

Natasha M. Udu-gama

Objective To gain and provide disaster risk reduction expertise to community-based NGOs so as to ensure efficient and effective disaster risk reduction practice.

Natasha Udu-gama is a disaster risk management specialist. Her research interests include appropriate technologies for community-based disaster risk information systems in poor urban areas and information technologies for risk communication. Ms. Udu-gama has research and training experience in community-based disaster management; research evaluation and monitoring of disaster risk reduction information; and, preparation and presentation of projects. Further, she has experience research, writing and editing project proposals and Expressions of Interest (EOIs); creating a disaster risk reduction center strategic plan; supporting development of relevant resources and tools; generating project budgets; producing & designing websites for employers and relevant projects; and, coordinating international fora.

Education

2003: MSc., Disaster Management, Royal Military College of Science – Cranfield University, Shrivenham, Wiltshire, United Kingdom

2001: B.A., International Affairs and International Development Studies, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA

Languages English (native), French, Spanish, Sinhala

Computer Skills Macromedia Dreamweaver and Fireworks; Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, FrontPage, Project, Outlook; Adobe Acrobat and Photoshop. Operating Systems: Windows, Mac OS X, Unix

Countries of Work

Experience U.S.A., Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Nicaragua, Jamaica

Experience

- Aug. 2007 – Present **HazInfo Project Dissemination Manager**, LIRNEasia
Colombo, Sri Lanka, www.lirneasia.net
- Responsible for the dissemination of results from the “Evaluating Last-Mile Hazard Information Dissemination”(HazInfo) Pilot Project through 4 international conferences.
- Dec. 2006 – Jul. 2007 **Consultant**, Sarvodaya Community Disaster Management Centre (SCDMC)
Lanka Jathika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya
Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, www.sarvodaya.org
- Developed a 5-year strategic plan for SCDMC.
 - Produced a US\$10 million 5-year proposal for SCDMC development
 - Coordinated forum on Last Mile Hazard Warning System project with village volunteers, national and international experts.
- Jul. 2004 – Jul. 2006 **Research Associate**, Disaster Risk Reduction Program (DRR)
Advanced Research Institute – Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Arlington, Virginia, USA, www.ari.vt.edu/DRR
- Networked with international agencies, national ministries, universities and community organizations for project consultations in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh & Thailand.
 - Designed presentations for international conferences and NGO/government agency consultations.
 - Initiated public relations outreach through design & maintenance of the DRR website.
- Oct. 2003 – Jun. 2004 **Project Assistant**, World Institute for Disaster Risk Management, Inc. (DRM)
Alexandria, Virginia, USA
- Manually designed a seismic microzonation map illustrating areas of ground shaking, liquefaction and landslide risk in Turkey.
 - Coordinated international experts in the US, Switzerland & Turkey to complete a series of seismic microzonation publications for the Turkish government.
 - Designed and managed a Microsoft Access database with more than 100 international and national industry experts & consultants.

- May – Jun. 2003 **Research Consultant**, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)
Ahmedabad, India
- Initiated research on appropriate information technologies for disaster risk information dissemination in urban information centers for slum communities in Bhuj, Gujarat.
- Jan. – Feb. 2003 **Field Consultant**, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)
Ahmedabad, India
- Investigated community-based information strategies for disaster risk reduction.
- Feb. – Apr. 2002 **Volunteer**, Cross Cultural Solutions (CCS)
New Delhi and Rajgarh, Himachal Pradesh, India
- Taught Macromedia Dreamweaver and Microsoft PowerPoint and Excel to 10-15 students ranging in age from 9-20 at Katha Khazana school in Govindpuri, New Delhi.
 - Conducted water surveys for ARTI (Action Research and Training Institute) in 15 communities in Himachal Pradesh.
 - Designed and carried out health surveys for a CCS initiative.
- Jul. 2001 – Feb. 2002 **Program Assistant**, The Century Foundation (TCF), Washington, DC USA
- Organized & facilitated a series of workshops on US-Russian affairs.

Conferences/Trainings

- Mar. 2007 **Sharing Knowledge on Disaster Warning, with a focus on Community-based Last-Mile Warning Systems (Forum)**
Facilitator and Presenter
Sarvodaya/LIRNEasia, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
- Feb. 2007 **Training of Untrained Village Workshop on Last-mile HazInfo Project**
Presenter – “Community Disaster Risk Reduction Universal Norms and Best Practices”
Sarvodaya/LIRNEasia, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
- Dec. 2005 **First Bangladesh Earthquake Symposium (BES-1)**
Presenter
Bangladesh Earthquake Society, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Apr. 2005 **Rapid Environmental Assessment Tool Workshop**
Benfield Grieg Hazard Center - University College London, CARE, USAID
Arlington, Virginia, USA
- Jun. – Aug. 2002 **Disaster Action Team (DAT) Courses**, American Red Cross, Arlington, Virginia

Publications

Godavitarne, Chandra, Natasha Udu-gama, Mathini Sreetharan, Jane Preuss and Dr. Frederick Krimgold. “Social and Economic Prerequisites for Recovery in Sri Lanka.” *Earthquake Spectra*. June 2006 -- Volume 22, Issue S3, pp. S845-S861.
Online:
<http://scitation.aip.org/getabs/servlet/GetabsServlet?prog=normal&id=EASPEF0000220000S300S845000001&idtype=cvips&gifs=yes>.

Krimgold, Dr. Frederick, Keith Critchlow, Natasha Udu-gama. “National Capital Region Critical Infrastructure Protection Program: Emergency Services Sector Report.” George Mason University School of Law: Critical Infrastructure Protection Program. September 2005. Online: <http://cipp.gmu.edu/archive/Vol-06-Emergency%20Services.pdf>.

Udu-gama, Natasha. “Evacuation and Sheltering in the City of Danville, Virginia.” City of Danville, Virginia and Disaster Risk Reduction Program (DRR), Virginia Tech. May 2006.

World Institute for Disaster Risk Management, Inc. and General Directorate of Disaster Affairs, 2004: Seismic Microzonation for Municipalities. Executive Summary, Pilot Studies, Manual, State-of-the-Art Report. Online: http://www.drmonline.net/drmlibrary/pdfs/MERM_Executive_Summary_2004_03_E.pdf.

REFERENCES PROVIDED UPON REQUEST