



Ministry of Disaster  
Management and  
Relief

## 2nd International Conference on Disability & Disaster Risk Management

May 15-17, 2016, Dhaka, Bangladesh

# Bulletin

May 15, 2016



### Utilise advantages of Satellite Bangabandhu-1 to face challenges in reducing disaster risk: PM

Local, int'l community to improve life of disable and disaster risk management

#### Bulletin Report

The Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday urged the local and international communities to utilise the advantage of the Satellite Bangabandhu-1 to face the challenges in reducing the disaster risk management of Bangladesh. "Now, we are connected with the orbit by sending Satellite Bangabandhu-1 to the space. So, we can easily predict the weather situation through this satellite which would help our officials to undertake pre-measures to tackle the disaster risk," said the Prime Minister while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the three-day long 2nd International Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre

(BICC) in Dhaka. At the same time, the Prime Minister also urged them for undertaking holistic measures for the disable people as well as assisting the improvement of the disaster risk management of Bangladesh as the country is now in most vulnerable position in terms of natural calamities. She suggested them to show their sincere effort for the improvement of disable people as well as improving the disaster risk management. Local and foreign assistance can secure the life disable people and improve the disaster risk management situation which is not applicable for only Bangladesh, but for the entire world, Hasina said. The government has undertaken adequate measures for disable

people for securing their life so that they can lead their life along with dignity in society. At the same time, the government has taken enough preparation for improving the disaster risk management to save the life and properties from the natural disasters.

"We are dedicated to secure the life of disable people across the country, and for this, we have taken a good number of development projects for them. Disable people are not the burden of society, they just need to facilitate so that they can put their potentiality for the development of the country. On the other hand, the government asked the concerned people to take enough preparation to overcome any kinds of natural disaster so that the victim people can instantly avail the shelter and other logistic." Continue Page 2

Disaster Management sector will be the highest beneficiary for introducing Bangabandhu Satellite-1 to get the real time weather warning so that the related officials can undertake holistic measures to tackle the risk management factors from the natural disasters. "Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries in terms of natural disasters but the incumbent government is committed to overcome such situation", said Md. Motahar Hossain Chowdhury Molla, Minister for Disaster Management and Relief while addressing three day-long 2nd International Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in the city on Tuesday. In 1970, the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman witnessed the 'Bhola Cyclone' which made him very sick. Considering this unpleasant accident, the father of nation demanded to create an international organisation on disaster management to save the people and their properties from the natural disasters.

Bangabandhu had created the largest volunteer organisation 'Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP)' with a view to Continue Page 2

### UN committee appreciates role of Bangladesh to face natural disaster

#### Bulletin Report

Morilal Bantua, Member of the National Legislative Assembly, Royal Thai Parliament and member

Joint effort of local and international community needed to face the challenges of natural calamities

of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities on Tuesday appreciated the role of Bangladesh for rehabilitating the disable people and the role of initiative for saving the victim peoples who are severely affected the natural disasters.

He said this at the Second International Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in the city. Joint effort of local and international community are crucial to face the challenges of natural calamities, he said.



"I must confess that after almost twenty-five years of my disability rights activism, which has taken me to almost fifty countries around the world, this is the first time I got to visit this beautiful country", he said. So far I knew, thousands of NGOs/CSOs are working sincerely to assist the disable people as well as the victim people by the natural disasters, he said. He urged the local and international community to facilitate the disable people and the victim people by the natural calamities.

He said, "I have to confess to you that I am not an expert on the issue of disaster Continue Page 2



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## Utilise advantages of Satellite

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facilities from the part of the government" said the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while addressing three-day-long inaugural ceremony on "2nd International Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management" at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in the city. Addressing as the chief guest, the Prime Minister said Bangladesh recognised as an independent country for the sacrifice of four national leaders, 3 million martyrs and 200 thousand women's modesty under the dynamic leadership of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Talking on the conference, Hasina said, "This conference and the recent move of global community towards inclusion of disability in disaster management are crucial. Bangladesh is taking lead with the international community to facilitate this important agenda at international, regional, national and local level." Bangladesh is known as role model of disaster management and now moving towards building resilience as well as facing recurrent disasters including cyclone, tidal surge, flood, tornado, lightning, land slide, she said adding that over the last thirty years Bangladesh faced nearly 200 climate induced disasters which matched many thousands of lives, damaged huge assets and livelihoods.

