Giri as the course coordinator and course monitor, respectively.

In the same period, the Nepal Police has conducted a TFI course held at the National Police Academy in Kathmandu. Participants came from Nepal Police and Armed Police, with 21 graduates. The instructor team was composed of national instructors from Police, Armed Police, Red Cross and Army. Bishwa Adhikari and Thule Rai served as the course coordinator and monitor for the course, respectively.

Philippines

Under PEER Partial Funding Assistance Program, the Amity Public Safety Academy and the Fire National Training Institute conducted instructor development courses in this period.

APSA conducted the CSSR Instructor Workshop in January 11-17, 2007, with 15 graduates. National instructors composed the team of instructors for the workshop with Ryan Zaldy Abrera as the course coordinator and Romulo Fernando Villavecer as the monitor.

FNIT conducted TFI on January 9-13, MFRIW on January 16-20 and CSSRIW on February 17-24, 2007, with a total of 16 graduates. National instructors predominantly from the Bureau of Fire Protection composed the team of instructors. Vilma Carlos and Maritess Tandingan served as the course coordinator and monitor for TFI and MFRIW, respectively. While Ryan Zaldy Abrera and Colasito Morong served as the course coordinator and monitor for CSSRIW.

What's New in PEER?

PEER is pleased to welcome Mr. P. Michael Vetha Siromony, the new Chief of Party for PEER. On May 9, 2007, Mr. Siromony started his new post in Kathmandu, Nepal and will be responsible for supervising and overseeing PEER events in the region and meet the overall objectives of the program in year five.



Upcoming PEER Events: May-July 2007

May:
HOPE Course – May 19-22, 2007, Pakistan

June:
T-TFI Course – June 23-27, 2007, Pakistan

July:
MIW Sub-regional – July 1-5, 2007, Philippines
TFI – July 14-18, 2007, Pakistan
MFRIW – July 21-25, 2007, Pakistan

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Bangladesh Flooding



Chittagong city is plunged under knee-to-waist-deep water

On June 13, 2007, torrential rains and landslides killed more than 106 people at the port city of Chittagong and its surrounding areas. Most parts of the commercial city of Chittagong were submerged in knee-to-waist-deep water. The heaviest rainfall in a quarter of a century was recorded at 227mm, according to Chittagong Meteorology Office. Most of the victims were asleep when the devastating incident took place. The worst affected areas of the city included Bakalia, Bahaddarhat, Chandgao, Nasirabad, Hamjarbag, Bibirhat, Khulshi, Pahartali, Halishahar and Agrabad.

The downpour caused severe water-logging in most of the low-lying areas of the city. Many residents took shelter on roofs or the higher floors of buildings. Torrential rains paralyzed life and business as most of the city dwellers stayed indoors all the day. The rainfall knocked out seven power substations in the city though five of them resumed operations but the power supply was suspended in most areas of the city fearing accidents.

Fire Service and Civil Defense personnel, including those who received training under the **Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER)**, immediately rushed to the affected areas, conducted search and rescue operations, provided emergency medical aid, and shifted the injured people to the nearest hospitals.

Courtesy of Mr. Saidur Rahman, PEER ICC in Bangladesh

PEER Team Visits Program Implementing Partners in the Region

To assess the program implementation in the region and to have formal forum between PEER, nodal agencies, training institutions and master instructors, PEER sent a team to all partner countries and visited the training institutions implementing PEER program. The PEER team was composed of Mr. Siromony, PEER Chief of Party, Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, NSET's Deputy Executive Director and Professor Vinod Kumar Sharma, former PEER Chief of Party.

In Nepal, the team met with Mr. Pratap Pathak, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Mr. Pathak is the key government counterpart for PEER program implementation. As proposed in the last RPM, a PEER Steering Committee will be formed in support of the PEER programming in Nepal.

In Bangladesh, the team had a meeting with Mr. Abdul Bari Khan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Brig. General Md. Rafiqur Rahman, Director General, Fire Service and Civil Defence, Prof. (Dr.) Md. Zafarullah Choudhry, Director, National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM) and Mr. Saidur Rahman, In-Country Consultant for PEER in Bangladesh. They also visited Fire Service and Civil Defence Training Complex and assess status of training facilities and equipment being used in PEER courses.

In the Philippines, the team interacted with General Glenn Rabonza, Administrator, Office of Civil Defense and Executive Officer, National Disaster Coordinating Council, Director Jose E. Collado of the Bureau of Fire Protection, F/SUPT Herbert B. Cezar, Director of the Fire National Training Institute, Mr. Carlos Ganihong, Administrator, Amity Public Safety Academy, Atty Priscilla Duque, In-Country Consultant, and other key partners for PEER implementation in the Philippines. The observation of the month-long national disaster consciousness month was thought to be a unique model and worth replicating as good practice in the region.



In Indonesia, the team interacted with Dr. Manaor FL Napitupulu, Director, Badan Koordinasi Nasional, Dr. Aryono Puspongoro, HOPE course developer and Dr. Suryadi Soedarmo, In-Country Consultant. National partners highlighted the awareness and training they have extended to regional provinces.

In India, the team met Shri S. Kamal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Mr. Vineet Chawdhary, Ministry of Health.

COP's meeting in Pakistan is tentatively scheduled for in August in conjunction with 2nd Country Planning Meeting.

There is lot to learn and exchange among the PEER countries.

PEER Highlights: National Institute for Training in SAR and Disaster Response, India

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is one of the institutions designated by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for PEER implementation in India. The National Institute



for Training in Search, Rescue and Disaster Response (NITSRDR) is the focal training institute of ITBP for PEER courses. This Institute is under 6th Battalion in ITBP and is located in Panchkula, Chandigarh Haryana. Commandant Mr. Ram Maher Singh serves as a principal in the institute.

