

APRIL 2017

# Information Update

CHA Information Update

## Socialization Workshop on Strengthening Government and Local Humanitarian Organizations capacity on Preparedness for Emergency Response



Following the regional initiative by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center's (ADPC) to strengthen the disaster preparedness and response capacity of Government and Local Humanitarian Organisations in Asia, a Project Socialization Workshop was Jointly organized by Disaster Management Center (DMC), Ministry of Disaster Management and ADPC in collaboration with Center for Humanitarian Affairs (CHA) on at the BMICH.

The workshop aimed at sharing the knowledge and experience of various



stakeholders on current emergency response strategies and identifying the challenges of emergency response mechanism in the country in taking forward the project "Strengthening the capacity of Government and Local humanitarian actors on Emergency Response in Sri Lanka."

Hon. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, Minister for Disaster Management, Mr. G.L Senadeera, Director General, DMC, Mr. Sisira Kumara, Head, Training Services Department, ADPC, Mr. Jeevan Thiagarajah, Chairman, CHA and many national / local government



officials, representatives from I/NGOs, UN Agencies, Private sector, Academia and Media were in attendance.

During the first session, in his key note, Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Minister for Disaster Management, highlighted the losses due to disasters in the past and emphasized on taking pro-active measures and local level needs to be considered. Also he mentioned that this project will help in identifying ideal locations to mitigate disaster situations and requested for

support in response preparedness.

During the technical session of the workshop following topics were discussed in five groups;

- Formulation of Local Humanitarian Partnership for Preparedness for Response in Sri Lanka.
- Strengthening Community Capacity for Preparedness and Response.
- Existing legal framework and institutional capacity of

Government agencies for Emergency Response in Sri Lanka.

- The UN, INGO role on Strengthening Local Humanitarian Partnership on Emergency Response.
- Linking media, private sector and academia for better Preparedness for Response in Sri Lanka.

The group discussion on “Strengthening Community Capacity for Preparedness and Response” was facilitated by Mr. Jeevan Thiagarajah, Chairman, CHA.

## Income generation for people with special needs



CHA advocates-

- Setting up a web site for persons with special needs to register if they wish to seek opportunities to earn working from home or any other place of convenience and to highlight their skills.
- Inviting those seeking services to place advertisements.
- Help persons with special needs present themselves in 1-2 minute audio visual clips.

## Updating NGOs – focus on the Environment

In the context of a focus on the environment it is important that the NGOs in the districts are able to educate people regarding environmental issues at local and national level highlighting the

importance of environmental management.

CHA will share material related to environmental management with NGOs that are active in the districts and keep them briefed on modern

environmental concepts, use of natural resources more efficiently, know the behavior of organism under natural conditions, etc.

# FORGOTTEN VICTIMS

Jeevan Thiagarajah

**A**n ecosystem is a community of animals, plants and microbes that sustain themselves in the same area or environment by performing the activities of living, feeding, reproducing and interacting. It is a relationship that exists between all the components of an environment. It includes plants, animals, fish and micro-organisms, including soil, water and people.

Every little animal within the ecosystem has a vital role in the well-being of the planet. If one species is rendered extinct due to some imbalance, it can have significant cascading effects throughout the rest of the chain. For example even a small bee is in fact a crucial worker in the factory of nature.

Plants, flowers and grasses do not bloom without their pollen carrying role. Even man's ability to grow certain crops is affected by the presence or absence of bees in certain cases. When the numbers of bees become low, people rent out hives and install them on sites to aid in pollination.

## IMPACT OF DISASTERS ON ANIMALS

The frequency of natural disasters has increased exponentially in the last two decades. While the debate continues about the role of climate change, it is predicted that the frequency and intensity of natural disasters will continue to escalate. Acknowledging the role of animals in our lives whether as production animals, working animals or companions expects us to ensure that protecting animals is an integral part of effective disaster planning and response.

Every year millions of animals and their owners are affected by natural disasters. Animals are affected in the same way as we and millions of animals are killed or injured as a result. Animals are also companions and are valued family members. Yet often, animals are not included in response plans, recovery projects, contingency planning and risk reduction measures, due to a number of reasons. These include insufficient knowledge and skills, lack of resources, unassigned responsibility and a lack of organisation.

This article looks at the approach India is taking with disaster

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management and its relevance

to the countries.

## INDIA'S VULNERABILITY

India is vulnerable to natural disasters with more than 75 per cent of its states being disaster-prone. The majority of livestock (nearly 70 per cent) is owned by 67 per cent of small, marginal farmers and landless people. Therefore, as in many other countries, vulnerable members of the community are most at risk (or least resilient) when a disaster strikes with potential devastating long-term effects on their livelihoods.

The loss of animals in disasters can devastate people's livelihoods. Livestock represents a safety net for many families and the loss of such productive assets will impact significantly on lives and livelihoods. Including animals in disaster loss mitigation strategies is a secure and economical long-term investment.

The power of being ready is by -

- Training people to care for animals during and after disasters
- Developing community emergency plans that include animals
- Setting up early warning systems
- Showing people how to store and protect food and water
- Demonstrating how to safely evacuate animals from danger
- Building, strengthening and securing animal shelters
- Running vaccination programmes
- Releasing public service announcements on caring for animals during disasters.

