



America with Kerala

Uniting for a Disaster Resilient Kerala

Date: July 23–25, 2019

Venue: Hotel Riviera Suites, Kochi, Kerala, India

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Event Report

Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Kochi with support from the U.S. Consulate General in Chennai and Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) organized a three-day event in Kochi from July 23–25, 2019, as part of a four-month project to conduct awareness workshops on disaster management in three cities in Kerala: Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode. The event comprised of three set of sub-events which were a **two-day thematic workshop on Policy Planning and Infrastructure Development Workshop** (July 23–24, 2019) to outline effective and sustainable policy and planning approaches to disaster management and a **one-day workshop and training program on Disaster Management, Preparedness and Resilience** (July 25, 2019) to provide various stakeholders with the knowledge and skills needed to perform key tasks prior to, during, and after emergencies. Five **breakout events** were organized in the city to build widespread awareness on disaster management among the public.

Day 1: Policy Planning and Infrastructure Development Workshop

Inaugural Ceremony

The second leg of the project ‘America with Kerala: Uniting for a Disaster Resilient Kerala’ was inaugurated by Ms. Soumini Jain, Mayor, Kochi Municipal Corporation on July 23 at Hotel Riviera Suites in Kochi. Mr. S. Suhas IAS, District Collector, Ernakulam; Dr. Uma Vasudevan, District Project Officer, UNDP, Ernakulam; Mr. Moulik D Berkana, Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Consulate General in Chennai; Ms. Amy Chester, Managing Director, Rebuild by Design, New York; Dr. Himanshu Grover, Co-Director of the Institute for Hazard Mitigation and Planning, University of Washington; and Dr. D. Dhanuraj, Chairman, CPPR were the other dignitaries present at the inaugural ceremony.



Top: Dignitaries inaugurating the event by lighting the lamp. Below, from left: Dr. D. Dhanuraj, Chairman, CPPPR; Ms. Amy Chester, Managing Director, Rebuild by Design, New York; Mr. Moulik D Berkana, Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Consulate General in Chennai; Mr. S. Suhas IAS, District Collector, Ernakulam; Ms. Soumini Jain, Mayor, Kochi Municipal Corporation; and Dr. Himanshu Grover, Co-Director of the Institute for Hazard Mitigation and Planning, University of Washington.

Dr. Uma Vasudevan delivered the welcome address and conveyed that it was a very relevant time for conducting workshops, discussions and sharing experiences marking a year of Kerala's deluge. She said that during disasters it is the efficiency of the leadership and the coordination that matters most and Kerala is fortunate to have district administrators as leaders who have helped and guided us through disasters.

Mr. Moulik Berkana in his introductory remarks described the 'America with Kerala' project as a program designed to share key lessons and best practices from the U.S. experiences with relevant agencies and stakeholders in Kerala. He said that the program will also be an opportunity for the U.S. experts to learn from Kerala's experience managing disasters. He also mentioned that it will also contribute to Kerala's disaster management capacity and overall connections with the U.S. He emphasized the need for recognizing the present challenges caused by natural and human-made disasters around the world. The frequency, magnitude and numbers of natural disasters have been increasing and their impact has also increased considerably with the continuing growth of world population and related development activities. He pointed out that given the scale of disasters, there is an urgent need to look for ways to address them and respond in an effective and efficient manner, which will be the main goal of 'America with Kerala'.

The District Collector of Ernakulam Mr. S. Suhas IAS, who was the District Collector of Alappuzha during the 2018 Kerala Floods, in his presidential address, shared his experiences and challenges faced by the rural district during the deluge. He took the audience through the dreadful and challenging experiences of the massive exercise of evacuation efforts, especially in Chengannur, Kuttanad and Pandanad, which were the areas severely affected by the floods. He also highlighted the synchronization of the district administration, elected representatives, NGOs, civil societies, armed forces, Police and the cooperation of common people who worked together and became part of the rescue and relief efforts.

In her inaugural address, Ms. Soumini Jain said that the devastating floods that Kerala witnessed in August last year was a powerful wake up call for all. The city is undergoing the rebuilding process and the Municipal Corporation has taken leadership in preparing a disaster preparedness plan which is in its final stage. She pointed out the importance of green infrastructure as a powerful tool for disaster prevention and resilience. She also stressed on the need to have a master plan for Kochi on disaster management. People should be trained not to panic during extreme events and make them ready to face any situation or help in mitigating the after-effects of a disaster. She also urged to prevent/minimize human interventions in nature, which is one of the main causes for climate change, and called for promoting better civic sense among people by providing necessary training.

Dr. Himanshu Grover during his remarks said that disasters are in fact caused by the overlap of the extreme natural events and the human system — our built environments. He said that the insensitive growth and development has led to increased exposure to risks in the past few decades as a result of which natural events have resulted in disasters. He said that the floods are a kind of a classic example of how development in the flood-prone regions resulted in exponential losses subsequently.

Ms. Amy Chester said that it was not until Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005 that the U.S. had a taste of what the nature could bring. With the climate change, we are now facing an increase in temperature, occurrences of storms and fires, and sea-level rise. She highlighted the need to get smarter about addressing disasters in this background. She hoped that the U.S. can learn from places

like Kerala that have faced different types of disasters and Kerala can also learn a lot from the U.S. She also talked about the collaborative infrastructure research and design that addresses challenges of all sizes and scales, and enhances communities on days that are both dry and wet.

CPPR Chairman Dr. D. Dhanuraj, while delivering vote of thanks, gave an introduction about how the ‘America with Kerala’ project evolved and the details of the project. He thanked all the dignitaries, participants, colleagues and media for their presence and solicited their support to make the event a success and deliver a fruitful outcome.

Session 1: ‘Creating Resilient Infrastructure to Address Disasters — An American Perspective’ by Ms. Amy Chester, Managing Director, Rebuild by Design

Ms. Chester explained the importance of physical and social resilience of a community, which are interdependent and are crucial for the communities’ disaster preparedness and resilience. Using examples from different cities in the U.S. and around the world, she explained the need to adapt to such situations using ‘design’ as a tool. Disaster resilience of a community should be analyzed from different perspectives such as physical, social, ecological and governmental for formulating effective strategies. She pointed out that in the U.S. \$1 spent on Disaster planning yields \$6 in future benefits.

She also emphasized on the importance of vulnerability mapping, which should not be restricted to physical but include social and economic vulnerabilities as well, and collaborative effort by public and private sectors for improving resiliency. Through her presentation, she pointed out that creating resilient infrastructure would mainly consist of two stages: Collaborative Research and Collaborative Design, which primarily advocate involving stakeholders from different fields and communities to address the challenges and come up with solutions which will sustain. Through two of her projects ‘The Big U’ and ‘Living Breakwaters’, she explained how the design acted as social infrastructure and also responded to natural hazards.

A different approach is what is required to create a resilient community. This will include initiating, developing, organizing, testing, analyzing and promoting inclusive and collaborative design-driven innovation processes with communities and governments on a regional scale seeking transformative approaches to resilience in the face of future uncertainties, especially those due to the climate change. The approach should be interdisciplinary, inclusive, regional, collaborative, replicable, comprehensive and implementable. She also gave an insight into various planning tools like zoning, responsive building codes, Transfer of Developmental Rights (TDR), responsive urban design principles, etc. used in the U.S. in response to disasters such as Hurricane Sandy.

Session 2: ‘Planning and Infrastructure Development for Disaster Risk Reduction: An Overview’ by Mr. S. Ajaya Kumar, Former Chief Town Planner, Kerala State TCPO; Former Chairman, Kerala Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA)

Mr. Ajaya Kumar started his presentation by stating that “disasters cannot be avoided but their effects can be minimized”. He mentioned that the cost of natural disasters is enormous and a developing nation like India cannot afford it, which emphasizes the need for improved disaster prevention plans

and strategies. Disaster Mitigation Process would include approaches taken before, during and post disasters. Interventions through acts, rules, regulations, advisories, institutional setup, capacity building and infrastructures are instrumental in the ‘before disaster’ phase. He also cited the need for having an SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for effective and efficient response and evacuation during disasters. The State of Kerala is prone to natural disasters such as floods (both urban and riverine), fires and landslides which affect various services like power supply, road transport, ATM, railways, airport, drinking water supply, waste water system, communication system, storm water system and healthcare. Risks caused by disasters could be controlled by rational land utilization, development of control strategies and disaster responsive building construction methods. These could be achieved by legalizing and implementing the Master Plans, Building Rules and Building Codes. Mr. Ajaya kumar urged the need for compensating the people affected and likely to be affected by disasters using tools like TDR (Transferable Development Rights). He also mentioned that TDR is introduced in the Kerala Town and Country Planning Act, 2016. Man-made construction and interventions are the major reasons which disturb the natural coping mechanism and cause disasters. Multi-utility of spaces can be a solution to this; for example, duplicating parks as retention ponds. He also threw light on various strategies to prevent/control landslides and fire.