NITSRDR is well equipped to run the PEER courses. Materials, training equipment and CSSR props required to conduct PEER courses are kept and maintained in the academy. They have been continuously running the MFR and CSSR courses in the institution, as well as imparting training on Nuclear, Chemical and Biological disasters. There is a good infrastructure for the courses, and they have full set of equipment for the PEER courses. The MFR and CSSR trainings are part of their training program for their personnel. Recently, PEER has conducted two Medical First Responder and one Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue adaptation courses. NITSRDR has a number of experienced instructors who are also been exposed to PEER courses in the region.





PEER Accomplishments: 1st Quarter, Year V

Nepal

Institute of Medicine and Ministry of Health and Population Organized a HOPE Course

With the funding from the Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal, the Institute of Medicine, with the help of Dr. Pradeep Vaidya, PEER In-Country Consultant for HOPE Programming in Nepal, a Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) course was conducted at the Hotel Manaslu in Kathmandu on June 12-15, 2007. This course was conducted in part with the Nrs 1.8M funding support from the government of Nepal to strengthen the hospital capacity in responding to emergencies.

The course was attended by medical professional from various regional, central and zonal hospitals in Nepal, adding 19 HOPE trained personnel in the pool of emergency managers in the country. Dr. Digvijay Timilsina and Col. (Dr) Naresh Giri served as the course coordinator and monitor for the course, respectively.

Pakistan

NSET-PEER conducted the 2nd HOPE course in Islamabad, Pakistan on May 19-22, 2007 in coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority and Ministry of Health, Pakistan. The Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences hosted the course through the generosity of Dr. Syed Fazle Hadi, Executive Director. Brig Kamran Shariff, Advisor to the NDMA and National Coordinator for PEER implementation in Pakistan, graced the closing ceremony of the course.

Capt. Edgar Posadas of the Philippines and Col. (Dr.) Naresh Giri of Nepal served as the course coordinator and course monitor, respectively. PEER was assisted by Dr. Jehanzeb Aurakzai, focal person for HOPE programming in Pakistan in organizing and preparing for the course. A total of 21 participants completed the course.

To continue with the instructor development process for HOPE programming in Pakistan, PEER has conducted the first HOPE-Training for Instructors (H-TFI) course in Lahore, Pakistan on June 23-27, 2007. A total of 23 HOPE course graduates from the two previously conducted HOPE courses, participated in this course. The instructors team was composed of regional instructors from Bangladesh, Nepal and Philippines, with Dr. Digvijay Timilsina of Nepal and Capt. Edgar Posadas of Philippines as course coordinator and course monitor, respectively.



What's New in PEER?



PEER is pleased to welcome Mr. Sanju Sharma, the new Training Coordinator for PEER. Mr. Sharma joined his new post in PEER on June 16, 2007.

Mr. Sharma, a Civil Engineer and currently certified as a HOPE instructor, has joined NSET on June, 2006 and was involved in capacity development of the technicians, local communities and stakeholders through trainings in Nepal and Pakistan.

Upcoming PEER Events: July-September 2007

July:

Philippines Sub Regional MIW (July 1-5, 2007)
 Philippines MFR (July 9-21, 2007)
 Philippines MFR (July 24-August 5, 2007)
 Pakistan TFI (July 14-18, 2007)
 Pakistan MFRIW (July 21-25, 2007)

August:

Philippines CSSR (August 6-13, 2007)
 Pakistan CSSR (August 18-26, 2007)
 Pakistan CPM (August 21, 2007)

September:

Nepal MFRIW (September 2-6, 2007)
 Philippines CSSR (September 3-10, 2007)
 Nepal CSSRIW (September 12-18, 2007)
 Philippines CSSR (September 17-29, 2007)
 Sub-Regional MIW (September 21-25, 2007)
 Refresher Course Curriculum Development (September 27-29, 2007)

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- Bangladesh Flooding
- PEER Team Visits Implementing Partners
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- PEER Accomplishment: 2nd Quarter, Year V
- What's New in PEER?
- Upcoming Events





PEER NEWS BULLETIN

PEER Phase II, Year V, Second Quarter (July-Sept)

No. 8, October 2007

PEER Phase 2 Extended for One Year: April 2008 to March 2009

The U.S. Agency for International Development-Office of the Foreign Disaster Assistance has approved the proposal of NSET to extend the implementation of PEER from April, 2008 to March, 2009. This one-year extension gives NSET a total of six years as implementing agency for PEER Phase 2, April 2003 to March 2009. Additional program events included in the proposal were the development of course materials for MFR/CSSR Refresher Course and Multi-Hazard HOPE, the Second Country Planning Meeting for Pakistan, training of PEER database administrators and one more Regional Planning Meeting, among others.

This additional year will also serve as opportunity for all PEER partner countries to meet the targets planned and agreed during the Country and Regional Planning Meetings, utilizing the PFAP budget. NSET-PEER will continue to help all six partner countries in developing additional PEER instructors, strengthen their national emergency response capacity and meet the program's overall objective on nationalization and institutionalization.

PEER Sub-Regional MIWs



PEER organized two Sub-Regional Master Instructor Workshops (MIW) in this quarter. The MIW aims to develop more effective course coordinators and monitors for PEER courses.

The MIW for the sub-region of Indonesia and Philippines was held at the Amity Public Safety Academy (APSA), Bacolod City, Philippines on July 1-5, 2007. A total of 24 participants, 12 from Philippines and 12 from Indonesia took the course and successfully completed.

For the sub-region of Bangladesh, India and Nepal, PEER organized the MIW on September 21-25, 2007 held at the National Police Academy, Kathmandu, Nepal. A total of twenty-two PEER experienced instructors from the three countries participated in the workshop: 8 from Bangladesh, 4 from India and 10 from Nepal.

Most experienced course coordinators and monitors from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and Philippines composed the team of facilitators: Mr. Mamun (Bangladesh), Ms. A. Setianingsih (Indonesia), Dr. V. Carlos (Phils), and Mr. R. F. Villavecera (Phils). Mrs. J. Lagahit, PEER Training Consultant and Mr. Rai of Nepal served as the workshop coordinators for the first and second workshops, respectively.



