

High Probability of Low Probability Disasters a key to supply chain management

This conference saw the convergence of speakers across the supply chain for disaster management covering critical subject areas of food chains which was covered by Mr. GianPietro Bordignon Representative of United Nations World Food Programme. Emergency medicines supply management which was presented by Mr. Bipin Verma of WHO SEARO. Other topics like warehousing, transportation, telecommunication which was covered by Tata Teleservices and Mr. Saxena of BSNL were discussed.

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The international disaster management conference inaugurated by Mr. Vinod Chandra Menon of National Disaster Management Authority which saw the convergence of speakers across the supply chain for disaster management covering critical subject areas of food chains which was covered by Mr. GianPietro Bordignon Representative of United Nations World Food Programme. Emergency medicines supply management which was presented by Mr. Bipin Verma of WHO SEARO. Other topics like warehousing, transportation, telecommunication which was covered by Tata Teleservices and Mr. Saxena of BSNL were discussed.

There is A high probability of a low probability disaster is how Mr. Menon described the urgency to have preparedness as a focal point. Nina Minka of USAID highlighted how the United States and India share a commonality of being prone countries. The Indian Incident Command System that is being established in India has been started with a pilot program in Gujarat with collaborations between U.S and Indian entities which will help to improve on site disaster response.

The organisers Responset and Omaxe Foundation brought together a host of stakeholders and disaster professionals, with the support of NDMA and IRG USAID. These delegates who will continue to interact on an online Alert Wire system of Responset to integrate telecommunications as a critical player will help to have historical and updated information for speedy relief at times of Disasters. "The conference was truly a meaningful experience and will help towards a coordinated response mechanism to be set up" was how Angela Nar of Responset.

AMS Acoustics a company involved in Voice Alarm system designs highlighted the criticality of onsite effective and reliable communications and introduced the need for voice alarms in public buildings like airports, stadiums and malls. Mr. Menon added that the period from 1990 to 2000 saw the total humanitarian aid from governments double in real terms from governments \$ 2.1 billion to \$ 5.9 billion. It was also mentioned that in the post Tsunami period - it was estimated that the aid budget may have grown to \$ 12 billion. Mentioning that - he also stressed upon the contribution of large governmental donors like USA and European Union contributing 33% and 10% of humanitarian aid in recent years. Also - countries like Japan - Canada - Australia and a few European countries are contributing to the humanitarian aid in a big way.

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