Despite the loss and damage from recurrent disasters, the country achieved food sufficiency due to the holistic measures of the incumbent government, Hasina said.

The projected GDP growth rate this fiscal is 7.6 per cent and now per capita income is USD 1,752, she added. The country's economy is now the 44th of the world, she informed. Besides, Bangladesh is well ahead of its South Asian neighbours in various socio-economic parameters like women empowerment, gender equality, human resource development, universal

**"**  
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education and sanitation, she further added.

"By this time, we have achieved tremendous success in reduction of poverty, economic vulnerability, malnutrition and child mortality. Now, we are sincerely working to become a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed one by 2041," said the Prime Minister.

The incumbent government is committed to attain Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) by 2030, she mentioned.

"We are implementing all the development activities, including disaster management approach in seven-year five-year plan, coordination programs among the ministries to address disaster vulnerability, establishment of a National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC). Apart from this, the government established 4,098 storm shelters and 255 flood shelters. Quick shifting of women, children, disabled persons, old people and pregnant women to shelters during disasters has been ensured and so on," said Hasina. The government enacted the "Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act-2013" and "Nursing Development Doubled Protection Trust Act-2013" for ensuring the rights of disabled people, Hasina said.

The Prime Minister appreciated Saima Wazed Hossain, International Focal Point, Advisory Group on DRRM Bangladesh for successfully bring disability inclusive disaster risk management issue to national and international arena. Disaster Management and Relief Minister Md. Aslam Chowdhury Mys chaired the inaugural session of the programme while Disaster Management Secretary Shah Kamal, member of Thailand Parliament Mong Tai Gathaiwan Sundarajan's Self-Help Group for the Disabled persons Chairman Kajol Rekha also spoke the occasion. The speech of the United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative on Disaster Risk Management was also read out at the programme.

## UN committee appreciates

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risk reduction or management by any means. I have never earned a degree in the related field nor have I had any experience in Disaster relief effort. The only qualification I have is, perhaps, the fact that I am a disability rights activist who seeks all opportunities to achieve full and effective enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities."

"DIDRR" is moving beyond disaster and vulnerability, he said adding that I believe to be a very possible and suitable strategies now and in the future as we are living in the more unstable, uncertain and risk-filled world. Many Asian countries, including Thailand were hit hard by Tsunami on December 26, 2004. At the time, we did not have any progressive pro-sustainable-development and rights-based DRR policy framework to use, he informed.

Less than a year after that, Hyogo Framework came into being. Although persons with disabilities were cited only once as one of "vulnerable groups" to be helped, it was an inspiration to many of us to draft article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2006, he also added.

Persons with disabilities, as referred to in Hyogo Framework, are merely recipient of social and economic welfare services similar to those in the pre-CRPD era, he also said.

## Bangabandhu Satellite-1 to get real time weather

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protects the life and livelihood of affected people of Bangladesh which is recognised the first initiative towards sustainable disaster management, said the minister.

The minister appreciated the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for creating the first climate fund for saving the affected people from the natural disasters, the minister said adding that the PM raised strong voice to reduce the losses and damages for the climatic disasters.

As a result, the PM received "Champions of the Earth" by United Nations' Environment Programme, added the minister.

Expressing the contribution of the PM, the minister said, she created a rare example by giving the shelter to 1.1 million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals - Rohingyas in Bangladesh, and for this, she became one of the popular world leaders.

The minister appreciated Samsul Islam for her contribution for the disable people across the country.

Talking on the disable people, Maya said, disability is not a problem rather it can be translated to resource for which the commitment and accountability of state and society are required.

He underscored the need for forming legal framework to provide adequate services to the disable people with a view to utilising them in mainstream economy of the country.

Disability issue has been included in the National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) 2016-2020, Maya said.

Apart from this, various types of allowances, stipends and loans are providing for the disable people, he said adding that Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief are also giving all kinds of logistic support for them.





# Bulletin

Ministry of Disaster  
Management and  
Relief



## Welcome to Bangladesh

It is with immense pleasure that I am announcing the hosting of the 2nd Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management at Dhaka, Bangladesh, during May 15-16, 2018.