PEER Events in Pakistan

To continue with the plan of developing PEER instructors in Pakistan, PEER, in coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority, conducted three PEER courses in Pakistan in this quarter: Training for Instructors, MFR Instructor Workshop and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue courses, all conducted at the Punjab Emergency Services Academy in Lahore.

The TFI course was held on July 14-18, 2007 with a total of 23 graduates. The instructor team was composed of regional instructors from Bangladesh, Nepal and Philippines, with Mr. Leonardo P Ebajo from Philippines as Course Monitor and Mr. Kamal Singh Bam of Nepal as Course Coordinator.



The MFR Instructor Workshop was held right after the TFI on July 21-25, 2007 with the same graduates from TFI as participants and all have successfully completed the course. Mr. Thule Rai from Nepal served as the Course Monitor and Mr. Leonardo P Ebajo from Philippines served as the Course Coordinator.

On August 18-26, 2007, a Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue course was conducted with the regional instructors from Bangladesh, Nepal and Philippines composing the instructors team. Maj. Subash Thapa of Nepal and Mr. Ryan Zaldy Abrera of the Philippines served as the Course Coordinator and Course Monitor, respectively. All 24 participants have successfully completed the course.



PEER Refresher Course Development Workshop



With the recommendation during the Third Country Planning Meeting held on March 6-8, 2007 in Jakarta, Indonesia, NSET-PEER has invited selected MFR and CSSR senior instructors to develop the course materials for the Refresher Courses. The workshop was held at Godavari Resort in Kathmandu on September 27-29, 2007. A total of 10 senior MFR and CSSR instructors from the five partner countries (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines) composed the development team who will continue to work to finalize and test the developed course materials.

In this Issue:

- One Year Extension of PEER Phase II
- Sub-Regional Master Instructor Workshops
- Refresher Course Development Workshop
- PEER Events in Pakistan
- PEER Highlights: Rescue 1122, Pakistan
- 2nd CPM Pakistan
- PEER PFAP Events: 2nd Quarter, Year V
- Upcoming Events





PEER Highlights: Rescue 1122, Pakistan

In support of the national strategy of Pakistan in strengthening the emergency response capacity of the country, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has designated the Punjab Emergency Services (Rescue 1122) as one of the implementing partners for PEER program.



Rescue 1122 was launched in 2005 as a small project of ambulance service (Punjab Emergency and Ambulance Service) under Provincial Health Department, Punjab. With the up-gradation of the roles of this service, it is currently serving multiple response capabilities which include fire, rescue, medical assistance, and limited HAZMAT capability. Its training academy is located at the L.O.S. Ichra Road, Lahore with 45 district stations for response. Rescue 1122 is headed by its Director General, Dr. Rizwan Naseer.

(Courtesy of Maj Retd. Amjad Ahmad, Pakistan)

Ms. Tahira Khan is the first female CSSR course graduate in



Pakistan. She is also the first female Emergency Officer in PES. Ms. Khan has been employed in PES since September, 2006 and tasked to impart training. Ms. Khan has completed her Masters degree in Chemistry from University of Punjab, Lahore and Bachelor degree in Education from University of Education, Lahore. In PEER, Ms. Khan has completed MFR, CSSR, TFI and MFRIW, with CSSRIW scheduled to attend in October, 2007.

2nd CPM Pakistan

To review the accomplishments in the first round of courses and plan for more effective implementation of the next round of courses, the National Disaster Management Authority, in coordination with NSET-PEER, conducted the Second Country Planning Meeting for PEER implementation on August 21, 2007 at the Civil Secretariat, Lahore. A total of 29 key partners from implementing institutions and future partners have attended the meeting.

Brig Kamran Shariff, DM Advisor for NDMA, served as the chairperson in the meeting. As a result, it was agreed to develop a minimum number of full instructors for MFR, CSSR and HOPE by the end of March, 2008 who will form the instruction team for the succeeding courses in Pakistan which will be supported through the PEER's Partial Funding Assistance Program. Likewise, the targets made during the first CPM was reviewed and revised in this meeting.



PEER PFAP Events: 2nd Quarter, Year V

Nepal

Nepal Police, with support from NSET-PEER, conducted a MFR Instructor Workshop on August 31 to September 4, 2007 at the National Police Academy. A total of 15 graduates completed the workshop. The instructor's team was composed of national instructors from Nepal Police, Nepal Red Cross, Armed Police and Army. Mrs Jasmin Lagahit, PEER Training Consultant and Mr. Kamal Singh Bam of Nepal Police served as the Course Monitor and Course Coordinator, respectively.

Philippines

Under the PEER Partial Funding Assistance Program, four PEER courses were conducted in the Philippines this quarter.

The Office of Civil Defense Region VI conducted a HOPE course held in Mambukal Resort, Bacolod City on July 8-12, 2007. A total of 29 participants successfully completed the course. CPT Edgar Felix L. Posadas and Rudel M. Jaranilla served as the Course Monitor and Course Coordinator, respectively.

The Amity Public Safety Academy (APSA) conducted two Medical First Responder (MFR) courses, first on July 9-21, 2007 and second on August 20 to September 1, 2007, with total graduates of 17 and 22, respectively. SInsp Vilma F Carlos served as the Course Monitor for both batches. Dr. Romeo Sabado and Ms. Cherry Bee Llera served as the Course Coordinator for first and second batches, respectively.

On September 5-12, 2007, a Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue course was conducted at APSA, with a total of 23 graduates. Mr. Medardo Batiller and Romualdo J. Monzon served as the Course Monitor and Course Coordinator, respectively.

Upcoming Events: 3rd Quarter, PY 5

October:

Philippines MFR (FNTI) (Oct 5-17, 2007)
Pakistan CSSRIW (Oct 23-29, 2007)

November:

Philippines CSSR (FNTI) (Nov 5-12, 2007)
Philippines MFR (APSA) (Nov 5-17, 2007)
Philippines CSSR (APSA) (Nov 21-28, 2007)
Pakistan MFR 1 (Nov 2007) TBC
Pakistan MFR 2 (Nov 2007) TBC

December:

Pakistan CSSR (Dec 2007) TBC

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From CSSR to ASAR: India steps ahead

On September 1-6, 2008, 24 selected PEER master instructors (PEER-certified graduates who have successfully completed Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue [CSSR] Course, instructor development courses, including Master Instructor Workshop) from India participated in the Advanced Search and Rescue (ASAR) Course held at Florida State Fire College, Ocala, Florida, USA.



This activity aimed to be an initial step towards the institutionalization of ASAR training program in various training institutions of India. The master instructors trained in ASAR are projected to replicate their knowledge and skills gained by organizing similar training program for instructors and end-users in India.



The course was organized by NSET/PEER-USAID/OFDA in collaboration with US-based Safety Solutions, Inc. (SSI), one of PEER's sub-contractor. ASAR is

a 6-day course on search and rescue operations that introduced participants to advance technologies used in search strategy; electronic and sonic detection, breaching and breaking, crane usage in lifting and moving, hydraulic rescue tools, rope operation and rigging and others, using state-of-the art SAR equipment.

Course participants represented PEER partner organizations in India, namely, Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). These Indian paramilitary forces also make up the country's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), an elite group created to counter natural and human-induced catastrophes such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, nuclear and even biological attacks.

HOPE Course gets a facelift (Multi-Hazard curriculum)



The conduct of Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) course primarily aims to prepare hospitals to respond effectively to emergencies. In line with the need to suit the curriculum to multi-hazard situations, NSET/PEER has taken the initiative to revisit and revise HOPE to address both natural hazards and human-induced emergencies. A series of brainstorming and workshops were then conducted with a team of regional course developers and experts who worked intensively to come up with an improved pedagogical quality of HOPE course curriculum.

The new HOPE was pilot tested in Kathmandu, Nepal on July 28-31, 2008. There were a total of 23 participants from PEER countries, namely, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

During the inaugural ceremony, Ms. Mariza Rogers, Acting Regional Advisor, USAID/OFDA, highlighted the conduct of PEER courses, including HOPE course, as in line with USAID/OFDA's commitment to capacity-building of Asian countries vulnerable to disasters. Interlinking HOPE with MFR and CSSR courses, it provides the logical transition from pre-hospital care towards ensuring hospitals' preparedness to receive patients during disasters. She, likewise, encouraged everyone to give feedback on how to further improve HOPE course.

The new HOPE course will also be re-introduced in the six PEER beneficiary countries through the conduct of national HOPE course, under NSET/PEER-USAID/OFDA full funding scheme.

PEER Nepal: Nepal Police boosts Nepal MFR and CSSR instructors



With the vision to develop more PEER instructors to cascade MFR and CSSR courses in Nepal and its communities, Nepal Police conducted series of instructor development courses in 2008, with support from PEER Partial Funding Assistance Program.

Under the leadership of Nepal Police, the series of MFR and CSSR instructor development courses were conducted successfully at Nepal Police Academy, utilizing Nepal national PEER instructors and regional instructors from Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines.

The courses were conducted on the following dates of 2008: CSSR Course on May 29 to June 6; TFI on June 9-13; MFRIW on June 16-20; and CSSRIW on June 25 to July 1.

Aside from Nepal Police, other PEER partner organizations also participated, namely, Armed Police Force, Nepal Army and Nepal Red Cross Society.

To date, Nepal has a total of 70 PEER certified instructors for MFR, 45 for CSSR and 26 for HOPE.

PEER Pakistan moves on with Adaptation Courses



Moving fast forward with PEER implementation, Pakistan, the newest PEER-beneficiary country, conducted MFR and CSSR Adaptation Test Courses on June 10-22, 2008 and June 26-July 4, 2008, respectively.

Following the above courses were instructor development courses, namely, Training for Instructors (TFI) on July 10-14, 2008; Medical First Responder Instructors Workshop (MFRIW) on July 16-20, 2008 and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue Instructors Workshop (CSSRIW) on July 25-31, 2008. The



adaptation courses were fully funded by NSET/PEER-USAID/OFDA, while instructor development courses were funded under the PEER Partial Funding Assistance Program (PFAP). Military College of Engineering (MCE) in Risalpur, Pakistan, was the host training institution for said trainings.

Regional instructors from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Philippines assisted Pakistan national PEER instructors during these activities.

To date, Pakistan has a total of 41 instructors for MFR, 37 for CSSR, and 23 HOPE instructors.

Other PEER PFAP Events: Indonesia and Bangladesh conduct MFR and CSSR Courses

In line with the mission to continuously develop highly skilled emergency responders, Indonesia and Bangladesh conducted MFR and CSSR Courses for its emergency responders through PEER PFAP.

Ambulan 118 spearheaded the conduct of back-to-back MFR and CSSR Courses in Indonesia on January 14-26, 2008 and January 30- February 7, 2008. Participating groups are Jakarta Fire Service, Badan Search and Rescue Nasional (BASARNAS), National Security Council, Saiful Anwar Hospital and Ambulan 118. Jakarta Fire Training Center was the host training institution for both courses. To date, Indonesia has 123 MFR graduates, 82 for CSSR, and 43 for HOPE course.

On the other hand, Bangladesh, through Fire Service and Civil Defense, has conducted two (2) MFR courses (May 4-16 and May 19-31, 2008), and one CSSR Course (June 8-16, 2008), exclusively for responders of Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense. These trainings augmented the core of Bangladesh PEER-certified responders to date as 89 for MFR, 72 for CSSR and 63 for HOPE.

