

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS

PRESS RELEASE, DATE: 23.09.2021

CUO launches 3-days online Awareness Programme on '*Disaster Risk Vulnerability Assessment and Management*' in collaboration with NIDM, Govt. of India

For implementation of the standards for early warning systems and preventive measures against natural disasters among all states, the Central University of Odisha organized a 3-days Awareness programme on '*Disaster Risk Vulnerability Assessment and Management*' through virtual mode in collaboration with National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India. The programme was launched on 22 September 2021 and will continue till 24 September, 2021. In the inaugural session, the Executive Director of NIDM, Maj Gen Manoj Kumar Bindal delivered the keynote address and Prof. Surya Prakash, Head, GMRD, NIDM introduced the major aims and objectives of this programme. Prof. S. K. Palita, Vice-Chancellor I/c of the CUO delivered the Special Address. It is the first programme under the banner of a knowledge partner with other Institutes of Govt. of India. It was coordinated by Dr. Kakoli Banerjee, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biodiversity & Conservation of Natural Resources, CUO and Ms. Dipali Jindal, Jr. Consultant NIDM. Dr. A.L. Haldar, Consultant NIDM convened the awareness programme.

Prof. Palita highlighted different types of disasters with special reference to Odisha super cyclone that occurred in 1999 and Bhuj earthquake of Gujarat which helped Govt. of India to undertake disaster management policy measures. He also mentioned praiseworthy developments of the state of Odisha in developing better preparedness strategies for disaster risk reduction and management. He thanked the role of NIDM in this regard and assured to continue association with it for capacity building, training and research.

Major General Bindal welcomed the CUO and encouraged this collaboration between the Institutes for future disaster mitigation policy measures and undertake projects too. Prof. Prakash, introduced the major aims and objectives of this programme and highlighted the UNO mandate, the Sendai Framework for disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) and also highlighted the preparedness of the State of Odisha against the maximum disasters it faces.

The inaugural session was followed by the technical session with Dr. Kakoli Banerjee, CUO Coordinator and Dr. Malay Kumar Pradhan, GM (F&B) Odisha State Disaster Management Authority. Dr. Banerjee spoke on '*Invasive Species: a Natural Disaster to Biodiversity*' highlighting the future invasive impact in Koraput District of Odisha and the steps to be taken for its prevention. Dr. Pradhan addressed on '*Challenges on Management of Chemical (Industrial) Disasters*' and highlighted on the various precautionary measures to be taken for chemical disaster outbursts in industries and the recommendations he has provided to OSDMA through his various experiences.

Each lecture was followed by comprehensive and lively interactive session where speakers responded to the questions and queries of the participants.

The Online awareness programme was participated by students and faculty from Central University of Odisha along with participation from other universities.

Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer