



International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction- 2024

Event Name	Observance of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction
Event date	21 October 2024, Monday , 11am
Event venue	Vipanchika Conference Hall, Collectorate Kottayam
Details of the event	<p>Kerala State Disaster Management Authority and District Disaster Management Authority, Kottayam jointly organized the observance of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction with the support of the Fire and Rescue Services Kottayam on 21 October 2024, Monday at Collectorate Vipanchika Hall Kottayam. The celebrations included the gathering of the Apta Mitra Volunteers of the district and honoring of the selected top 10 volunteers along with group discussions on the invaluable experiences of the volunteers.</p> <p>The invitees were welcomed by sri.Hari K C(JS,DM) and sri.Suresh Kumar N S(HS Kottayam Collectorate) presided over the function. A total of 58 Apta Mitra Volunteers of the district, invited officials, collectorate DM section staff and DEOC staff gathered for the event. Sri.Reji V Kuriakose(District Fire Officer, Kottayam) provided an introduction and felicitated the function. He also briefed the history of formation of Apta Mitra and also highlighted the various selfless services of the volunteers especially during COVID 19, Brahmapuram Fire accident, floods, Wayanad landside rescue etc. Smt.Beena P Anand, Additional District Magistrate, Kottayam, concluded the gathering by appreciating the invaluable services of the volunteers. She</p>

interacted with the volunteers on the volunteering experiences with enthusiasm. She presented the top 10 Apta Mitra Volunteers with a badge of honor and appreciated their extraordinary volunteering efforts. The event ended with the vote of thanks by Ms.Dessy Davis, Hazard Analyst, Kottayam.

Group Discussion

Topic:- 'Building Resilient Communities Through Volunteerism'

Volunteering Experiences-

- Participation in Fumigation, cremation and other activities related to COVID 19 pandemic.
- Active volunteers during Koottickal landslide -2021.
- The label of Apta Mitra volunteer helped to speed up the rescue operations of malayali people who were stuck at Manali floods-2024.
- Took part in the rescue and relief operations during Wayanad Landslide-2024.

Ground Realities-

- Received the best training but equipments not available for ground operations.
- Sometimes Risking their lives at rescue operations.(Many faced breathing difficulties after rescue operations at Brahmapuram.Adequate health care assistance was not provided.)
- Inorder to reach locations,many of the volunteers use their own vehicles.Such expenses are sometimes unbearable.
- Required acknowledgement/consideration is not given by the authorities.
- Lack of clarity between the civil Defence and Apta Mitra structure -whether they are one or what are the specific roles.
- Funds promised for various activities,TA for training not received yet.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LSGs are not aware of the existence of such volunteers. ● Lack of discipline and coordination between state wide volunteers. <p>Way Forward-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Periodic Training required for effective action. ● A space/office is necessary to stock their own reports/materials. ● Life insurances or health care assistance needed to be considered. ● Volunteer services can be utilized during festivals-Manarcad raza,Thirunakkara Pooram, Thazhathangadi boat race,Sabarimala Makaravilakku etc. ● Uniforms with better quality cloth,suitable size and ID cards required. ● Fire and rescue services can utilize the services of the volunteers as they know the locality much better. ● LSGs needed to be aware of the volunteer system so that they can directly utilize their services during local emergencies. ● Temporary employment opportunities with the government can be given to the volunteers upon necessary qualifications as many of the volunteers are unemployed.(Security in tourist destinations,guides etc) ● The volunteers can be strengthened to be used as trainers for various training.
Number of Females	6
Number of Males	52
Number of trans genders	0
Number of children	0
Resource person/ organizer from the side of SDMA/DDMA	Jointly organized by KSDMA and Kottayam DDMA with the support of Fire & Rescue Services, Kottayam

Photos



Top 10 Apta Mitra volunteers with officials



Videos

Link to the Volunteer Responses:-

[▶ IDDRR Volunteer Response](#)