The above courses were facilitated by national and regional PEER instructors.

PEER Graduates Join INSARAG Exercise 2008

Selected PEER graduates joined the INSARAG Asia-Pacific Earthquake Simulation Exercise 2008 held at Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines on April 15-17, 2008.

There were 18 countries, 52 organizations and more than 270 individuals participated in said activity. Among these, 15 PEER graduates (MFR and CSSR) from the Philippines and one (1) from India, joined said exercise. The INSARAG Exercise in the Philippines was a joint undertaking of the Philippine National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA).



The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) is an international network of countries and disaster response organizations under the United Nations. INSARAG aims at establishing standards and methodologies for USAR teams, particularly in disaster response involving earthquakes.

Selected Philippine CSSR instructors also conducted a 3-day Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Familiarization Course for participating Philippine SAR teams on April 11-13, 2008, at Olongapo City, Philippines, prior to the conduct of INSARAG exercise proper.

Upcoming Events: 4th Quarter, Program Year 6

October (Tentative)
Nepal National HOPE Course

November
Bangladesh National HOPE Course - Nov 24-27, 2008

India PFAP Courses:
Medical First Responder (MFR) Course - Nov 2-14, 2008
Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) Course - Nov 19-26, 2008
Training for Instructors (TFI) - Dec 05-09, 2008
MFR Instructor Workshop (MFRIW) - Dec 12-16, 2008
CSSR Instructor Workshop (CSSRIW) - Dec 21-27, 2008

December (Tentative)
Regional Database Management Training, Nepal
Regional Networking Meeting, Nepal

Who's new in PEER?

NSET is pleased to announce that the following staff recently joined NSET/PEER:



Edgar L. Posadas, MD, CFP
PEER Country Consultant - Philippines



Ms. Maritess R. Tandingan
Training Consultant



Mr. Rabin Kumar Shrestha
Information Management Specialist



Ms. Bidhya Maharjan
Office Assistant

Share your stories, feedback or send questions through email: peer@nset.org.np; mtandingan@nset.org.np.

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Multi-hazard HOPE Course in full swing

After the successful conduct of Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) Pilot Course (multi-hazard curriculum) on July 2008, at Kathmandu, Nepal, the multi-hazard HOPE curriculum was re-introduced in PEER countries from August to December 2008.

NEPAL

On November 11-14, 2008, various government and private health institutions participated in the national HOPE Course conducted at Kathmandu, Nepal. Nepal has a total of 156 HOPE graduates (as of December 31, 2008).



Presentation of a hospital disaster response plan as one of the exercises in HOPE Course (HOPE Nepal, November 11-14, 2008).

Nepal has also conducted self-funding HOPE courses through the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

Ms. Susan McIntyre, Regional Advisor, USAID/OFDA, was the Chief Guest during the closing ceremonies. She commended the new set of HOPE graduates who will be added in the cadre of HOPE Course advocates

and become Nepal's aid in making the country a safer place to live in. She also highlighted the plight of parents who lost children in schools in recent China earthquake due to poorly constructed school buildings. The conduct of HOPE Course is one way to increase awareness on the importance of preparedness to mitigate the effects of natural and human-induced hazards.

BANGLADESH

In Dhaka, Bangladesh, national HOPE Course was conducted on November 24-27, 2008, involving the government and private health facilities. Bangladesh has a total of 90 HOPE graduates (as of December 31, 2008). With the vision of interlinking coordination of pre-hospital emergency response and mass casualty management in hospitals, two MFR-CSSR (Medical First Responder and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue Course) graduates from Fire Service and Civil Defence-Dhaka, joined the course as observers.



Group work during HOPE Course (HOPE Bangladesh, November 24-27, 2008).

PAKISTAN

Pakistan, the youngest PEER-member country, conducted the national HOPE Course on December 15-18, 2008. Pakistan has a total of 117 HOPE graduates (as of December 31, 2008). Ms. Anne Arnes, USAID Mission Director in Pakistan, graced the closing program as the Chief Guest. She highlighted USAID/OFDA's role in assisting member countries improve their emergency response systems through PEER. Her message



Final Exercise during HOPE Course (HOPE Pakistan, December 15-18, 2008).

has helped put across the importance of increasing awareness and develop a culture of preparedness in response to disasters.

PHILIPPINES

Philippines was the first of the PEER countries to conduct the national multi-hazard HOPE curriculum, on August 26-29, 2008. Philippines has a total of 98 HOPE graduates (as of December 31, 2008). Philippines has also conducted HOPE courses on self-funding, through the Department of Health-Center for Health Development, National Capital Region (DOH-CHD NCR); and partnership between Office of Civil Defense-Regional Center 6 (OCDRC6) and DOH-CHD Western Visayas.



Simulating hospital operations management during disasters (HOPE Philippines, August 26-29, 2008).

HOPE Course has evolved from the identification and mitigation of structural, non-structural vulnerabilities, organization and medical concerns of health facilities and the ways of enhancing preparedness and response capacity through development and implementation of hospital emergency response, to addressing multi-hazard incidents, including the whole gamut of hospitals' role in disaster risk management.

India runs PEER Courses under PFAP

NSET/PEER in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India, conducted series of PEER courses from November 3 to December 27, 2008, all of which were funded under the Partial Funding Assistance Program (PFAP). The main thrust of this series of PEER courses is to increase the pool of PEER instructors in India.

PEER courses conducted within the above dates were: Medical First Responder (MFR) Course, Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) Course, Training for Instructors (TFI), MFR Instructor Workshop (MFRIW), and CSSR Instructor Workshop (CSSRIW). Participants to these courses were nominated by the MHA-India. The course participants also form part of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) of India.

This series of PEER courses were all organized in cooperation with the host training institution, Central Training College-II (CTC-II), at Coimbatore, located in State of Tamil Nadu, India.