He also noted that the Smart Cities Mission can contribute largely in the field of disaster management. The Integrated Command Control and Communication Centre shall be the city’s emergency and disaster management platform which will have an integrated single source of information, where information from different functional departments (electricity, water, transport, Municipal Corporation, fire, Police, meteorology, tourism, etc.) can be assimilated and analyzed. The Integrated Traffic Management System can also prove instrumental in this field.

Focus Group Discussion

The inaugural session was followed by a two-day Focus Group Discussion on Policy Planning and Infrastructure Development. (The details of the same are given in the succeeding pages)

Day 2: Policy Planning and Infrastructure Development Workshop (Continues)

Session 3: ‘Adaptive Planning for Urban Resilience and Increasing Resilience through Multi-stakeholder Participation’ by Dr. Himanshu Grover, Co-Director of the Institute for Hazard Mitigation and Planning at College of Built Environments, University of Washington

Dr. Grover started his session by stating a definition of disaster, which means *beyond the coping capacity*. Hence, becoming more prepared and resilient to a disaster can be achieved only by increasing the coping capacity of various social establishments like individuals, communities, institutions, etc. He had also explained that the vulnerability of a place is determinant of its social and biophysical vulnerability. The disaster management cycle is comprised of four major phases: Response, Recovery, Mitigation/Prevention and Preparedness. The communities should evaluate themselves with respect to these and accordingly increase their coping capacity. Through the experience of the U.S. he explained the need for an all-hazards approach and ‘dual-use’ principle of generalizability and cost-effectiveness. He mentioned that community resilience could be achieved by adaptive planning for disaster risk reduction. Dr. Grover stated various measures that could be taken

to achieve resilience under the four major phases in the disaster management cycle. Some of the structural and non-structural measures to be taken during the hazard mitigation phase are checking the condition of structures; establishing and implementing building codes and standards; establishing policies and regulations; and educating community members to respond to a disaster. The preparedness phase would include installation of warning and information dissemination systems; development of evacuation plans; stockpiling resources; and training emergency personnel. The response phase would address to the immediate needs of the affected, like providing means of transportation and evacuation, medical attention and shelter needs. In the last phase, i.e. recovery, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities should be taken up. He ended his session by highlighting the role and importance of multiple actors in field of disaster management, who are central and state governments, local government institutions, non-governmental actors, international aid agencies and private donors.

Focus Group Discussion

The inaugural session was followed by a two-day Focus Group Discussion on ‘Policy Planning and Infrastructure Development’. Experts from diverse backgrounds pertaining to each key area were invited to participate in this workshop to outline effective and sustainable policy approaches to disaster management. The discussions investigated five infrastructure aspects mentioned below:

1. Resilience of Transportation Infrastructure System
2. Water Supply, Waste Management and Sanitation
3. Health & Emergency Management Services
4. Energy Supply and Communication
5. Resilient Building Infrastructure & Land Management

On day 1, the groups discussed their vision for Kerala 2040 and the challenges to overcome with respect to disaster management. On day 2, the groups deliberated upon the learnings from the 2018 Kerala floods and the way forward regarding each of the key areas in the form of policy suggestions. The discussions were moderated by Mr. Moulik Berkana, with Dr. Himanshu Grover and Ms. Amy Chester providing their inputs. On both days, after discussions and deliberations each group presented their suggestions for further interventions from the floor.

Group 1: Resilience of Transportation Infrastructure System led by Mr. G. P. Hari, Additional General Manager (Urban Transport), Kochi Metro Rail Ltd.

Participants:

1. Mrs. Tiji P. Thomas, PWD
2. Dr. Anil Joseph, IEI
3. Mrs. Smitha R. Prasad, KIIFB
4. Mr. Sooraj E., ICLEI
5. Mrs. Kamalama, Tourism Department
6. Mr. Manu G., Cochin International Airport
7. Mr. Dhilon M. S., WRI

Key points from the discussions:

- The group envisioned developing a *Mobility Master Plan*, which will comprise different modes of transport and incorporate the disaster mitigation plan.
- Lack of experience and training of decision makers is a major challenge faced in this sector. Other challenges are the need for institutional integration, capacity building to departments, non-compliance of traffic rules and regulations, and lack of retaining government officials till the completion of assigned projects.
- A dedicated 'Transport Fund' is to be set up to deal with the transport sector challenges and issues.
- Setting up a think-tank for integrated mobility planning, coordination and implementation will be effective in data collection, analysis and formulating strategies and planning.
- There is a need to prepare a comprehensive GIS database accessible to all that should include escape routes, emergency commuting ways, etc. This would be instrumental during disasters and shall be a part of the disaster mitigation plan.
- To prevent loss of assets and facilitate disaster recovery, critical assets of transport management should be kept above groundfloor level.
- There is a need for creating awareness and spreading timely information to the public. KSDMA should initiate this action by assigning the task to a nodal department.
- An SOP is to be formulated to respond to disasters. This should assign specific roles to each agency and create a common platform for all agencies.

Group 2: Water Supply, Waste Management and Sanitation led by Mr. Sujith Karun, Ernakulam District Coordinator, Haritha Kerala Mission

Participants:

1. K. J. Sohan, Former Mayor
2. Dr. Subha, CUSAT
3. Mrs. Preethimol C. K., KWA
4. Mrs. Indu V. S., ICDS
5. Mrs. Minu Paulose, PWD
6. Dr. Remya R., Sacred Heart College
7. Mrs. Fathima Thasneem, KWA
8. Mrs. Jolly. K. G, KWA
9. Mrs. Sulochana, DTPC
10. Mrs. Teresa Rani K. J.,KWA
11. Mr. Varughese C. Thomas, Malayala Manorama
12. Mrs. Anitha Mohandas, CSML

Key points from the discussions:

- Major challenges faced in the water supply sector are faulty distribution network; surface and ground water contamination; and unauthorized use of water bodies, wetlands and agricultural land for developmental activities.
- Water reserves and their conservation must be encouraged at the local level. Local reserves need to be instituted in areas where they do not currently exist.

- The group envisioned flood detectors in reservoirs, geo-tagging of wells and ponds, optimizing water distribution, protection of local reservoirs, increased practice of rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge.
- It was brought to the notice that safe drinking water protocol post calamity was something most disaster-affected individuals were aware of. This helped in controlling water-borne diseases.
- The group suggested developing a mobile application which can notify the quality of water at different locations. The data for the same could be collected by NSS volunteers who will collect samples from geo-tagged wells.
- Watershed mapping is to be done and the public should be made aware of this.
- Under the waste management and sanitation sector, some of the major challenges faced during the 2018 floods were animal carcasses disposed of unscientifically; large volume of waste materials left on the road due to lack of collection system; and lack of sanitation facilities. Dry areas which were crucial for other purposes were used to dispose of waste.
- During the time of disasters, bio-toilets and dry sanitation systems need to be established.
- Scientific protocols need to be followed for waste management.
- Six-hour model must be implemented to include 'refuse', 'rebuild' and 'regenerate'.
- Dry area mapping for waste disposal should be done and the information should reach the public.
- Waste treatment plants must be located in disaster-prone areas.

Group 3: Health & Emergency Management Services led by Mr. Hari Kumar, Regional Coordinator for South Asia, Geo Hazards

Participants:

1. Dr. Praveen G. Pai, Public Health Specialist
2. Cdr. Rajesh Ramkumar, Crisis Management Coach
3. Mrs. Prajina K., ICDS
4. Mrs. Chinchu R. Nair, ICDS
5. Mr. Sunil Kumar, INS
6. Dr. S. G. Anju, Sacred Heart College
7. Mr. Rateesh K. H., Panchayath Department

Key points from the discussions:

- Some of the major challenges in this sector pointed out by this group were lack of clear roles and responsibilities of health workers and officials, lack of institutional capacities and lack of central repository of knowledge.
- The group also pointed out that there is a need to improve the information flow by creating a central repository of knowledge and bridging the disconnect between government and private sector agencies.
- First-responder training should be given to enhance civic capacities in health emergency response management.
- There is a need to create an overall database of health capacities, networking of health facilities and means of emergency transport regardless of ownership to enhance response capacities for all hazards.

- The State Health Department should come up with a long-term disaster health risk mitigation plan.
- SOPs and treatment protocols need to be developed for efficient and effective response measures.
- Disease Surveillance softwares should be developed for reporting and monitoring diseases during disasters.
- Multiple communication channels should be developed for Public Health Communication.
- Safety and security of health-related data should be assured.

Group 4: Energy Supply and Communication led by Dr. R. Harikumar, Head, Education, Training & Research Division, Energy Management Centre, Govt. of Kerala and Mr. Anoop K. Jayan, Junior Telecom Officer, BSNL

Participants:

1. Mrs. Girija, T. C., KSEB
2. Mr. Boban C. P., KSEB
3. Mr. K. K. Gopala Krishnan Nair, IEI
4. Mr. Somu, DTPC
5. Mr. Jacob, Engineer

Key points from the discussions:

- Optical fibre technology could be used to relocate power supply to remote locations and thus prevent it from getting affected by natural disasters.
- The group emphasized on optimizing the alert mechanisms. It also pointed out that isolated locations need to be alerted immediately.
- Internet of things (IoT) should be used for data collection and analysis, which will include activities such as monitoring the level of water in dams, rivers, etc.
- The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) is introducing a mobile SIM-based Smart Meter, which will directly take live data from each connection. This shall be instrumental during disasters as the KSEB will be able to discern exactly which houses in a locality have access to power and which ones are in the need of help.
- The group suggested improving the Smart Meter by incorporating additional features such as gas sensors.
- Solar power is to be harnessed, which will provide alternate source of energy during disasters when conventional power sources are disrupted. It should be made mandatory to have alternate energy source in every house or building.
- Potential relief camps such as schools should be equipped with diesel generators for providing electricity supply during disasters.
- Landline phones were useful during the 2018 floods as their services were not much affected.
- Underground ducting of utilities will reduce related mishaps during disasters. It is one of the main features under Smart Cities Mission, a central government program.
- Data can be collected through different sources such as Smart Meters, vehicle trackers, etc. But there is a need to consolidate the servers of different data sets so that there is a single repository of data which will be useful during calamities.

- SOS applications and WiFi sharing technology in local areas must be made available.

Group 5: Resilient Building Infrastructure & Land Management led by Mrs. Surbhi Kureel, Urban Planner and Project Manager, PMC, Smart City Kochi

Participants:

1. Adv. Harish Vasudevan, Environmental Law Expert
2. Mrs. Riby Rachael Mathew, CSML
3. Mr. Chichu Khader Muhamed, KIIFB
4. Mr. Johnson Jacob, C-Earth Pvt. Ltd.
5. Dr. Deepa Balakrishnan S., CUSAT
6. Professor Kerstin Frick, SCMS
7. Ar. Jency Kuruvila, KMEA

Key points from the discussions:

- The State of Kerala does not have a Town Planning Act nor a Land Use Policy. The existing Town Planning Act is still in its draft form. This reflects the lack of vision for physical development in the State.
- The group pointed out the disconnect between different bodies and agencies such as local bodies, the Department of Town and Country Planning, etc. Hence, there is a need for an integrated institutional system and legislation for micro-planning.
- Hazard mapping at micro and macro level is to be done and the data should be made available to the public.
- The group emphasized on the need for developing and institutionalizing Integrated Infrastructure Planning throughout the State.
- Rainwater harvesting should be made mandatory in any form of land use.
- Subordinate legislation (policies, rules, etc.) related to this field should be more inclusive and it should be framed based on scientific research.
- The structural stability of a building is extremely crucial especially during the times of disasters. At present, structural vetting of private buildings is not mandatory. Hence, vetting of structural design of all the buildings should be part of the building approval process and it should be responsive to the zoning.
- The existing building codes and regulations in the State are generic, which do not respond to the location, topography and context. It should be context-specific and risk-informed.
- A 'Metropolitan Planning Committee' is to be formed for integrated planning, which should include departments such as PWD, LSGD, KSIDC, IT department, etc.
- Online platform could be used for integrating and coordinating between various departments like Land Use Board, Department of Revenue and Land Survey, Directorate of Survey and Land Records, Department of Town and Country Planning, etc. for efficient and effective physical planning.

Concluding Remarks by Dr. D. Dhanuraj

- The goal of this workshop is to come up with policy recommendations on physical planning and infrastructure sectors, which would improve their disaster resiliency.
- Data protection will remain a major challenge.
- Public-private partnerships shall be instrumental in different sectors during disasters.
- Industry-academia partnerships will lead to quality analysis and improved outcomes in this sector.
- Understanding the community and the context is crucial in developing the disaster risk reduction strategies.

Day 3: Workshop on Disaster Management, Preparedness and Resilience

The workshop on ‘Disaster Management, Preparedness and Resilience’ started with introductory remarks by Mr. Moulik Berkana. Dr. Himanshu Grover enlightened the new participants with the American context of Disaster Management. He stressed on the need for having a community responsive plan which will increase the resiliency of the community. This was followed by the sessions by other experts.

Session 1: ‘Disaster Management: An Overview in Indian Perspective’ by Dr. Sreeja Unni, Hazard Analyst, KSDMA

Dr. Unni gave the participants an insight into the history, legislation, institutional mechanism and practices concerning disaster management in the country and in the State of Kerala. Describing the disaster management perspective in Kerala, she explained the vulnerability of the State due to its unique geographical condition and high population density. Through the maps generated by the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), she explained the State’s vulnerability with respect to flood, drought, landslide and lightning. She also introduced the participants to the various publications by the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) which are in the form of guidelines, handbooks and training modules. Dr. Unni also shared a brief insight into the Kerala State Disaster Management Plan which included Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation, Mainstreaming Disaster Management, Responsibilities of Stakeholders, Disaster Response and Relief, financial arrangements and plan maintenance as some of the major focus areas. On the whole, the session gave a comprehensive understanding into the Indian perspective of Disaster Management.

Session 2: ‘Medical Preparedness Strategies’ by Dr. Alwin Antony, Assistant Professor, Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Ernakulam

Dr. Antony started his session by showing a clipping from the 2001 American movie *Pearl Harbour*. It was a scene at the Navy Hospital post the calamity where the medical staff was doing the triage. Through this, he enlightened the audience about the importance of triage during a disaster and priority

should be given to the affected based on the seriousness of the injury and resources available to save the maximum number of injured. He also pointed out the crucial role of the first responders, who are uninjured survivors, in attending the victims during a disaster. They need not be a medical staff or health worker. Dead bodies are to be handled carefully to avoid further calamities like contamination of water bodies. During the relief phase, which immediately follows the disaster, the most critical health supplies are those needed for treating casualties, and preventing the spread of communicable diseases. Dr. Antony mentioned the significance of epidemiological surveillance and disease control post disasters. The physical, social and environmental conditions both outside and inside the relief camps such as poor sanitation, outbreak of communicable diseases, ecological changes favouring breeding of vectors, contamination of food and water are extremely crucial and vulnerable to further tragedies. This needs to be addressed carefully. Dr. Antony ended the session by stating the importance of ‘training the community from within’ to deal with disasters efficiently and effectively.

Session 3: ‘Psychosocial Care in Disaster Management’ by Dr. Mohan Roy, Assistant Professor and Consultant Psychiatrist, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram

Dr. Roy pointed out that 15–25 percent of the affected population is likely to be impacted for a long period, while 2–3 percent of the population will have severe mental disorders impairing their daily lives. Hence, the role of psychological first aid and psychosocial support is extremely crucial. Dr. Roy stressed that disaster mental health assistance is more practical than psychological in nature. He emphasized the need of counsellors being active listeners. The assistance should be uniquely tailored to the communities served. The mantra for a successful intervention is an active outreach approach keeping away traditional methods and mental health labels.

