





INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SUPPORTING IMPROVISED COMMUNITIES IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT USING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

VENUE: GALLERY 01, DHAKA COMMUNITY MEDICAL COLLEGE, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

DATE: 07 NOVEMBER 2023



PROJECT TITLE: STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DISASTER MANAGEMENT NETWORK BY INVOLVING MULTI-SECTORAL PLATFORM







BACKGROUND:

Bangladesh is a developing country with the highest-density of population with the most dynamic, resourceful, and disaster-prone areas in the world. It is situated in the south East Asia. For geographical reasons this country is affected by many kinds of disasters like Cyclone, Tornado, Flood, Heat wave during the Summer, Suddenly Heavy Rain Fall, Building Collapse and Industrial safety hazards, etc. Very often a huge number of damage occurs for several kinds of disaster. Many experts mention that these calamities are happening very often due to Climate Changes Unplanned Urbanization and Industrialization. The symposium was held along with the diversified communities and included different sectors for disaster risk management and build-up communication between school teachers, GOVT. officials, medical personnel, and stakeholders. Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency management profoundly impact the effectiveness of response efforts, contributing to enhanced decision-making, innovative problem-solving, and improved community outcomes. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 outlines the inclusive, all-of-society approach that is needed to reduce disaster risks. It explicitly recognizes the need to promote women and youth leadership and to empower women and persons with disabilities to publicly lead and promote gender-equitable and universally accessible disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and risk-informed and resilient development. National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) 2021-2025 has core goals for actions to save lives and reduce economic losses in every disaster cycle stage which includes Two main inclusivity areas that should inform all DM initiatives, policies, programs and planning: To ensure incorporation of gender issues in decision making and participation of women and men. The event allows A-PAD member countries to share knowledge, experiences, and good practices in various initiatives of public-private partnerships for Disaster Risk Reduction Management by using diversity and inclusion. The A-PAD member countries are Japan, Korea, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Philippines, and Indonesia. The symposium also cover a discussion on the Relationship between Cultural Diversity and the existing Disaster Preparedness plan focusing on the role of Diversity and inclusion in Sustainable Disaster Management. There will be a session on knowledge sharing as Sharing Knowledge is important it strengthens knowledge and helps to innovate new things to build a better world. Community Initiative Society (CIS) and A-PAD Bangladesh in







collaboration with A-PAD will organize a day-long international symposium in Dhaka with NGOs, private organizations, business groups, and government policymakers, who are involved in disaster management. At the end session of the symposium, A-PAD Bangladesh will sign an MOU with private organizations, business groups, and government agencies to take on important roles in setting up a National Platform of disaster preparedness and management. Through this Platform, a guideline on diversity and inclusive disaster management and preparedness will be established through strategic planning meetings and awareness campaigns from the local to national level. The



A-PAD National Platforms in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Japan, Indonesia, Philippines, and Korea have gained good practices in the establishment of a comprehensive system of cooperation at the international, national, and local levels. However, efforts towards disaster resilience are constantly challenged by natural hazards occurring more frequently and impacting more severely on communities, lives, and the economy of the Asia Pacific Region. This situation challenges local actors to ensure that community disaster risk reduction goes hand in hand with harnessing cooperation among the local actors and key stakeholders. The goal of the Symposium is "To







increase access to resources and tools that facilitate more comprehensive inclusion of planning with people with access and functional needs, including improvised communities as well as other groups disproportionately impacted in emergencies" Diverse and inclusive emergency management practices build trust and credibility within communities. When individuals from various backgrounds are involved in the decision-making process, community members are more likely to feel heard, respected, and understood. The symposium will cover a discussion on the importance, challenge, risk factor, future framework, and role of Diversity and inclusion in Disaster Risk Management for Building Community Resilience and Sustainable Disaster Management. Community Initiative Society (CIS) and A-PAD Bangladesh are collaboratively organizing an International Symposium on "Supporting Improvised Communities in Emergency Management Using Diversity and Inclusion" in connection with the project, which will take place in Dhaka. This international symposium will help to ensure comprehensive participation and support of NGOs, private organizations, business groups, and governments for establishing a multi-sectorial platform of APAD Bangladesh building community resiliency and leading the effectiveness of humanitarian response at the national level.