PFAP PEER Courses at CTC-II kicked-off with MFR Course on November 3-15, 2008. Honorable K.M. Singh, IPS (Retd), Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), graced the inaugural session of the course. He highlighted that the demand for emergency response force is ever increasing after the rescue role played by NDRF personnel during the 2008 monsoon havoc in Koshi River, in Bihar State.

Instructors to above five PEER courses were composed of national and regional PEER instructors. As of December 31, 2008, India has a total of: 135 MFR graduates and 97 CSSR graduates. Out of these numbers, there are 101 TFI graduates, 81 MFRIW graduates and 71 CSSRIW graduates in India.



PEER Graduates: From Training to Action

PEER and Mumbai Fire Brigade Response

INDIA

Below is an excerpt from the personal account of Mr. Prabhat Rahangdale, a PEER graduate and instructor, relating his PEER training with his experience in emergency response.

"Perhaps for the first time in its 122 year-old history, the Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) had to respond to a terror attack call.

It happened at 2235hrs on November 26, 2008, when the Police Main Control asked for help to control fire at **Trident Hotel, at Nariman Point and Hotel Taj Mahal**, caused by terrorists.



Response operations by MFB during Mumbai blasts, November 2008.

entire team displayed conscious gallantry, exemplary courage, leadership, professional expertise and devotion of duty of very high order with grave danger to our life. Because of the gallant service Fire Brigade personnel demonstrated and who, at the same time at great personal risk, a number of persons who would have otherwise died of terror attack, suffocation and heat due to fire, were rescued. The timely firefighting also ensured that the loss of property of both hotels was minimized considerably.

It's not the only instance MFB personnel went beyond the call of duty to save victims trapped due to disastrous situations. Recently, following monsoon rains, the embankment of **Koshi River**, Nepal's biggest, broke on August 2008, flooding several villages in Sunsari District (Eastern region of Nepal, bordering India's State of Bihar). The Koshi River has subsequently altered its flow and continues to flow for the most part along this new course, inundating four Village Development Committee (VDC) areas bordering India and large sections of the state of Bihar (India), where it runs in an uncontrolled 15-20km wide flood up to 60km east of its previous course.



MFB personnel response operations during the floods (brought about by inundation of Koshi River) at Bihar State, India, August 2008.

The flood rescue team under my command was deputed for rescue and relief operation from 31 September to 11 October 2008. The team successfully rescued hundreds of persons from flooded Sahars District, Bihar.

This perhaps was possible because MFB has adapted **PEER** program for enhancement of its emergency responses. After completion of my graduation in TFI, CSSR, MFR and Instructors courses in CSSR and MFR, I took initiative to implement PEER in MFB. With available resources, the first Task Force, were imparted with TFI, MFR and CSSR courses. Also, MFB is the first brigade in India to establish EMS where ambulances are manned by MFR-trained personnel, with 120 personnel manning ten ambulances were trained in MFR.

In my opinion and more than 20 years of experience, whether it is natural or man-made disaster situation, the basic response strategies remain the same. It's only the combination of knowledge and experience which enable the emergency responders to improvise the response strategies as per the situation and challenges demand.

The best example is recent terror attack as well as Bihar flood response. The knowledge gained by me in PEER program and by MFB personnel has defiantly helped in activation, mobilization, coordination, assessment, operation, deactivation and debriefing, during both operations. These above said elements required for professional response and command are incorporated in PEER program. The MFR equipped men and equipment also helped disaster victims in receiving basic life support (BLS) and post-trauma care.

I am grateful to ADPC, NSET, OFDA, USAID and Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue for not only making me able to gain tremendous knowledge but also enable me to spread it, to overcome future challenges in disastrous situations."

PRABHAT SURAJLAL RAHANGDALE

Assistant Division Fire Officer, Mumbai Fire Brigade
(Recipient of President of India Medal for Gallantry)

Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia and Philippines

Other PEER graduates also shared similar experiences of responding to major disaster events in their countries. In Bangladesh, PEER graduates from FSCD responded to Savar tragedy (April 2005), which involved the collapse of a 9-storey building (Shahrier Spectrum Garments Industries), and collapse of a five-storey building (Phoenix Garments), February 2006; PEER graduates from Ambulan 118 and BASARNAS in Indonesia were involved in emergency operations for the tsunami in December 2004 and to the earthquake in Yogyakarta, May 2006. In Nepal, PEER graduates from Nepal responded to the incident at Makhan Tole, Kathmandu, June 2007, which involved collapse of residential houses. In the Philippines, PEER graduates from the Bureau of Fire Protection and the Philippine National Red Cross responded to landslides in Guinsaugon, Southern Leyte (February 2006); and HOPE graduates from Region 6 responded to the effects of Typhoon Frank, June 2008.

PEER Events / Activities:

4th Quarter (Jan-Mar 2009), Program Year 6

Philippines

MFR Refresher Test Course January 12-16, 2009
CSSR Refresher Test Course January 21-24, 2009

Nepal

HOPE-Training for Instructors (PFAP) February 23-27, 2009
HOPE Course Materials Review March 5-6, 2009

Other on-going PEER activities:

Translation of MFR and CSSR course materials in:

- Bengali
- Nepali
- Urdu

Share your stories, feedback or send questions through e-mail: peer@nset.org.np

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PEER Phase II

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PEER NEWS BULLETIN



PEER Phase II, Year 6, January-March 2009

No. 12, March 2009

PEER PHASE II AT A GLANCE

The Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) is a regional training program initiated by the United States Agency for International Development, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA). PEER is directed towards strengthening and institutionalizing capacities in emergency and disaster response in the six participating Asian countries, namely, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines.

PEER Phase 1 (1998-2003) was managed by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Bangkok, Thailand. PEER-I targeted four of Asia's earthquake-prone countries, namely, India, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines.

PEER Phase II (2003-2009) is managed by NSET-Nepal, at no cost extension on the sixth year of implementation. PEER-II includes the four initial member countries, with the addition of Bangladesh and Pakistan.