Session 4: ‘Relief and Rehabilitation — Role of Civil Societies Before, During and Post Disasters’ by Mr. Madhavan N. G., Disaster Management Volunteer, Member of Prathidhwani

Mr. Madhavan shared the experiences of the members of Prathidhwani (Welfare Organization of IT Employees, Kerala), who were actively involved in relief and rehabilitation during the 2018 Kerala floods. This session threw light on the role that other communities can play during and post disasters and their significance. It included rescue operations, providing relief materials, helping in cleaning activities post floods and so on. They were also involved in empowering the weaver community of Chendamangalam who were severely affected, by helping them in making the famous ‘Chekutty Dolls’. The technological skills of the organization were put into use by creating mobile application for resource allocation during floods and website creation for providing school-kits to affected children. The major learning from this session was that during a calamity, we cannot always wait for the government to give orders or act, but give and take support from other facilitators. The session ended on the note stating the importance of taking initiative to act in the hour of need.

Session 5: ‘Responding to the Needs of Vulnerable Groups in Disaster Risk Mitigation’ by Mr. Sabith Umer, Secretary of Thanal Palliative and Paraplegic Care Society, Kerala

Mr. Umer stated that as per 2011 census, the total disabled population in Kerala is 7,61,843; but according to a report published by the UN post 2018 Kerala Floods, only around 8600 differently abled were affected by the floods, these were the people who had moved to relief camps. This skewed

information has pointed out the serious issue of lack of database management for the differently abled and the reason as to why most of them did not find the need to go to the relief camps. The relief camps lacked facilities for differently abled such as catheter (bags), colostomy bags, adult diapers, air beds, water beds, liquid food, hearing aids, western closets, etc. Mr. Umer stressed on the need for having an Inclusive DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) management. He ended his session by proposing RFT (Radio Frequency Tag) to identify the vulnerable people in the community and emphasized on the role that community could play to assist such vulnerable groups during disasters.

Breakout Events

1. A panel discussion on ‘Gender and Disaster Management’ was organized on July 24, 2019, at St. Teresa’s College, Kochi. The discussion was hosted by the Sociology Department. Mr. Moulik Berkana gave the introductory remarks. The lead panellists of the discussions were Ms. Nina Nayar and Adv. Raaga Ramalakshmi from Raising our Voices Foundation.
2. A Round Table Discussion on ‘Urban Mobility and Disaster Management’ was held on July 24th, 2019 in collaboration with Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) at the conference hall of KMRL. It was a platform for various stakeholders in the field of Urban mobility to share their experiences and learning from the 2018 Kerala floods with a focus on 'Urban Mobility' during disasters.
3. A panel discussion on ‘Socio-Economic Impact — Responding to the Needs of Vulnerable Groups in Disaster Risk Mitigation’ was organized on July 25, 2019 at Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kalamassery. The discussion was hosted by the Department of Social Work. The lead panellists were Ms. Amy Chester and Dr. Rajeev S. P. (Asst. Professor, Department of Social Work). The discussion was moderated by Dr. Sunirose I. P. (Asst. Professor, Department of Social Work).
4. A panel discussion and film screening on disaster management were organized on July 25, 2019, at Sacred Heart College, Thevara. Dr. Himanshu Grover spoke about building resilience to natural hazards through socially and environmentally just policies. Mr. Moulik Berkana and Dr. D. Dhanuraj shared their remarks on the topic. The movie *Hurricane Katrina: the Storm that Drowned a City* was screened at the college.
5. A panel discussion on ‘Resilient Infrastructure Development’ was held at Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) on July 25, 2019. This was in collaboration with the School of Engineering, CUSAT (IGBC Student Chapter under the Department of Civil Engineering). Ms. Amy Chester and Dr. Himanshu Grover were the lead panellists of the discussion.

Event Photographs



Group Photograph



Breakout Event at Kochi Metro Rail Limited



Breakout Event at St. Teresa's College



Breakout Event at Sacred Heart College



Breakout Event at CUSAT



Breakout Event at Rajagiri College of Social Sciences

America with Kerala: Media citations

Uniting for a Disaster Resilient Kerala
23rd -25th July | *Riviera Suites, Thevara*



The Hindu
23rd July

Involve communities in disaster management, says U.S. expert

Amy Chester urges governments to spend disaster relief funds wisely

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Communities have to be educated and made aware of collaborating in disaster management and mitigation endeavours. They should be told of the options available to them and encouraged to cooperate and provide feedback, Amy Chester, Managing Director, Rebuild by Design, New York, has said.

She was speaking to *The Hindu* on the sidelines of a two-day thematic workshop on policy planning and infrastructure development organised jointly by the U.S. Consulate General in Chennai, the Centre for Public Policy Research in Kochi and the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority.

In her presentation, she



Amy Chester

process that brings together global and local expertise, regional leadership and local vision to tackle multidimensional problems that harness and cultivate strong stakeholder support and government leadership.”

The government must make sure what the community wants and act ac-

difficult to work on management measures if the community is not in agreement with the plans, she said.

Communities are aware. “Don’t underestimate the awareness of communities”, she said recalling how during one of her works in Porto Rico with a group of people in the low-income category experts were able to learn more about the ground realities from the people. When data were shown to the community, they said ‘no’ because they knew what was happening at the ground level, she said.

The expert also pointed to the wise use of disaster relief money. In the U.S., every dollar spent on disaster planning yielded \$6 in future benefits, she pointed out as part of her presentation

while highlighting how government spending had risen as instances of extreme weather conditions increased. Money should be spent in such a way that the infrastructure built as relief measures served other purposes for the communities during normal times.

Mayor Soumini Jain inaugurated the workshop on Tuesday in the presence of S. Suhas, District Collector.

Experts like Himanshu Grover were among those who shared their experiences during the workshop. Uma Vasudevan, District Project Officer, United Nations Development Programme, Ernakulam, delivered the welcome speech and D. Dhanuraj, Chairman, CPPR, proposed a vote of thanks.

കൊച്ചിക്കു ദുരന്ത കൈകാര്യ പദ്ധതി: അന്തിമ ഘട്ടത്തിലെന്ന് മേയർ

കൊച്ചി • നഗരത്തിനായുള്ള ദുരന്ത കൈകാര്യ പദ്ധതി തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നത് അന്തിമ ഘട്ടത്തിലാണെന്നു കൊച്ചി മേയർ സൗമിനി ജെയിൻ.

കഴിഞ്ഞ വർഷത്തെ പ്രളയത്തിനു ശേഷമുള്ള പുനർനിർമ്മാണം പുരോഗമിക്കുകയാണെന്നും അവർ പറഞ്ഞു.

യുഎസ് കോൺസുലേറ്റും സെന്റർ ഫോർ പബ്ലിക് പോളിസി റിസർച്ചും (സിപിപിആർ) ചേർന്നു കേരള ദുരന്ത കൈകാര്യ അതോറിറ്റിയുടെ സഹകരണത്തോടെ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച 'അമേരിക്ക വിത് കേരള: ദുരന്ത പ്രതിരോധശേഷിയുള്ള കേരളത്തിനായുള്ള നയ

ആസൂത്രണവും അടിസ്ഥാന സൗകര്യ വികസനവും' ശില്പശാല ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്യുകയായിരുന്നു അവർ.

പുതിയ കേരളത്തെ നിർമ്മിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരുക്കങ്ങളിലാണു സംസ്ഥാനമെന്ന് കലക്ടർ എസ്. സുഹാസ് പറഞ്ഞു.

ലോകമൊട്ടുക്കും പ്രകൃതി ദുരന്തങ്ങൾ സൃഷ്ടിക്കുന്ന വെല്ലുവിളികളെക്കുറിച്ചു ബോധവാൻ മാരാകേണ്ടതു മുൻപ് എന്നതെക്കാരും പ്രധാനമാണെന്ന് യുഎസ് കോൺസുലേറ്റിലെ കൾചറൽ അഫയേഴ്സ് ഓഫീസർ മൗലിക് ഡി. ബെർകാന പറഞ്ഞു.