GOAL OF THE SYMPOSIUM:

Community Initiative Society (CIS) and Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD) are jointly implementing a project on "Strengthening Capacity for Sustainable Disaster Management Network by involving multi-sectoral platform." CIS and A-PAD collaboratively organized international symposium titled "**Supporting Improvised Communities in Emergency Management Using Diversity and Inclusion.**" To increase access to resources and tools that facilitate more comprehensive inclusion of planning with people with access and functional needs, including improvised communities as well as other groups disproportionately impacted in emergencies by establishing a multi-sectoral platform of A-PAD Bangladesh for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) at the national level and strengthen the local community resiliency and the provision of effective and efficient coordination among relevant organizations, business groups, and government agencies by sharing disaster management experiences and good practices from the community and case study in Bangladesh and other parts of Asia. Good practices will be internationally disseminated and lessons learned in Asia will be shared







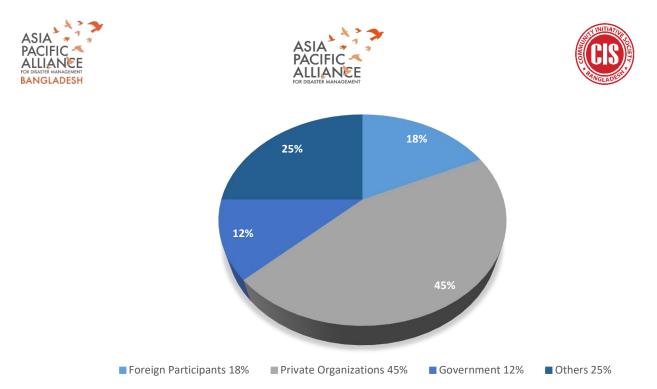
on disaster management so that ties will be strengthened with both domestic and international partner organizations to enable a mutual-support system beyond the Asia-Pacific region.

OBJECTIVES:

- To build trusted relationships through acknowledging, respecting and valuing different knowledge, talents and attributes in the time of Disaster management.
- To establish a disaster risk reduction network among various stakeholders, gathering knowledge and sharing information on disaster management strategies.
- To build resilience within organizations and with communities to reduce the impacts of future events.
- To share experiences, good practices, lessons learned challenges, and solutions among National Platforms (international and local) on multi-sectorial collaboration, strengthening community resiliency and effective humanitarian response.

PARTICIPANTS:

Total 255 participants joined the symposium physically and virtually where 203 participants joined physically and 52 participants joined virtually. Among them A-PAD International and Local Platforms from member countries, Government, Universities, partners, NGO, School Teachers and private sector, Local Community from the seven divisions Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Chattagram, Khulna, Rangpur, Barisal and Mymensingh representatives gathered in the Symposium.



EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN BANGLADESH:

- His Excellency Mr. IWAMA Kiminori, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh;
- Mr. Iwasaki Daichi,

BUSINESS SECTORS:

- Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh, Former President, Inter- Parliamentary Union;
- Mr. Hamdan Hossain Chowdhury, Group Director, Karnaphuli Groul
- S B Zaman, Senior Executive Director, Karnaphuli Group
- Dr. Tanvir Mahmud, Manager-Trust, Akij Venture Ltd
- Arshed Alam, Chairman, Bangladesh Medical Equipment Supplies Association (BMESA)
- Bodiuzzaman Mian, AVP & Head of Branch, Bank Asia
- Md. Shahidul Islam, Vice President & Manager, National Bank Ltd
- Md. Anwarul Haque Sohel, Partner, SK Barua

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS:

- Mr. Nobutaka Miyahara, Senior Advisor, Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD)
- Mr. Jongwon Sung, Management Planning Team Leader, A-PAD Korea
- Ms. Reina Inoue, Public Relations Officer, Civic Force







- Rochelle Scharenguivel, Research and Advocacy Officer, A-PAD Sri Lanka
- Ms. Kathleen Barrientos-Baez, Private Sector Coordinator, A-PAD Philippines
- Mr. Sumaidi, Area Project Officer, A-PAD Indonesia

GOVT. OF BANGLADESH:

• Md. Monir Hossain, pfm, Assistant Director (Training), Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence, Government of Bangladesh

INSTITUTIONS:

- Prof. Abu Saleh Mohammad Monirul Alam, Principal, Dhaka Community Medical College;
- Mr. Shams Mansoor Ghani, Assistant Professor, Post Graduate Program, Department of Disaster Management, Brac University;
- Dr. Najmus Sakeb, SRS scholar (USA), Takeda Spine Scholar (Japan) Associate Professor, Dhaka Community Medical College and Hospital
- Dr. Tanjina Chaklader, Assistant Professor, Dhaka Community Medical College

ORGANIZATIONS:

- Dr.Tahmina Parvin, Executive Member, Disaster Health and Environment Management Foundation (DHEM Foundation)
- Md. Moniruzzaman, Executive Director, Anando
- Ruhi Das, Executive Director, BASTOB
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DCH TRUST:

- Prof. Quazi Quamruzzaman, chairman of DCH Trust, CIS, and A-PAD;
- Prof. Mahmuder Rahman, Coordinator, Dhaka Community Hospital Trust

CIS:

• Md. Golam Mostofa, Executive Director, CIS







• Sadia Samad Mow, Program Manager Community Initiative Society

PANEL MODERATOR:

- Panel Discussion 01: Dr. Md. Fuadul Islam, DRR Innovation Project Manager, DCH Trust
- Panel Discussion 02: Dr. Mohammad Omar Sharif Ibne Hasan, Hospital Director, DCH Trust

Overview of the Symposium:

Moderator:

The inauguration session moderator was Sadia Samad Mow, Program Manager Community Initiative Society. She is expert in project writing project proposals and liason with the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh to continue several projects under GGHSP. Recently she completed a project with the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh and established a skill development center in Habiganj. She is expert in developing overall project planning, implementation, supervision, monitoring, and evaluation in consultation with team members, various stakeholders, and the local community. She also gives support and makes liaisons with Government and Non-Government Officials like District Civil Surgeons, Upazila Health Officers, Medical Education Officers, Community Clinic Medical Officers, and other Private and NGO officials. She is an expert in Administrative, monitoring, and evaluation management.









INAUGURATION:

GUEST ARRIVAL:

The guests were arriving on the time. It was appreciated the Ambassador of Japan His Excellency **Mr. IWAMA Kiminori** came to the program on time. Participants from online had joined according to the time. Before entering the venue, the Guests filled up the attendance sheet. The program started with the Bangladesh National Anthem when the guest showed their respect by standing while the anthem is being played. The inaugural session has also been held with the chair of guests, their introductory speech, and activities related to disaster management.









WELCOME ADDRESS:

Md Golam Mostofa started his opening remarks by welcoming the Ambassador of Japan to

Bangladesh, His Excellency Mr. IWAMA Kiminori, Chairman A-PAD, and Guests from A-PAD Members Countries, Member of Parliament, Former President of Interparliamentary Union &









Special Envoy of Climate Change Gov. of Bangladesh, Guests from Private sectors, and Media in this international symposium on "Supporting Improvised Communities in Emergency Management Using Diversity and Inclusion "organized by A-PAD Bangladesh.

He described that A-PAD Bangladesh is a significant networking partner of A-PAD (Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management). It aims to improve the resilience and capacity of communities to cope with disasters and emergencies. It has been working in the field of disaster management for over 10 years with the most vulnerable and marginalized groups of Bangladesh and the Asia Pacific region. He mentioned that diversity and inclusion are essential values and practices for effective and equitable disaster and emergency management. He enjoined distinguished speakers and experts from various sectors and backgrounds, such as government, media, academia, business sector, civil society, and international organizations, to share their knowledge and perspectives on this important topic, and representatives from A-PAD countries, such as Japan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Philippines, and Korea, who will showcase their initiatives and achievements in supporting improvised communities in emergency management using diversity and inclusion.

He expects that this symposium will provide a valuable opportunity for discussion, learning, and networking among all the participants. He expressed his sincere gratitude to all the speakers, guests, and partners who have joined in person and virtually today and made this symposium possible despite the difficult political crisis climate of our country.

He concluded by showing A-PAD 10th Anniversary short video.









PROGRAM ACTIVITY OVERVIEW:

Shahadat Hossain, Program Manager of CIS gave an overview and update on CIS and A-PAD Bangladesh activities. In that presentation, he shared all the Training activities done by CIS Responses during the pandemic situation, responses during cyclones. He also shared the achievements of CIS to date and the impact of CIS activities on people's life.



SPECIAL REMARKS:

Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh, Former President, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Commenced his remarks with showing gratefulness toward Prof. Quazi Quamruzzaman, Chairman, CIS, DCH Trust and A-PAD for his contribution to Bangladesh and community health. He also appreciated the Japan Govt. Supports for Bangladesh. He apologizes for being late and not able to being throughout the program.

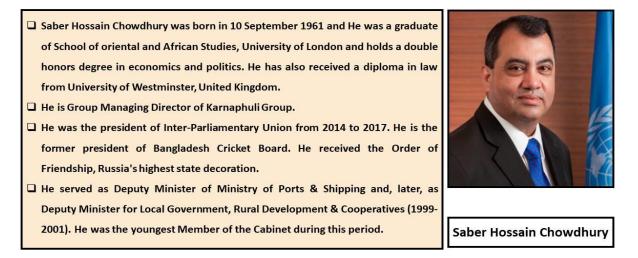
He added that For Bangladesh we are not strangers to disaster and at present Bangladesh is trying to understand the need of communities. He highlighted that understanding the needs from local level is important and from Dhaka we cannot understand this. He appreciated that A-PAD and CIS have been







most effectively working at the grassroots level. They understand the needs of the people; they are very inclusive in their approaches whether it is young people whether it is gender- people who are most marginalized.