After successfully hosting its first such conference in 2015, where the Dhaka Declaration was unanimously adopted, we hoped this will become a regular platform to talk about, share knowledge and learn from the wealth of experience of others towards making all disaster risk reduction work truly inclusive. We especially invite our colleagues, 3 persons (or bid countries other than Bangladesh) will also host the second conference in 2017.

However, due to prolonged discussions that delayed our concern last year, we decided to shift the event to early 2018.

I convey my heartfelt thanks to HE Sheikh Hasina, Honorable Prime Minister of the Government of Bangladesh, for giving her kind consent to grace the inauguration ceremony. I am grateful to the Organizing Committee, the government officials, experts, together to make this a memorable event for all. I am proud that the Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief is taking all necessary steps to make this a successful event. But success will only depend on your active participation at the conference. So I welcome you to join us at the conference in May.

Avijit Bhattacharya  
Joint Secretary

Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury (Maya) Sir  
Bikram, MP  
Minister

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



## Again in Bangladesh

### Bulletin Report

The first Dhaka Conference in 2015 brought together disability inclusive disaster risk management experts from 10 countries, they made significant contributions and presentations from 26 countries. So, besides the highly participated working sessions, it also created a platform for strong formal and informal learning, sharing and networking on a global scale. As the conference was aiming to create a demand side action to make the world a more宜居 place. Thus, as the closing motions, a declaration was made concerning, and the Honorable Minister, Ministry of Disaster Management

& Relief of Bangladesh declared the conference will be hosted again in two years time, and later on, the Organizing Committee received his acceptance of the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRMR held at New Delhi, India in 2016, which was also highly appreciated. This second conference that is being hosted again in Bangladesh. It is anticipated that some other country will take the lead in hosting the 3rd such event in 2020. The world would not be surprised if such a declaration is adopted at the closing session of this conference on 17th May 2018.

I would like to congratulate the Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief of the Government of Bangladesh for hosting the 2nd International Conference on Disability & Disaster Risk Management in May 2018. The first conference held in 2015 was a grand success, and resulted in the adoption of the Dhaka Declaration which focus on advocacy and implementation advocacy among countries. Two years down the road, it would be worthwhile looking back, and compare it to where we are now, to see whether we have moved in the right direction, and where we need to go from here. This conference, I believe, will help plan our future endeavours.

It is a wonderful to learn that the government is involving honorable minister and senior officials in disaster management from several other countries, besides experts and professionals from the non-government sector but are gradually expressing interest to join. This reflects the fact that disaster risk management is everybody's responsibility, it needs to happen in a coordinated manner, but it cannot be done efficiently without addressing issues that concern persons with disabilities.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you again in Dhaka, I am confident that it will be an exciting opportunity for all of us to learn from each other.

**Sohma Hossain**  
International Food Policy Advisory Group on  
DRMR, Bangladesh  
and  
WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Autism in South-  
East Asia Region



## Welcome to The 2nd International Conference on Disability & Disaster Risk Management

It is an honor and a privilege to welcome you all to the 2nd Conference on Disability & Disaster Risk Management, scheduled during 15th till 17th May, 2018 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief of the Government of Bangladesh is hosting this event, with several civil societies and departments of the government and a host of non-government entities. All events and sessions of the conference will be held at the state-of-the-art and purpose built Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

I am indebted to our advisors, especially Mr. Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, M.P.; Honorable Minister, Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief and Ms. Sufia Hossain, Chairperson, National Task Force on Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Management, for their advice and guidance.

A large contingent of dedicated people is working hard to make this a successful and memorable event for all. Besides the Organizing Committee, twelve sub-committees have started working behind the scenes, and a few more will get into action soon. I invite you all to keep following this website, where all necessary information will be updated on a regular basis. You can also contact the conference secretariat, for any specific information you may require.

We look forward to seeing you at Dhaka in May!

**Md. Shah Kamal**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

## 2nd International Conference on Disability & Disaster Risk Management

May 15, 2018



## In Solidarity

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## Disabilities needs different assistance

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Sohma Hossain for her conviction and passion and for helping us understand that Disability Matters. We are not discussing about disabling as a small number. We are talking about 15-20 per cent of world population. This is of great importance. Global leaders set out SDGs that NO ONE WILL BE LEFT BEHIND. Bangladesh alone cannot spread the message.