ന്യൂയോർക്ക് ആസ്ഥാനമാ

യ റീബിൽഡ് ബൈ ഡിസൈമാനേജിങ് ഡയറക്ടർ എമി ചെസ്റ്റർ, വാഷിങ്ടൻ സർവകലാശാലയിലെ കോളജ് ഓഫ് ബിരുദ് എൻവയൺമെന്റസിലെ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് ഫോർ ഹസാഡ് മിറ്റിഗേഷൻ ആൻഡ് പ്ലാനിങ് കോഡയറക്ടർ ഡോ. ഹിമാൻഷു ഗ്രോവർ, സംസ്ഥാന മുൻ ടൗൺ പ്ലാനർ അജയകുമാർ തുടങ്ങിയവർ പ്രസംഗിച്ചു. വിവിധ വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ ചർച്ചകളും നടന്നു.

ശില്പശാല ഇന്നു സമാപിക്കും. ആദ്യ ശില്പശാല തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തായിരുന്നു. അടുത്തത് ഓഗസ്റ്റിൽ കോഴിക്കോട്ടു നടത്തും.



യുഎസ് കോൺസുലേറ്റ് ജനറൽ ചെന്നെയും, സെന്റർ ഫോർ പബ്ലിക് പോളിസി റിസർച്ചും സംയുക്തമായി കേരള സംസ്ഥാന ദുരന്തനിവാരണ അതോറിറ്റിയുമായി ചേർന്ന് കൊച്ചിയിൽ നടത്തിയ അമേരിക്ക വിത് കേരള സെമിനാർ മേയർ സൗമിനി ജെയിൻ ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഡോ. ഡി. ധനരാജ്, എമി ചെസ്റ്റർ, മൗലിക് ഡി. ബെർകാന, കലക്ടർ എസ്. സുഹാസ്, ഡോ. ഹിമാൻഷു ഗ്രോവർ, ഉമ വാസുദേവൻ ഫന്നിവർ സമീപം.

The New Indian Express

25th July

Integrated agency for disaster response must

It can be the umbrella body under which various depts, NGOs and community groups can coordinate with each other in Kochi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Kochi

VARIOUS stakeholders of Kochi city's development on Wednesday pitched for the formation of an integrated agency to coordinate between various departments at the time of disasters. The agency can be the umbrella body under which various government departments, NGOs and community groups can effectively coordinate between each other, communicate and implement the plans. The stakeholders came up with the proposal at a Round Table Discussion on 'Urban

Mobility and Disaster Management' organised by Kochi Metro Rail Ltd, US Consulate General in Chennai and Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR). "The facility should be like an Operation Control Centre (OCC). At present, at the time of a disaster, various departments like Fire and Rescue Services, police, health, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority and district administration, NGOs and community groups like fishermen are actively participating in the rescue operations. However, the issue with these groups is all of them are functioning as individ-

Playing their part

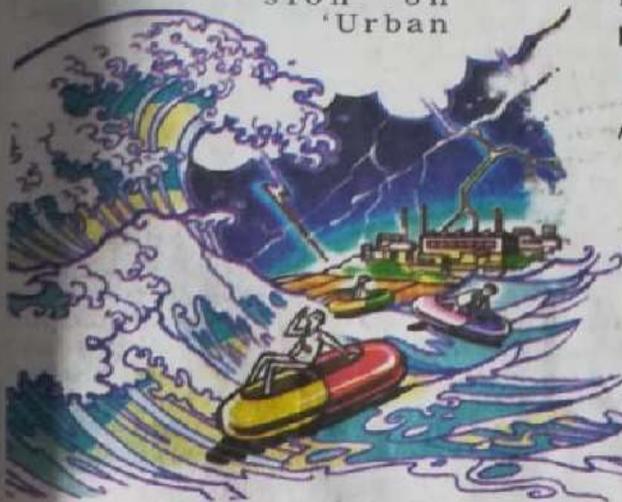
■ Rama Padiyar of the Private Bus Operators Association highlighted the contribution by private buses during the floods.

■ Disaster-resilient infrastructure and multiple connectivity options play a critical role," said advocate Majnu Komath, chairman, Goshree Action Council.

ual groups/sections. That is why the necessity for integrating them under one command centre arises," they added.

The discussion was a platform for the various stakeholders in the field of urban mobility to share their experiences and learning from the 2018 Kerala floods with a focus on 'Urban Mobility' during disasters. Hari G P, additional general manager (Urban Transport), KMRL, who chaired the round table, highlighted the active measures taken up by KMRL during the 2018 floods, offering the Metro journey free of cost for three days and transporting flood-relief materials. "An integrated transport system for the city connecting multiple modes of transport like water metro, bus, feeder systems and non-motorised transport is the key objective of KMRL," he added.

The stakeholders shared their experiences during the floods. "Kerala floods of 2018 were a great learning experience for us. We are in the process of incorporating the learning from the floods of 2018 in the revised plan so that the water metro is more resilient and responsive towards future disasters," said Ajith A, AGM, KMRL (Water Metro).





Business Standard
July 24th

Workshop on disaster management held in Kochi

ANI | General News
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The US Consulate and Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) in association with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) organized a workshop called 'America with Kerala' here on Wednesday to come up with policy recommendations on disaster management.

"The goal of the workshop is to come up with policy recommendations on disaster management for the state on how to face disasters in a better and more effective way. We have brought in a few experts to in the US Consulate General in Chennai Moulik D Berkana.

"Together we can come up with a plan that will be more effective for India and the United States. These workshops can prove to be very helpful," Berkana said.

The bodies will formulate and share a policy document on disaster management with the state government and concerned authorities at the end of this workshop.

"The US consulate extended their support and expertise on the issue when the state government was looking for help from stakeholders on the issue. It is supported by the State Department of the US through the Consulate in Chennai," CPPR Chairman Dr D Dhanuraj said.

A workshop was also organised for local bodies like Gram Panchayat, district authorities and health department officials to train them on what they can do in case of a natural calamity.

"We have also developed a 40-hour-long course on disaster relief training that can be integrated into university studies," Dhanuraj said.

"This workshop focuses on urban mobility, energy, sanitation, land management and infrastructure for disaster management to learn about the aspects we can induct in policy



Record your flood fight for future use: Expert

DC CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI, JULY 24

In the wake of occurrence of extreme natural calamities like the 2018 August floods, Kerala should constitute an inter-agency task force to coordinate disaster resilience and management programmes, remarked Amy Chester, the US municipal policy and community engagement expert who has been working on community projects in Hurricane Sandy-affected areas in the US.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the roundtable discussion on urban mobility during natural disasters jointly organised by the US Consulate General in Chennai, Kochi Metro and Centre for Public Policy Research here on Wednesday, Ms Chester, who is the managing director of Rebuild by Design, stressed the need for documenting the res-



The plan of action of the first responders is very important, which has to be properly documented for the next episode.

— AMY CHESTER,
US disaster
management expert

cue and relief operations during disasters.

“The plan of action of the first responders is very important, which has to be properly documented and used for the next episode of disasters. After occurrence hurricane Sandy in the US, a full-time resilience office was opened for disaster management. Here, everyone has ideas and plans which have to be discussed and implemented. Involvement of all stakeholders, especially first responders and community organisations has to be ensured,” she said.

Experts and stakeholders pointed out the serious lapses on the part of

government agencies in disaster management during the August floods. They also highlighted the need for an integrated plan for disaster resilience and control.

KMRL additional general manager G.P. Hari chaired the session.

CPPR chairman Dr D. Dhanuraj highlighted the need to train auto-rickshaw drivers and other stakeholders to respond during emergencies. “We are in the process of incorporating the learning from the floods of 2018 in the revised plan so that the Water Metro is more resilient and responsive towards future disasters,” said Ajith A., AGM, KMRL.

Mathrubhumi
23rd July

Mathrubhumi
24th July

നാട്ടു

സി.പി.പി.ആർ. ശില്പശാല ഇന്നുമുതൽ

കൊച്ചി ▶ യു.എസ്. കോൺസുലേറ്റ് ജനറൽ ചെന്നൈയും സെൻറർ ഫോർ പബ്ലിക് പോളിസി റിസർച്ചും (സി.പി.പി.ആർ.) ചേർന്ന് കേരള സംസ്ഥാന ദുരന്തനിവാരണ അതോറിറ്റിയുടെ സഹകരണത്തോടെ ശില്പശാല നടത്തുന്നു.