He also mentioned that when it comes to climate change it is very important for all of us to understand. Though we are the victims of any disaster but we need to improve and act as leaders when it come to response. He highlighted that CIS activity make on the ground which makes Bangladesh a role model which makes us champions and not just victims. He hopes that this Symposium will add capacity of the people who are working in the front line.

He concludes his remarks with thanks to A-PAD for its contribution to the Asia Pacific region and wishes everyone will share their knowledge which will contribute to the overall pool of knowledge in the Asia Pacific region.









Mr. Kensuke Onishi, Chief Executive Officer, Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD) started his remarks with thanks giving to His Excellency Mr. IWAMA Kiminori, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh, Former President, Inter-Parliamentary Union for joining this international Symposium and Prof. Quazi

Quamruzzaman, Chairman, CIS, DCH Trust and A-PAD for this Symposium. He stated that Government working hard to help people in natural disaster. But in perspective of Japan sharing experiences from 2011 people are started





Mr. Kensuke Onishi

helping each other in a neighborhood. Also they chose to avoid additional damage on the society. He also encourage Bangladesh people to come out for other help in other countries as Bangladesh have many talented and professional people and Bangladesh fight against natural disaster in many levels and people here know how to work on suck kind of disasters. He also shared that A-PAD are preparing to cover the needs of pacific oceans using Boat developing capacity, also aviation cover using









helicopters and also reference. He mentioned that for future there is need of governmental help, also help from civil society to make a way with cooperate together against the future needs of fighting against natural disasters even human made ore natural. He concludes his remarks with mentioned about Gaza Situation and suggest working in such areas.

A-PAD SENIOR ADVISOR REMARKS:

Mr. Nobutaka Miyahara, Senior Advisor, Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD) started his remarks with thanks to HE Mr. IWAMA Kiminori, Ambassador, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh, Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh, Former President, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Group Managing Director, Karnaphuli Group, and Also appreciate Prof. Quazi Quamruzzaman, chairman, A-PAD, CIS and DCH Trust, and all thestaff for organizing the international event. To ensure the sustainability of diversity efforts, we will examine strategies for recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce, promoting career development, and providing equal opportunities for underrepresented groups in emergency management. We can recognize the undeniable value of diversity, inclusion, and equity in emergency management.

He mentioned that 2022 marks 10 years of A-PAD operations, we wanted to observe by looking back at a decade of enormous change and progress in disaster risk management (DRM). While we are proud of the role we have played in this, we felt it more important to highlight the achievements of different countries where A-PAD has successfully responded to emergency response and disaster management. A-PAD has responded to the Nepal Earthquake, Turkish Earthquake, Tonga, and the Emergency situation in Sri Lanka, the Rohingya Crisis, the Flash Flood, Super Cyclone Amphan, and

the Mocha situation in Bangladesh. The story of the last ten years in DRM is one of people and communities building their own resilience in the face of increasing

Name: Mr. Nobutaka Miyahara Senior Advisor, A-PAD

- He graduated from University of Tokyo (Human Geography, 1983) and obtained MA in Middle East Area Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London (1987).
- He completed the Weather head East Asian Institute Professional Fellows Program (2004-2005), Columbia University.
- He worked for the Japanese foreign service for 22 years and 4 months (April 1983 to July 2005), mainly in the fields of the Middle East Affairs, Arms Control and Disarmament, and Development Assistance.



Mr. Nobutaka Miyahara







risk, and of vulnerable nations enacting policies and strengthening capacity to reduce risk and protect hard-won development gains. He highlighted that A-PAD started to discuss about its activities for next 10 years immediately after the anniversary ceremony of A-PAD and formulated an action plan for all the part of the community. The ultimate goal of A-PAD is to create a safer, peaceful, and resilient community by achieving the to strengthening the partnership among the Asia Pacific countries. He concluded his remarks with best wishes for A-PAD and shared that he hopes that A-PAD continue working on the disaster management sectors and will become a role model in the Asia Pacific Region to establish sustainable disaster management.







Prof. Mahmuder Rahman, Coordinator, Dhaka Community Hospital Trust, stated his remarks with thanks to HE Mr. IWAMA Kiminori, Ambassador, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh, Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh, Former President, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Group Managing Director, Karnaphuli Group and other national and international participants. He shared that Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD)

is proud to be a part of a network of organizations ensuring that communities are ready in the event of a crisis and now moving towards building resilience by involving Diversity and Inclusion in its Disaster

Name: Prof. Dr. Mahmuder Rahman MBBS, MRCP (UK), FRCP (GLAS.) DTCD Designation: Co-ordinator, Dhaka Community Hospital Trust • He has developed a model of integrated, quality

 He has developed a model of integrated, quality and affordable health care for common people of DCMC.



Prof. Mahmuder Rahman

management plan. He mentioned that recently Nepal faced Earthquake which is not new to them. The community is trying to cope up with the situation and rebuild their life. The knowledge and skill they have inherited over the generation. He suggested for Documentation as al this important and useful experiences embroidered in the communities who lives in different socio- cultural, economic, geographical and environmental locations. And they are all different, have different needs with one common thing and that is they all are sufferer. He highlighted that it is important to have regular seminars and meetings on Disaster management as world climate condition is changing and for all this meetings he suggested to use latest technology so can anyone can join. He also shared that at present geographical conflict are increasing and keeping humanity at stake so we should focus on a peaceful world.

He concluded his remarks with hope that this symposium will promote collaboration among all sectors and Involving all in Asia in disaster reduction and response can obtain excellent results. This Symposium will be useful for all the participants gathered here.





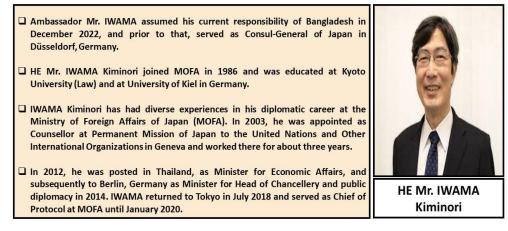




AMBASSADOR REMARKS:

His Excellency Mr. IWAMA Kiminori, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Commenced his address with greeting to all the national and international participants. He shared that he was delighted to be present at this international symposium and shared that his birthplace Kobe Kyogo, prefecture of Japan Culver City is known to the world disaster, risk, reduction experts as a city that experienced the magnitude 7.3 earthquakes in 1995 more than 6,000 people passed and building

were collapsed similar to Bangladesh and many developing countries in Asia. He mentioned that earlier Japan use to prioritized









economic development over security of the people before that specific earthquake. In many cities in Japan, including Kobe many high-rise buildings were built without considering the impact of earthquakes. He added that after that calamity Japan became serious about earthquake preparedness. He also mentioned about East Japan earthquake and tsunami in 2011 when the magnitude was 9and causes more than 20000 people passed away or missing. He appreciated that A-PAD aims to create a mechanism of cross-border cooperation among various stakeholders, such as Ngo's, Companies and Govt. in The Asia Pacific Region. He thanked all the staff of A-PAD for the continued success in regard of international disaster management. As Bangladesh is situated in strategic positions. It is an intersection between South Asia and Southeast Asia. The development of Bangladesh must be significant, not only to Bangladesh itself but also to the overall stability and prosperity in the indo-pacific region as a whole because of this geography. He also suggest to increases awareness and preparedness for disaster constantly. He wished that CIS, A-PAD and DCH Trust continue to disseminate knowledge and disaster preparedness in Bangladesh and other part of Asia Pacific Region. He congratulates A-PAD for its 10 years Anniversary and Thanked A-PAD on behalf of Mr. Ito Naoki, predecessor Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh for his contribution to the activity.







Prof. Quazi Quamruzzaman, Chairman, CIS, DCH Trust and A-PAD, Commenced his remarks with welcome to Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury Member of Parliament, Former President, Interparliamentary Union; His Excellency, **Mr. IWAMA Kiminori**, Ambassador Japan Embassy

to Bangladesh, Mr. Kensuke Onishi, chief executive officer A-PAD, Senior adviser A-PAD Mr. Nobutaka Miyahara and country Members of the A-PAD Participants from the private sector, the media and thanked all for joining this



international symposium on "Supporting Improvised Communities in Emergency Management Using Diversity and Inclusion" organized by A-PAD Bangladesh." He highlighted A-PAD resources as A-PAD have a helicopter, and ship which use during emergency and A-PAD have rescue team which have a very trained dogs for rescue purpose. He mentioned that in recent years, disasters are becoming more frequent and severe, affecting millions of people and disrupting their lives and livelihoods. In such situations, improvised communities emerge as a source of resilience

