**Sharing Knowledge on Disaster Warning: Community-based
Last-Mile Warning Systems**
Dhaka, Bangladesh
October 25, 2007

Objectives

- Discuss and obtain feedback on the findings of "Evaluating Last-Mile Hazard Warning Dissemination: A Research Project"
- Exchange lessons learned from end-to-end hazard detection and alerting systems that serve grassroots communities in Bangladesh
- Merge knowledge from Bangladesh to develop practical solutions for communicating risk information to rural communities
- Analyze and determine methodologies for measuring the performance of Community-based Early Warning Systems
- Commence dialogue on the development of a regional last mile warning system

Key Words

Last-Mile, All-Hazard, Community-based, Message Relay, Information Communication Technology, Common Alerting Protocol, Disaster Resilience, South Asia

Workshop Announcement

LIRNE*asia*, in partnership with Sarvodaya, is organizing a series of dissemination workshops in the South Asian region to improve and discuss the findings from "Evaluating Last-Mile Hazard Information Dissemination Research Project"; namely the "HazInfo" project. This "Last-Mile" project reflects Sarvodaya and LIRNE*asia*'s shared objective of evaluating the suitability of information communication technology (ICT) for the last mile of a national disaster warning system for Sri Lanka and possible extension to other developing countries. This series of dissemination workshops aims to gather experts, community volunteers and community organizations involved in early warning activities from the South Asian Region.

1 Day Program

	Inauguration	
0900-0910	*Welcome and Participant Introduction*	Ms. Natasha Udu-gama, HazInfo Project Dissemination Manager, LIRNE*asia* & Prof. Dr. Mehedi Ahmed Ansary, Project Director, BNUS, BUET
0910-0920	*Elements of a Community-Based Warning System*	Dr. Rohan Samarajiva, Executive Director, LIRNE*asia*

SESSION I –	**Determination of Hazard from National Level**	*How long does the decision take before the "button" is pressed?*
0920-0930	*Sri Lanka Experience*	Ms. Natasha Udu-gama, HazInfo Project Dissemination Manager, LIRNE*asia*
0930-0940	*Bangladesh Experience*	Prof. Dr. A. A. Khan, Vice President, Bangladesh Earthquake Society (BES); Secretary General, Geohazard Research Advancement for Bangladesh (GRAB); Department of Geology, University of Dhaka
0940-1000	*Discussion*	
1000-1030	Tea/Coffee	

SESSION II –	**Transmission of Warning to Local Levels**	*How does the signal go? How long does it take? What are the problems?*
1030-1045	*Bangladesh Experience*	Mr. Md. Nasir Ullah, Director, Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP), Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
1045-1100	*HazInfo Sri Lanka Experience*	Mr. Nuwan Waidyanatha, HazInfo Project Manager, LIRNEasia
1100-1120	*Discussion*	

SESSION III –	**First Responder Action**	*Do warnings reach all of those at risk? Are the risks and the warnings understood? Is the warning information clear and useable? Does it address All-Hazards? Is their ongoing measurement for upgrade?*
1120-1130	*Bangladesh Experience*	Dr. Ashutosh Sutra Dhar, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Civil Engineering, BUET
1130-1140	*HazInfo Sri Lanka Experience*	Mr. Nuwan Waidyanatha, HazInfo Project Manager, LIRNE*asia*
1140-1200	*Discussion*	

| 1200-1300 | Lunch | |

SESSION IV -	**Methodology, Preparedness, Training and Community Organization**	*What methodologies have been used to measure effectiveness?* *What are best practices in monitoring & evaluation of effectiveness?* *Are local capacities and knowledge made use of?* *Are people prepared and ready to react to warnings?* *What training is required? Who should provide it?* *Are communities organized? What is an organized community? How is organization determined?* *What role do specific community groups play?*
1300-1330	*Bangladesh Experience*	Mr. Moloy Chaki, Program Coordinator, Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center
1330-1345	*HazInfo Sri Lanka Experience – Methodology & Preparedness*	Mr. Nuwan Waidyanatha, HazInfo Project Manager, LIRNE*asia*
1345-1400	*HazInfo Sri Lanka Experience – Training & Community Organization*	Ms. Natasha Udu-gama, HazInfo Project Dissemination Manager, LIRNE*asia*
1400-1415	*Discussion*	
1415-1445	Tea/Coffee	

SESSION V -	**Next Steps**	
1445-1500	*Role of Policy Makers, Regulators, Private Sector, & Civil Society*	Dr. Rohan Samarajiva, Executive Director, LIRNE*asia*
1500-1515	*Regional Coordination of Last Mile EW Systems*	Mr. K. H. Massud Siddiqui, Director General, Disaster Management Bureau (DMB), Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
1515-1530	*Discussion and Concluding Remarks*	