'ദുരന്ത പ്രതിരോധശേഷിയുള്ള കേരളത്തിനായുള്ള നയ ആസൂത്രണവും അടിസ്ഥാനസൗകര്യ വികസനവും', 'കേരളത്തിന്റെ ദുരന്ത പ്രതികരണ-പ്രതിരോധ തയ്യാറെടുപ്പുകൾ' എന്നീ വിഷയങ്ങളിലുള്ള ശില്പശാല ചൊവ്വാഴ്ച ആരംഭിക്കും.

തേവര റിവേര സ്ട്രീട്ടിൽ രാവിലെ 10.30-ന് കൊച്ചി മേയർ സൗമിനി ജെയിൻ ഉദ്ഘാടനം നിർവഹിക്കും.

കളക്ടർ എസ്. സുഹാസ്, യു.എസ്. കോൺസുലേറ്റ് ജനറൽ ചെന്നൈ കൗച്ചറൽ അഫേഴ്സ് ഓഫീസർ മുഖിക് ഡി ബെർക്കാന, സംസ്ഥാന ദുരന്തനിവാരണ അതോറിറ്റി മെമ്പർ സെക്രട്ടറി ശേഖർ ലൂക്കോസ് കുര്യാക്കോസ്, സി.പി.പി.ആർ. ചെയർമാൻ ഡോ. ഡി. ധനുരാജ് എന്നിവർ പങ്കെടുക്കും.

ദുരന്തങ്ങളെ നേരിടൽ: അമേരിക്കൻ മാതൃകയെക്കുറിച്ച് ശില്പശാല

▶ 'അമേരിക്ക വിത്ത് കേരള' ത്രിദിന ശില്പശാലയിൽ യു.എസ്. ഭവനനഗര വികസന വകുപ്പ് പ്രതിനിധിയും റീ ബിൽഡ് ബൈ ഡിസൈൻ മാനേജിങ് ഡയറക്ടറുമായ എമി ചെസ്റ്റർ സംസാരിക്കുന്നു

കൊച്ചി ▶ പ്രദേശവാസികളെയും വിദേശരെയും പങ്കാളികളാക്കി ദുരന്ത നിവാരണം, പ്രതിരോധം, പുനർ നിർമ്മാണം എന്നിവ സാധ്യമാക്കാമെന്ന് അമേരിക്കൻ വിദേശ. കൊച്ചിയിൽ നടന്ന 'അമേരിക്ക വിത്ത് കേരള' ത്രിദിന ശില്പശാലയിൽ സംസാരിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു യു.എസ്. ഭവനനഗര വികസന വകുപ്പ് പ്രതിനിധിയും റീ ബിൽഡ് ബൈ ഡിസൈൻ മാനേജിങ് ഡയറക്ടറുമായ എമി ചെസ്റ്റർ. ചെന്നൈയിലെ യു.എസ്. കോൺസുലേറ്റ് ജനറലും സെൻറർ ഫോർ പബ്ലിക് പോളിസി റിസർച്ചും (സി.പി.പി.ആർ.), കേരള സംസ്ഥാന ദുരന്തനിവാരണ അതോറിറ്റിയും ചേർന്നാണ് ശില്പശാല നടത്തുന്നത്. കൊച്ചി മേയർ സൗമിനി ജെയിൻ ശില്പശാല ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തു. വ്യാഴം സമാപിക്കും.



Workshop on disaster resilience begins

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: The floods of 2018 was a powerful wake-up call for all of us. The city is still undergoing the rebuilding process, and the city's disaster preparedness plan is taking its final shape, said mayor Soumini Jain after inaugurating a three-day workshop on 'America with Kerala'.

The workshop organized by US Consulate General in Chennai and Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) in Kochi, in association with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority began in Kochi on Tuesday. The project, launched last month in Thiruvananthapuram, focuses on sharing US and Indian expertise on disaster preparedness, management and resilience.

Speaking at the workshop, district collector S Suhas said: "We are on the verge of building a new Kerala. I wish this workshop gives us a different perspective on development while protecting nature."

"More than ever before, it is important today that we recognize the pressing challenges posed by natural disasters around the world. We hope the 'America with Kerala' project will contribute to Kerala's disaster management capacity and overall connection to the United States," said Moulik D Berkana, cultural affairs officer, US Consulate General in Chennai.

Experts from US Amy Chester and Himanshu Grover shared their expertise in disaster management and urban planning. The Kochi workshop focuses on central Kerala, and will feature a two-day policy planning and infrastructure development workshop that will outline effective and sustainable policy approaches to disaster management with a focus on disaster-resilient infrastructure.

Disaster plan in making: Mayor

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI, JULY 23

Kochi mayor Soumini Jain has said the city's disaster preparedness plan is taking its final shape.

Inaugurating a three-day workshop on sharing US and Indian expertise on disaster preparedness, management, and resilience here on Tuesday, Ms Jain said the 2018 August floods were a powerful wake up call for all. "The rebuilding process is still on in Kochi," she added.

US experts Amy Chester and Dr. Himanshu Grover shared their experience in disaster management and urban planning at the workshop, organised by the U.S. consulate-general in Chennai and Centre for Public Policy Research, Kochi, in association with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority.

This is the second phase of workshops and awareness creation programmes titled 'America with Kerala'.

The workshop with focus on central Kerala, is expected to come out with an outline for effective and sustainable policy approaches to disaster management with a thrust on disaster-resilient infrastructure. More than 40 participants including policy makers and emergency management officials are attending the session.

After Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi, the third workshop will be held in Kozhikode from August 26-28.

Cultural affairs officer of consulate-general Moulik D. Berkana said people now recognise the pressing challenges posed by natural disasters around the world.



Malayala Manorama: 25th July

ദുരന്തവേളകളിലെ നഗരയാത്ര: മെട്രോ ആസ്ഥാനത്ത് ചർച്ച

കൊച്ചി • യുഎസ് കോൺസുലേറ്റും സെന്റർ ഫോർ പബ്ലിക് പോളിസി റിസർച്ചും (സിപിപിആർ) ചേർന്നു സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച 'അമേരിക്കയിൽ കേരള': ദുരന്ത പ്രതിരോധശേഷിയുള്ള കേരളത്തിനായുള്ള നയ ആസൂത്രണവും അടിസ്ഥാനസൗകര്യ വികസനവും' ശില്പശാലയുടെ ഭാഗമായി കൊച്ചി മെട്രോയിൽ ആസ്ഥാനത്ത് ചർച്ചാ സമ്മേളനം നടത്തി.

ദുരന്തവേളകളിലെ നഗരയാത്ര എന്ന വിഷയത്തിലായിരുന്നു ചർച്ച. മെട്രോയിൽ യാത്രാ 3 ദിവസത്തേക്കു സൗജന്യമാക്കിയത് ഉൾപ്പെടെ കഴിഞ്ഞ വർഷത്തെ

പ്രളയകാലത്തു ചെയ്ത സേവനങ്ങൾ കെഎംആർഎൽ അർബൻ ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് അഡീഷനൽ ജനറൽ മാനേജർ ജി.പി. ഹരി വിശദീകരിച്ചു.

പ്രളയാനുഭവങ്ങൾ കൂടി കണക്കിലെടുത്താകും വാട്ടർ മെട്രോ പദ്ധതി നടപ്പാക്കുകയെന്ന് വാട്ടർ മെട്രോയുടെ ചുമതലയുള്ള അഡീഷനൽ ജനറൽ മാനേജർ എ. അജിത് പറഞ്ഞു. ന്യൂയോർക്കിലെ റീബിൽഡ് ബൈ ഡിസൈൻ മാനേജിങ് ഡയറക്ടർ എമി ചെസ്റ്റർ, ഡോ. ഹിമാൻഷു ഗ്രോവർ, സിപിപിആർ ചെയർമാൻ ഡോ.ഡി. ധനുരാജ് എന്നിവർ പ്രസംഗിച്ചു.

Deepika: 25th July

സി.പി.പി.ആർ ത്രിദിന ശില്പശാലക്ക് ഇന്ന് തുടക്കം

കൊച്ചി: യുഎസ് കോൺസുലേറ്റ് ജനറൽ ചെന്നെയും, സെന്റർ ഫോർ പബ്ലിക് പോളിസി റിസർച്ചും (സിപിപിആർ) സംയുക്തമായി കേരള സംസ്ഥാന ദുരന്തനിവാരണ അതോറിറ്റിയുടെ സഹകരണത്തോടെ സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ത്രിദിന ശില്പശാല ഇന്ന് തുടങ്ങും.