In 2013 Asia first national animal disaster management conference was held to develop a roadmap plan. It was co-hosted by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).

The road map included:

- \* Specialist training for India's National Disaster

Response Force (NDRF) to help it deliver disaster awareness and preparedness training to communities dependent on animals across the country

\* Customised training at a state level for the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) to help them increase awareness of the importance of animal protection in disasters among key stakeholders.

Following on in 2016, animals were included in the 'National Disaster Management Plan' of India. Measures to protect, rescue and care for animals during disasters will now be standard across all disaster management planning, ensuring animals are never the forgotten victims of disasters. The animal perspective covered in the National Disaster Management Plan includes search, rescue and evacuation of people and animals, prepare handbook/manuals and SOPs for evacuation of people and animals, detailed plans for close coordination with the State Government for managing the removal / disposal of carcass of animals from the affected areas as soon as possible, rehabilitation and ensuring safety of livestock and other animals; identifications of safe building and sites to serve as temporary shelters for people and livestock evacuated from localities at risk, provision of fodder for livestock in scarcity-hit areas, when required

mobilize fodder and cattle feed to meet shortages as in drought or scarcity conditions amongst others. Training and orientation programmes for State Government staff and other direct stakeholders such as civil society, media persons, elected representatives, professionals for veterinary care and support to disaster-affected animals. Incorporating disaster response, search and rescue in the training programmes of youth, such as village volunteers, protection of disaster affected animals.

### WHAT SHOULD WE DO IN SRI LANKA?

We have the same ecosystem. Our laws prescribe rights to the existence plants and animals. It follows given increases in disasters we include animals in plans to protect and recover. Protection must extend to land and water habitats. Mitigation and recovery must work in the same terrain. It has legal obligations as well as spiritual compulsions given references in some of our religious texts.

[http://epaper.dailynews.lk/art.asp?id=2017/04/25/pg10\\_0&pt=p&h=](http://epaper.dailynews.lk/art.asp?id=2017/04/25/pg10_0&pt=p&h=)



Picture by Susantha Wijegunasekara

# Promotion of professional standards

## SENSORY MOVEMENT AND RELAXATION TECHNIQUES

### SMART

#### Rationale:

Although academic curriculums focus primarily on developing the knowledge and scholastic skills of children, research indicates that the emotional balance of individuals is perhaps more important. Our children are faced with a great deal of pressure to compete, succeed and perform with little to no attention being given to their emotional well being. Children are being treated for migraine, gastritis and other stress related ailments very early in their lives, with the use of pharmaceutical drugs rather than being given opportunities to relax and be "children."

Our emotions play a critical role in the quality of our personal and professional lives. While academia exposes us to tools and technology that can help us to learn and master information which in turn may impact our intellectual intelligence, it does not replace our ability to learn, manage and master our emotions and the emotions of those around us.

SMART is a program that focuses on developing a healthy mind and body; on building a sense of "self" while developing compassion, empathy and gratitude. It attempts to nurture the quality of "selflessness" in a "selfie" culture.

#### Methodology:

SMART incorporates activities in the areas of:

- Sensory stimulation – music, art, reading thought provoking literature
- Movement – kinesiology, movement to music
- Relaxation – coloring, breathing techniques, journaling.

#### Frequency, duration and fees:

Weekly sessions (once a week) lasting one-and-a-half hours @ Rs. 750/- per student, per session. 8 weeks recommended. Material to be provided by the facilitator.

#### Facilitator:

Shalokanta Pieris Senewirathna  
Special Education Practitioner B.A. English Lit. (USA), M. A. Special Education, (USA),  
PgDip. Speech & Language Difficulties (UK) YogaKids Facilitator (Foundations) (USA)

#### Venue:

Centre for Humanitarian Affairs  
No. 01, Gower Street, Colombo 5

Further details and registration pls contact : [education@cha.lk](mailto:education@cha.lk) or Tel: 4061461/0772127926

CENTRE FOR  
**CHA**  
HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (GUARANTEE) LIMITED

## PEAK EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE BY LEARNING EFFECTIVE STUDY TECHNIQUES

#### PROGRAM CONTENT

- Understanding individuals strengths and limitation of brain performances
- Latest techniques in improving brain performance and learning
- Learning effective study techniques and memory enhancing techniques
- Developing personalized study plans.
- Addressing exam anxiety and related psychological issues.
- Adolescent well-being amidst learning

*We invite you to come and learn how to be a smart performer!!*

**Resource Persons:** The Resource persons are Board certified Consultant Psychiatrist and a Registered Clinical Psychologist involved in adolescent mental health care and research in Sri Lanka.

**Venue:** Centre for Humanitarian Affairs  
No. 01 Gower Street, Colombo 05.

On Friday May 5th @ 4- 7 pm  
Fee- Rs 3000/=

Further details and registration  
pls contact : [education@cha.lk](mailto:education@cha.lk) or  
Tel 4061461/ 0772127926

Certificate of participation awarded

No of places available: 35 ( Medium of instruction : English and Sinhalese)

CENTRE FOR  
**CHA**  
HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (GUARANTEE) LIMITED

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The Information Update is also available on the CHA website: <http://www.humanitariansrilanka.org>

For further information please contact Hashini on [info@cha.lk](mailto:info@cha.lk)