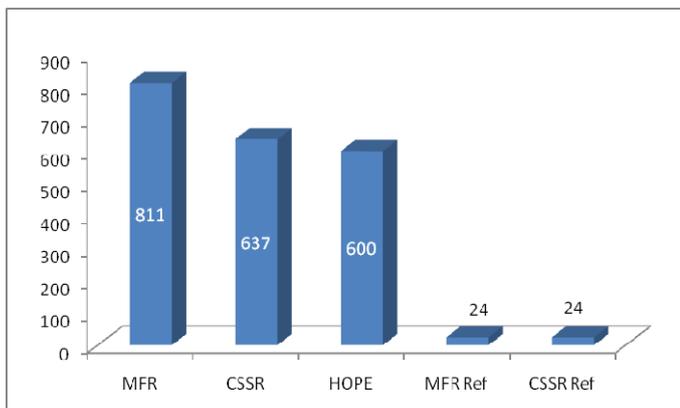
PEER's overall goal is to reduce mortality in mass casualty events and increase the survival rates of disaster victims. The three program objectives are: 1) Emergency Response Training; 2) Institutional Strengthening; and 3) Networking and Coordination.

The above program objectives are accomplished through the conduct of PEER core courses, i.e. MFR, CSSR and HOPE; developing and maintaining a cadre of PEER instructors through instructor development trainings, and strengthening coordinating network of emergency responders through the planning meetings, networking meetings, and instructors' conferences.

The number of graduates and instructors for various courses, in the region and per PEER country are shown below:

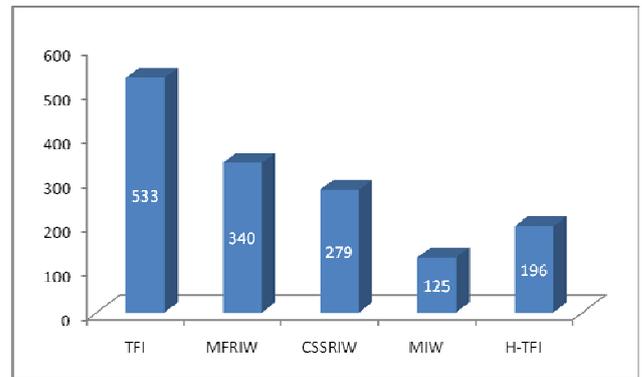
PEER Core Courses and IW Graduates in the Region

As of March 31, 2009, PEER has developed a pool of 811 graduates for Medical First Responder (MFR), 637 for Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR), and 600 for Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE); Refresher Test Courses for MFR and CSSR had 24 participants each, as illustrated in the figure below:



PEER Core Courses Graduates in the Region (Phases 1 and 2, as of March 31, 2009)

PEER has developed a pool of 533 graduates for Training for Instructors (TFI), 340 for MFR Instructors Workshop (MFR IW), 279 for CSSR Instructors Workshop (CSSR IW), 125 for Master Instructors Workshop (MIW) and 196 for HOPE TFI (H-TFI).



PEER IW Graduates in the Region (Phases 1 and 2 data, as of March 31, 2009)

PEER Core Courses and IW Graduates per Country

Below is a summary of PEER graduates from each of the six PEER countries (data as of March 31, 2009):

PEER Countries	Core Courses				
	MFR	CSSR	HOPE	MFR Ref	CSSR Ref
Bangladesh	89	72	90	2	2
India	135	97	102	-	-
Indonesia	123	81	37	2	1
Nepal	123	110	156	2	2
Pakistan	125	92	117	-	-
Philippines	216	185	98	18	19

The figures below represent the number of PEER IW graduates from each of the six PEER countries:

PEER Countries	IW Courses				
	TFI	MFR IW	CSSR IW	MIW	H-TFI
Bangladesh	54	34	34	13	9
India	101	81	71	59	84
Indonesia	62	36	29	17	1
Nepal	133	70	45	17	45
Pakistan	43	41	37	-	23
Philippines	140	78	63	19	34

Other PEER achievements during Phase II include - HOPE course development, adaptation of MFR and CSSR courses in each PEER country, translation in Hindi (India), Bahasa (Indonesia), Urdu (Pakistan); translation in Nepali (Nepal) and Bengali (Bangladesh) are on the process of completion; development of H-TFI for HOPE instructors, MIW, HOPE multi-hazard curriculum and MFR and CSSR Refresher Courses.





ESD highlights HOPE Impact in Nepal

Nepal celebrated the 11th Earthquake Safety Day (ESD) on January 2009. The ESD is an annual activity to commemorate the 1934 Earthquake which caused thousands of casualties in Nepal.

One of the highlights of the month-long celebration is the **National Symposium on "Experiences in Disaster Risk Reduction and Response,"** held on January 13-14, 2009, at Kathmandu, Nepal. The impact of PEER's Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) course in promoting safety and preparedness of hospitals in Nepal was underscored in **Session E: Thematic Discussion on Earthquake Safety of Hospitals in Nepal**, of said symposium.

Professor (Dr.) Pradeep Vaidya, Department of Surgery, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, discussed about the 'Disaster Preparedness of Teaching Hospital and Institutionalization of HOPE. In his presentation, he emphasized the importance of promoting hospital disaster preparedness through trainings such as HOPE course. The Government of Nepal, through the Institute of Medicine, showed support in the advocacy of safe hospitals through funding of national HOPE courses and institutionalizing HOPE in the medical curriculum of Nepal. Since its inception, HOPE has influenced participating hospitals in the development of their hospital disaster plans. Professor Vaidya also pointed out that for disaster plans to be improved and effective, regular drills should be done. Further, he stressed on the following goals of TUTH, in the context of HOPE institutionalization: 1) All hospitals should be HOPE-certified; 2) Networking at the national level, and 3) To assist in the region, whenever necessary, i.e. in six PEER countries.

