



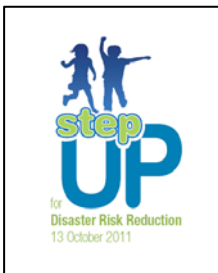
# Information Update

## International Day for Disaster Reduction

13 October, 2011

For immediate release

**DHAKA** – The Disaster Management and Relief Division of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management with the support from Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP II) held a National Event to observe the International Day for Disaster Reduction. Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management briefed on the government's continued commitment to Disaster Risk Reduction.



This event was one of several event supported by the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme for the International Day for Disaster Reduction in order to raise the awareness on disaster risk reduction. The 2011 observance takes place within the framework of the “**Step Up for Disaster Risk Reduction**” campaign, and the theme is “**Making Children & Young People Partners in Disaster Risk Reduction**”.

Globally, 6.5 million children are affected annually by disasters. Often, it is difficult for children and youth to cope with unexpected and painful interruptions to their lives, and therefore they are more often affected than adults. Children and young people, who are victims of disaster and climate change, can and should be encouraged to participate in disaster reduction and decision making.

After a colorful rally, a seminar was held at the Osmani Auditorium with the promise of increased involvement and awareness of the children and youth in national disaster risk reduction effort.

As the Chief Guest at the seminar, Honorable Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management commented that the IDDR is a day to remember those affected by disasters and to bring awareness as well as education on disaster risk reduction. With children in mind, the government is committed to our continued mission towards a safer and disaster resilient Bangladesh for its future leaders.



Mr. Ahsan Zakir, Director General Disaster Management Bureau provided the welcome speech, while prominent urban planner, Professor Nazrul Islam, Dhaka University offered the keynote address which highlighted the importance of disaster reduction in Bangladesh and he particularly emphasized focus on rapidly growing urban context.

As key discussant, Muhammad Abdul Qayyum, NPD, CDMP, remarked on the advancements made and emerging trends in disaster reduction with the effort led by CDMP. He further asserted that while the natural disasters are inevitable, losses of lives and assets can be minimized through proper planning and increased public awareness.

Mr. Neal Walker, United Nations Resident Coordinator Bangladesh stated that IDDR gives us the opportunity to renew our commitment in protecting and enabling our future generation against disaster risk and climate change.

Dr. Afsarul Amin, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education focuses on enthusiastic participation of children and youth for building a disaster resilient community through increased education and awareness.

The chair of the seminar Dr. M Aslam Alam, Secretary, Disaster Management and Relief Division re-iterate government's firm commitment in working together towards making the nation and communities disaster resilient.



The Ministry of Food & Disaster Management and 12 other Ministries are supporting the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme in further improving the national disaster management system. The Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (Phase II) is a five year initiative (2010-2014) designed to strengthen national capacity to reduce risk, and improve response to and recovery from the impacts of disasters and climate change in Bangladesh. Children from nationwide art and essay writing competition on DRR also received their award from the distinguished guests.

For more information on the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme visit: [www.cdmp.org.bd](http://www.cdmp.org.bd).

*Also available in Bangla*

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