

The 2nd Asia-Pacific Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation

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Lessons learned from the devastating floods in
Honiara on April 2014.

A presentation by Deputy Mayor -

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APRIL 2014 FLOODS

- © On 1st to 4th April 2014, a low pressure system caused very heavy rainfall in Solomon Islands, leading to extensive flooding and the loss of 22 lives.
- © On 3rd April, flash flooding of the Mataniko River in Honiara caused extensive damage (worst flood in Honiara in living memory).
- © The World Bank estimated that the economic value of the flood's impact was SBD\$787.3 million (USD\$107.8 million).



Public Education and awareness

- ◎ Development of simple of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Material (fliers, posters, videos, etc.) and pre-positioning IEC Materials at all areas of the City including Provinces.
- ◎ Increase and expand disaster related awareness programs/outreach to all communities within the City and the Provinces.

Disaster Risk Management Training/Courses

- ◎ National Disaster & Management Office must develop and implement DRM trainings and courses
- ◎ Integrate DRM in Education Curriculum (ECE, Primary, secondary and Tertiary)

Capacity Building

- ◎ The various clustered groups with their respective responsibilities to be educated and trained for team approach working environment
- ◎ All Disaster Management Stakeholders and Partners must ensure and develop relevant DRM arrangements and systems in place within their respective organisations

Volunteerism

- ◎ Establish volunteerism programs for various groups in communities to assist in emergencies on all areas of disaster management operations
- ◎ Have ongoing practical activities for the established groups within their respective communities

Camp Management

- ◎ Develop standard guidelines for camp management to include establishing and managing Evacuation Centres and Camps.
- ◎ Trainings for Evacuation Centre or Camp Managers.
- ◎ Set guidelines for inclusion of people with special needs and also gender

Modify human use of hazard areas

- ◎ Improve land use planning.
- ◎ Review the Local Planning Scheme which shows the extent of April 2014 floods, as well as areas at risk of storm surge.
- ◎ Impose special land use and building controls. So if building is allowed, it is resilient to climate change hazards.
- ◎ Provide alternative land to meet demand to discourage squatting.

Modify human use of hazard areas cont.

- ◎ Watershed management including afforestation
- ◎ Riverbank & foreshore protection and rehabilitation.
- ◎ Protect bridges etc. from debris impact.
- ◎ Vegetate steep hillside to reduce erosion risk
- ◎ Maintain flow conveyance during flooding (clear culverts, rubbish control; evaluate impact of flat plain obstructions)
- ◎ Drainage Masterplan include current assessment of assets and requirements.
- ◎ (Partly derived from World Bank Report 2014)

Modify human use of hazard areas cont.

IMPLEMENTATION

- ◎ Plans and policies are relatively easy to produce: it's their implementation that is a bigger challenge.
- ◎ Need better building control and enforcement to ensure reconstruction fits with “build back better” and squatters are prevented from building in hazardous areas.
- ◎ Assistance needed to review building code and laws, prepare resilient building standards, and fund improved construction methods.

THANK YOU.



Mouth of Mataniko
River, after April
2014 floods.