Dr. Rajesh Gongal, Medical Director, Patan Hospital, presented the 'Disaster Preparedness of Patan Hospital.' In his presentation, he shared the outcome of Patan Hospital's vulnerability assessment. With reference to this, the hospital started to adhere with the new building code in the construction of its new buildings, built new ramp, establishment of two back-up generators, fuel storage capacity up to 16000L and an underground water tank that will be good for a 7-day supply of water for the hospital should regular water supply is cut off during a disaster. He also stated recommended points for action such as a national level disaster preparedness plan, further promote safe hospitals and be included in the agenda of the government, and to further educate hospital staff through trainings like HOPE course.

Col. (Dr.) Naresh Giri, Army Hospital, presented the 'Disaster Preparedness of Army Hospital.' In his discussion, he talked about the location of Army Hospital, that it is situated in a densely populated area. Consequently, the hospital will also attend to civilian casualties when access roads are blocked in times of emergencies or disasters. Army Hospital institutionalized the Incident Command System (ICS), one of the important concepts taught in HOPE course.

Professor Pradeep Vaidya, Dr. Rajesh Gongal and Col. (Dr.) Naresh Giri are HOPE course recipients. Drs. Vaidya and Giri are also HOPE instructors, both active in the conduct of HOPE courses in Nepal and in the region.

Mr. Amod Mani Dixit, NSET Executive Director and PEER Chief of Party, delivered the conclusions of the symposium and 'What Next?' His message highlights the need to continue with the initiatives on disaster risk reduction and the challenge is left to the people of Nepal to get the strategies done as a national document and put more impetus to the implementation of disaster risk reduction initiatives.



Mr. Amod Mani Dixit, NSET Executive Director and PEER Chief of Party, presented the conclusions of the symposium and 'What Next?' (11th Earthquake Safety Day 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal, January 14, 2009)

NSET/PEER conducts MFR-CSSR Refresher Test Courses

NSET/PEER conducted the MFR and CSSR Refresher Test Courses on January 12-16, 2009 and January 21 to 24, 2009, respectively, at Amity Public Safety Academy (APSA), in Bacolod City, Philippines.

MFR and CSSR Refresher Courses are the newest in the chain of course programs for MFR and CSSR graduates. Both refresher courses target PEER graduates who are inactive with the PEER system for 2 years or more.

These refresher courses aim to upgrade the knowledge and skills of inactive PEER graduates on key concepts like Basic Life Support (BLS) and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for MFR; and International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Guidelines, for CSSR.



Participants strapping the patient on a long backboard in preparation for transporting the patient. (MFR Refresher Course, January 12-16, 2009, Philippines)





Selected course developers, regional and national instructors facilitated these courses. With the experience and recommendations gained from the test course, NSET/PEER further aims to refine the curriculum to achieve a more effective delivery of both refresher courses and ensure a more efficient learning for participants. Participants to the test course were selected from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines.



There were 24 participants who completed MFR and CSSR Refresher courses.

Practical session on lifting and moving loads. (CSSR Refresher Course, January 21-24, 2009, Philippines)

HOPE Newsbits

NSET/PEER and Ministry of Health and Population-Government of Nepal Organized H-TFI at Kathmandu

NSET/PEER in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Population conducted the HOPE Training for Instructors (H-TFI) on February 23-27, 2009, at Kathmandu, Nepal. A total of 20 participants from various health institutions in Nepal completed the course successfully. These make up the 45 H-TFI graduates from Nepal, as of March 31, 2009.

HOPE Final Review conducted on March 5-6, 2009

NSET/PEER completes the finalization of multi-hazard HOPE course materials on March 5-6, 2009, at Kathmandu, Nepal. Professor Pradeep Vaidya (Nepal), Professor Teodoro Herbosa (Philippines), Professor Suresh David (India), and Director Ramesh Guragain (Nepal) composed the course development team for the new HOPE curriculum. In the process of further refining the course materials, the two-day final review and meeting with the course developers served as a good venue to re-examine the recommendations received from the conduct of national HOPE courses.

PEER Member Countries, Nodal Agencies and Partnering Organizations

NSET and USAID/OFDA extends its appreciation for the support and cooperation extended by the following six member countries, through the nodal agencies and partnering organizations, in the advocacy and implementation of PEER Phase II:

PEER Countries	Nodal Agencies	Partnering Organizations
Bangladesh	Ministry of Food and Disaster Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare ▪ National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM) ▪ Fire Service and Civil Defence

India	Ministry of Home Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Disaster Management Authority ▪ Border Security Force (BSF) ▪ Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)/National Industrial Security Academy (NISA) ▪ Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)/Central Training College-II (CTC-II) ▪ Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
Indonesia	Badan Koordinasi Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana dan Penanganan Pengungsi (BAKORNAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Health ▪ Ambulan 118 ▪ Fire Service ▪ Badan Search and Rescue Nasional (BASARNAS)
Nepal	Ministry of Home Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Health and Population ▪ Institute of Medicine ▪ Nepal Police/Nepal Police Academy ▪ Nepal Army ▪ Armed Police Force ▪ Nepal Red Cross Society
Pakistan	National Disaster Management Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Health - Health Services Academy ▪ Punjab Emergency Services (Rescue 1122) ▪ Military College of Engineering
Philippines	Office of Civil Defense-National Disaster Coordinating Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Department of Health ▪ Bureau of Fire Protection/Fire National Training Institute ▪ Amity Public Safety Academy

Erratum

NSET/PEER would like to apologize and hereby rectifies the dates written in PEER Newsletter No. 11, as follows:

- HOPE Course Bangladesh was conducted on November 24-27, 2008.
- HOPE Course Pakistan was conducted on December 15-18, 2008 (photo caption).

Share your stories, feedback or send questions through email: peer@nset.org.np

Announcement:

Effective April 1, 2009, NSET/PEER office will move to its new location:

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Information

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