Carlos Kaiser, ONGO Initiative, Chile and global expert said "I received great honor to be here, because he's in a country he admires the most. Bangladesh is in my heart. Referring to the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, he said, he has first taken initiative to rehabilitate the disabled people seems like a dream come true."

"I faced a lot of difficulties. I am from Chile, and we face earthquakes. When you are weak, you have to be strong, when you have nothing, you have to pretend you have everything. We need to encourage our leaders and our government to follow the good path set by Sheikh Hasina, in supporting the disability inclusive DRM agenda", he said.

He also said, "You are tigers, you have to show the world how to be strong and lead the way".



## Int'l confce on disability-disaster risk management begins in Dhaka

### Bulletin Report

More than 100 experts from 33 countries will gather here from tomorrow for discussing different aspects on Disability and Disaster Risk Management (DDRM) as Dhaka is set to host an international conference on DDRM for the second time. "We are the only country in the world that focuses disability and disaster management at the highest level... This conference is another milestone for us to show our capacity to international audience," the chief guest said.

Minister Md. Md. Asaduzzaman Chowdhury, who is also minister of the prime minister's office, said in a press conference on Tuesday morning in the capital. Moga said Bangladesh is going to host the 2nd conference with the participation, patronisation and guidelines of Saima Hossain, the daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is the international focal point of advocacy group on DDRM, Bangladesh and WHO's goodwill ambassador for autism in South East Asia region. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the three-day conference at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) while Sama Hossain will write a welcome speech. The minister said they are expecting 3,000 participants including 113 world renowned experts from 33 countries including four from Bangladesh to attend the conference that is designed with five plenary sessions, 14 side-line events and 2 special events under the theme of Disability inclusive disaster risk management - today and tomorrow. Moga said Bangladesh is the first country that held the first ever international conference on disability and DRM in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-

2030 (SFDRR) in 2015 and adopting Dhaka declaration with eight goals. Sendai Framework is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR). Moga said the main objective of the 2nd conference is to share knowledge & experience and to identify future actions to improve implementation of the Sendai Framework, its regional plan and the Dhaka Declaration 2015 as well as disaster inclusive international policies.

The conference this year will also focus on addressing disability issues in the humanitarian areas, which was strongly highlighted in the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 and its relevant documents, he said. After the conference, the minister said another Dhaka declaration will be adopted with some fresh goals. He said both India and the Philippines have already showed their intent to hold the 3rd conference in their countries in 2023. "It will also be decided during the conference. In addition, The Dhaka Declaration will also support the 1st conference in Dhaka, supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework by calling for inclusion and the full and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in all disaster risk management programs, including specific actions to be undertaken by 2017. The Dhaka Declaration found its prominence at II World promoted at international, regional and at national levels by different agencies. The Declaration was made available in the accessible format, translated into different languages and referred to during the development of inclusive DRR plans and toolkits in the light of the Sendai Framework."



## Disabilities needs different assistance: saima Hossain

### Bulletin Report

World Health Organisation's (WHO) Goodwill Ambassador for Autism in South East Asia Region Saima Wazed Hossain, also International Focal Point of Advisory Group on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management of the country on Tuesday underscored the need for undertaking different kinds of assistance for disabled people across the country.

"Disabled persons need different kinds of assistance. So, we should keep a wide window open for them," she said while addressing International Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management at Bangabandhu International Conference Conference (BICC) in the city on Tuesday. She opined legal frame work is a must to rehabilitate the disabled people in the society with a view to ensuring a secure life for them. "It's difficult to change act, but it's necessary to incorporate everyone. It is important to work on this topic. This has been authenticated by UNISER. We made a significant contribution to the Sendai Framework and SDGs, and we really pushed this topic forward. We are training our people so that they can address this better. We are working on psychosocial support, trauma and providing support for the people who suffer," Saima said.

Addressing as the chief guest, Mohammad Shahidul Alam, Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Division said the government is sincerely working for the development of the disabled people. Already, we have taken several initiatives to rehabilitate the disabled people in the society so that they can contribute in mainstream economy of the country, he also said.

Saiya Brata Saha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) presented key note where he said, "We see disability as a resource. We don't want to see disability through the lens of sympathy, but through the lens of engagement". Khurshed Alam, Assistant Country Director, UNDP, Bangladesh said, "I must thank Continue Page 3