ദുരന്ത പ്രതിരോധശേഷിയുള്ള കേരളത്തിനായുള്ള നയ ആസൂത്രണവും അടിസ്ഥാന സൗകര്യ വികസനവും, കേരളത്തിന്റെ ദുരന്ത പ്രതിരോധ പ്രതിരോധ തയ്യാറെടുപ്പുകൾ, എന്നീ വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ 25 വരെ നടക്കുന്ന ശില്പശാല ഇന്ന് രാവിലെ 10.30ന് തേവര റിവേര സ്യൂട്ടിൽ മേയർ സൗമിനി ജെയിൻ ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്യും.

ജില്ലാ കളക്ടർ എസ്.സുഹാസ്, യുഎസ് കോൺസുലേറ്റ് ജനറൽ ചെന്നൈ കൾച്ചറൽ അഫയേഴ്സ് ഓഫീസർ മൗലിക ഡി ബെർക്കാന, സംസ്ഥാന ദുരന്തനിവാരണ അതോറിറ്റി മെമ്പർ സെക്രട്ടറി ശേഖർ ലൂക്കോസ് കുര്യാക്കോസ്, സെന്റർ ഫോർ പബ്ലിക് പോളിസി റിസർച്ച് ചെയർമാൻ ഡോ.ഡി. ധനുരാജ് തുടങ്ങിയവർ പങ്കെടുക്കും.

Mathrubhumi
July 25th

കൊച്ചിയിൽ 'അഭയം' യോഗ്യ പരിശീലന ക്യാമ്പ് നടത്തും. യോഗ്യരായ ഹൈസ്കൂൾ പ്രസിഡന്റ് യൂണിറ്റ് നേതാക്കളെ ഉൾക്കൊണ്ടും ചെയ്യും. യോഗ്യ പ്രസിഡന്റ് യൂണിറ്റ് എം.എൻ. സെക്രട്ടറി അധ്യക്ഷത വഹിക്കും.

അഭയസമ്പദ് പ്രദർശനം

കൊച്ചി • ഗവ. യൂണിറ്റ് സ്കൂളിൽ അഭയസമ്പദ് പ്രദർശനം സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചു. ഹൈസ്കൂൾ പ്രസിഡന്റ് കെ.കെ. ഉപേക്ഷാതി. പിടിച്ചു പ്രസിഡന്റ് എ.കെ. സുബ്ബു, ഹൈസ്കൂൾ പ്രസിഡന്റ് കോല, ബി.ആർ.സി. പരിശീലക രാജീവ്, പി.എ. അലി, എ.കെ. ഷീല എന്നിവർ പ്രസംഗിച്ചു.



കൊച്ചി സർവകലാശാല സ്കൂൾ ഓഫ് എൻജിനീയറിംഗ് ഇന്ത്യൻ ഗ്രീൻ ബിൽഡിംഗ് കൗൺസിൽ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച റീസൈലന്റ് ഇൻഫ്രാസ്ട്രക്ചർ ഡവലപ്മെന്റ് പാനൽ ചർച്ചയിൽ വാഷിങ്ടൻ അർബൻ ഡിസൈൻ ആൻഡ് പ്ലാനിംഗ് യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റിയിലെ പ്രഫസർ ഡോ. റിമോൻഷ്യ ഗ്രോവർ പ്രസംഗിക്കുന്നു. എമ്മി ചെസ്റ്റർ സമീപം.

കുസാഹിത റീസൈലന്റ് ഇൻഫ്രാസ്ട്രക്ചർ ഡവലപ്മെന്റ് പാനൽ ചർച്ച

കളക്ടറേറ്റ് • കൊച്ചി സർവകലാശാല സ്കൂൾ ഓഫ് എൻജിനീയറിംഗ് ഇന്ത്യൻ ഗ്രീൻ ബിൽഡിംഗ് കൗൺസിൽ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ച റീസൈലന്റ് ഇൻഫ്രാസ്ട്രക്ചർ ഡവലപ്മെന്റ് പാനൽ ചർച്ചയിൽ ചെന്നൈയിലെ യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റി ഓഫ് ടെക്നോളജിയിലെ യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റി ഓഫ് ടെക്നോളജിയിലെ ഡോ. സുബ്ബു അധ്യക്ഷത വഹിക്കുന്നു. നേതൃത്വം

നൽകി. വാഷിങ്ടൻ അർബൻ ഡിസൈൻ ആൻഡ് പ്ലാനിംഗ് യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റി പ്രഫസർ ഡോ. റിമോൻഷ്യ ഗ്രോവർ, ന്യൂയോർക്ക് റീബിൽഡിംഗ് ഡിസൈൻ മാനേജിംഗ് ഡയറക്ടർ എമ്മി ചെസ്റ്റർ, സ്കൂൾ ഓഫ് എൻജിനീയറിംഗ് സിവിൽ വിഭാഗം മേധാവി ഡോ. അബ്ദുൽ റഹ്മാൻ, ആഷ മേരി, ജയശ്രീ കുനിയത്ത് എന്നിവർ പ്രസംഗിച്ചു.

ഓപ്പറേഷൻ 3 ഹോട്ടലുകൾ

ആലുവ • പകർച്ചവ്യാധിനിവൃത്തി പദ്ധതിയുടെ ഭാഗമായി ജില്ലാ ഭരണകൂടം നടപ്പാക്കുന്ന ഓപ്പറേഷൻ സേഫ് റെഡ് പദ്ധതിയുടെ ഭാഗമായി നടത്തിയ പരിശോധനയിൽ 3 ഹോട്ടലുകൾ പൂട്ടിച്ചു. നഗരസഭയിലും ചുർണിക്കര പഞ്ചായത്തിലും ഹോട്ടലുകളും ബേക്കറികളും ഉൾപ്പെടെ 17 സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളിൽ പരിശോധന നടത്തി. പഴകിയ ഭക്ഷണം കണ്ടെത്തി



The New Indian Express
22nd July

'America with Kerala' workshop in city tomorrow

Kochi: The US Consulate General in Chennai in association with Centre for Public Policy Research is organising a workshop titled "America with Kerala" on July 23, aimed at sharing the US and Indian expertise on disaster preparedness, management and resilience. The workshop, to be held at Hotel Riviera Suites in Thevara, will be inaugurated by Mayor Soumini Jain. Amy Chester, Managing Director of Rebuild by Design, New York and Dr Himanshu Grover, co-director of Institute for Hazard Mitigation and Planning, College of Built Environments, University of Washington will be the experts attending the workshop which will be moderated by Moulik D Berkana, Cultural Affairs Officer at the Consulate General.

The New Indian Express
July 23rd

Home > Cities > Kochi

Raising awareness on tackling natural disasters

The events, launched in Thiruvananthapuram last month, focus on sharing US and Indian expertise on disaster preparedness, management, and resilience.



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By Express News Service

KOCHI: The US Consulate General in Chennai and Centre for Public Policy Research in Kochi, in association with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, are organising a series of workshops and awareness-building events titled 'America with Kerala' across Kerala.

The events, launched in Thiruvananthapuram last month, focus on sharing US and Indian expertise on disaster preparedness, management, and resilience.

The second workshop will be held in Kochi from July 23 to 25 to deliberate on policy planning and infrastructure development to empower disaster resilience. Mayor Soumini Jain will inaugurate the workshop on July 23 in the presence of S Suhas, District Collector.

ANI: July 24th



US panel on disaster management at America with Kerala

Workshop on disaster management held in Kochi

ANI | Updated: **Jul 24, 2019 17:01 IST**

Kochi (Kerala) [India], July 24 (ANI): The US Consulate and Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) in association with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) organized a workshop called 'America with Kerala' here on Wednesday to come up with policy recommendations on disaster management.

"The goal of the workshop is to come up with policy recommendations on disaster management for the state on how to face disasters in a better and more effective way. We have brought in a few experts to share their experiences," said Cultural Affairs Officer in the US Consulate General in Chennai Moulik D Berkana.

"Together we can come up with a plan that will be more effective for India and the United States. These workshops can prove to be very helpful," Berkana said.

The bodies will formulate and share a policy document on disaster management with the state government and concerned authorities at

Manorama Online July 24th



"ഞങ്ങൾ ഒരു പുതിയ കേരളത്തെ പുനർനിർമ്മിക്കാനുള്ള ശ്രമത്തിലാണ്. ഇത് ഒരു തുടർപ്രക്രിയയാണ്. പ്രകൃതിയെ സംരക്ഷിക്കുവാനുള്ള നടപടികൾ ശുപാർശ ചെയ്യുന്നതോടൊപ്പം വികസനത്തെ കുറിച്ച് വ്യത്യസ്തമായ ഒരു കാഴ്ചപ്പാട് ഈ ശില്പശാല നൽകുമെന്ന് ഞാൻ പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു".
2018 ലെ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്തിൽ ആലപ്പുഴ ജില്ലയിൽ രക്ഷാപ്രവർത്തനത്തിനും ദുരിതാശ്വാസപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്കും നേതൃത്വം നൽകിയ അനുഭവം പങ്കുവെച്ച കൊണ്ട് എറണാകുളം ജില്ലാ കളക്ടർ എസ്.സുഹാസ് പറഞ്ഞു.

കൊച്ചി • യുഎസ് കോൺസുലേറ്റ് ജനറൽ ചെന്നൈയും, സെന്റർ ഫോർ പബ്ലിക് പോളിസി റിസർച്ചും (സിപിപിആർ) സംയുക്തമായി കേരള സംസ്ഥാന ദുരന്തനിവാരണ അതോറിറ്റിയുടെ സഹകരണത്തോടെ 'അമേരിക്ക വിത്ത് കേരള' എന്ന പേരിൽ സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ദുരന്തനിവാരണത്തെ കുറിച്ചുള്ള ശില്പശാലകളുടെ രണ്ടാം പാദം ചൊവ്വാഴ്ച കൊച്ചിയിൽ ആരംഭിച്ചു. കഴിഞ്ഞ മാസം തിരുവനന്തപുരത്ത് ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്ത പദ്ധതി ദുരന്ത തയ്യാറെടുപ്പ്, മാനേജ്മെന്റ്, പുനസ്ഥാപനം എന്നിവയെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള യുഎസ്-ഇന്ത്യൻ വൈദഗ്ധ്യം പങ്കിടുന്നതിൽ ശ്രദ്ധ കേന്ദ്രീകരിക്കുന്നു.

കൊച്ചി മേയർ സൗമിനി ജെയിൻ ശില്പശാല ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തു. എറണാകുളം ജില്ലാ കളക്ടർ എസ് സുഹാസ് ഐഎഎസ്, മൗലിക് ഡി ബെർക്കാൻ, കൾച്ചറൽ അഫയേഴ്സ് ഓഫീസർ, യുഎസ് കോൺസുലേറ്റ് ജനറൽ-ചെന്നൈ ആമി ചെസ്റ്റർ, റീബിൽഡ്ബൈ ഡിസൈൻ (അമേരിക്ക) മാനേജിംഗ് ഡയറക്ടർ; യുഎസ് ദുരന്തനിവാരണ വിദഗ്ധനും വാഷിങ്ടൻ യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റിയിലെ കോളേജ് ഓഫ് ബിൾഡിംഗ് എൻവയോണ്മെന്റിംഗിലെ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് ഫോർ ഹസാർഡ് മിറ്റിഗേഷൻ ആൻഡ് പ്ലാനിംഗ് ഉപഡയറക്ടറുമായ ഡോക്ടർ ഹിമാൻഷു ഗ്രോവർ; ഡോക്ടർ ഡി ധനുരാജ്, ചെയർമാൻ, സെന്റർ ഫോർ പബ്ലിക് പോളിസി റിസർച്ച് എന്നിവർ സന്നിഹിതരായിരുന്നു.

"2018 ൽ കേരളം കണ്ട വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം എല്ലാവരുടെയും കണ്ണുതുറപ്പിക്കുന്ന അനുഭവമായിരുന്നു. കൊച്ചി നഗരം ഇപ്പോഴും പുനർ നിർമ്മാണ പ്രക്രിയയിലാണ്. നഗരത്തിന്റെ ദുരന്ത തയ്യാറെടുപ്പ് പദ്ധതി അതിന്റെ അന്തിമരൂപത്തിലാണ്. ഈ ശില്പശാലയിലൂടെ ഉരുത്തിരിയുന്ന അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളും നയപരിപാടികളും കൊച്ചിയെ സഹായിക്കുമെന്ന് എനിക്ക് ഉറപ്പുണ്ട്", ശില്പശാല ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ട് മേയർ സൗമിനി ജെയിൻ പറഞ്ഞു.



Workshop on disaster management held in Kochi



Kochi (Kerala) [India], July 24 (ANI): The US Consulate and Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) in association with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) organized a workshop called 'America with Kerala' here on Wednesday to come up with policy recommendations on disaster management.

"The goal of the workshop is to come up with policy recommendations on disaster management for the state on how to face disasters in a better and more effective way. We have brought in a few experts to share their experiences," said Cultural Affairs Officer in the US Consulate General in Chennai Moulik D Berkana.

"Together we can come up with a plan that will be more effective for India and the United States. These workshops can prove to be very helpful," Berkana said.

The bodies will formulate and share a policy document on disaster management with the state government and concerned authorities at the end of this workshop.

"The US consulate extended their support and expertise on the issue when the state government was looking for help from stakeholders on the issue. It is supported by the State Department of the US through the Consulate in Chennai," CPPR Chairman Dr D Dhanuraj said.

A workshop was also organised for local bodies like Gram Panchayat, district authorities and health department officials to train them on what they can do in case of a natural calamity.

"We have also developed a 40-hour-long course on disaster relief training that can be integrated into university studies," Dhanuraj said.

ETV Bharat: July 24th

ഭൂതന്ത നിവാരണ ശിൽപ്പശാല കൊച്ചിയിൽ

Published on :24 Jul 2019 , 01:07 pm IST

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എല്ലാ മില്ലുകളിലും കോളജ്-സ്കൂൾ എന്നിവിടങ്ങളിലും ഭൂതന്ത നിവാരണവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട ശിൽപ്പശാലകൾ സംഘടിപ്പിക്കും.

കൊച്ചി: 'അമേരിക്ക വിതൽ കോളജ്-ഭൂതന്തനിവാരണത്തെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള ശിൽപ്പശാല കൊച്ചിയിൽ ആരംഭിച്ചു. യു.എസ് കോൺസുലേറ്റ് ജനറൽ ചെങ്കന്നയും സെന്റർ ഫോർ പബ്ലിക് പോളിസി റിസർച്ചും സംയുക്തമായി കോളജ് സംസ്ഥാന ഭൂതന്ത നിവാരണ അതോറിറ്റിയുടെ സഹകരണത്തോടെയാണ് ശിൽപ്പശാല സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്. കൊച്ചിയിൽ നഗരവൽക്കരണത്തിന്റെ ഭാഗമായി ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന വികസനപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിൽ ഭൂതന്തങ്ങൾ സംഭവിക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ ഏതാഘാതം ശ്രദ്ധ ചെലുത്തുന്നുണ്ട്. അത്തരത്തിൽ ഇതിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും അസ്വാഭാവികമായി സംഭവിച്ചാൽ അതിനെ എങ്ങനെ ചെലുക്കുകയാണെന്ന് എന്നിവ ശിൽപ്പശാലയിൽ ചർച്ചചെയ്യും.



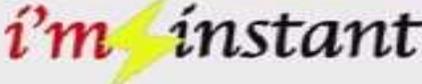


Channel I'M
25th July


Channel I'M
25 Jul at 1:41 pm




INNOVATION THROUGH MEDIA




അർബൻ മൊബിലിറ്റി ആന്റ് ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റിലെ വിഷയങ്ങൾ ചർച്ച ചെയ്ത് കൊച്ചിയിൽ റൗണ്ട് ടേബിൾ

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അർബൻ മൊബിലിറ്റി ആന്റ് ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റിലെ വിഷയങ്ങൾ ചർച്ച ചെയ്ത് കൊച്ചിയിൽ റൗണ്ട് ടേബിൾ
#Urbanmobilityanddisastermanagement
#roundtable

