

Natasha M. Udu-gama

Objective To gain and provide disaster risk reduction expertise to community-based NGOs so as to ensure sustainable and effective disaster management.

Natasha Udu-gama is a disaster risk reduction specialist. Her research interests include appropriate technologies for community-based hazard information systems. Ms. Udu-gama has work, research and training experience in community-based disaster management, particularly community-based hazard information systems; research, evaluation and monitoring of disaster risk reduction information; applying best practices and policy in disaster reduction for CBO implementation; and, preparation and presentation of projects. Further, she has experience research, writing and editing project proposals and Expressions of Interest (EOIs); creating a disaster risk reduction strategic plan for an indigenous CBO; supporting development of relevant resources and tools; generating project budgets; producing & designing websites for employers and relevant projects; and, coordinating international fora.

Education

2003: MSc., Disaster Management, Royal Military College of Science – Cranfield University, Shrivenham, Wiltshire, United Kingdom

2001: B.A., International Affairs and International Development Studies, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA

Languages English (native), French, Spanish, Sinhala (basic)

Computer Skills Macromedia Dreamweaver and Fireworks; Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, FrontPage, Project, Outlook, Entourage; Adobe Acrobat and Photoshop; Apple Mac Pages, Numbers, Keynote. Operating Systems: Windows, Mac OS X, Unix

Countries of Work Experience Maldives, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Nicaragua, Jamaica, U.S.A.

Experience

- April 2008 – Nov. 2008 **Project Manager/Researcher – Uses of Cell Broadcasting for Mobiles within a Public Warning System in the Maldives**, LIRNEasia
Colombo, Sri Lanka and Malé, Maldives
- Identify the conditions for use of mobiles for disaster warning within a public warning model in the Maldives
 - Produce a report for the Telecommunications Authority of the Maldives (TAM) on the uses of cell broadcasting for public warning and general information dissemination purposes
 - Facilitate a cell broadcasting demonstration meeting with UK experts from CellAlert/CEASa International and Sri Lankan experts from MicroImage and Dialog Telekom to meet with Maldivian stakeholders (TAM, Maldives Monetary Authority [MMA], Dhiraagu, Wataniya, and other experts).
- Aug. 2007 – March 2008 **Dissemination Manager - HazInfo**, LIRNEasia
Colombo, Sri Lanka, www.lirneasia.net
- Oversight of development of the SMS messaging module for incorporation with Sahana (open source disaster management system)
 - Explore cell broadcasting proposal options in a public warning system for Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia and surrounding towns with local partners
 - Develop a disaster preparedness certification for coastal hotels in Sri Lanka as a key component for a unique public-private revenue generation scheme for Sarvodaya's SCDMC
 - Responsible for the dissemination of results from the "Evaluating Last-Mile Hazard Information Dissemination" (HazInfo) pilot project through 5 regional conferences in the South Asia (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Malaysia)
 - Research on the application of community-based early warning systems (as exemplified by HazInfo) for South Asia.
 - Responsible for lobbying and maintaining linkages with the GoSL's Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights (MDMHR) to encourage mainstreaming of HazInfo results.
- Dec. 2006 – Apr. 2007 **Consultant**, Sarvodaya Community Disaster Management Centre (SCDMC)
Lanka Jathika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya
Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, www.sarvodaya.org
- Developed a 5-year strategic plan for SCDMC.
 - Produced a US\$10 million 5-year proposal for SCDMC development
 - Coordinated forum on Last Mile Hazard Warning System project with village

- volunteers, national and international experts.
- Jul. 2004 – Jul. 2006 **Research Associate**, Disaster Risk Reduction Program (DRR)
Advanced Research Institute – Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Arlington, Virginia, USA, www.ari.vt.edu/DRR
- Oct. 2003 – Jun. 2004 **Project Assistant**, World Institute for Disaster Risk Management, Inc. (DRM)
Alexandria, Virginia, USA
- Manually designed a seismic microzonation map illustrating areas of ground shaking, liquefaction and landslide risk in Turkey.
 - Coordinated international experts in the US, Switzerland & Turkey to complete a series of seismic microzonation publications for the Turkish government.
 - Designed and managed a Microsoft Access database with more than 100 international and national industry experts & consultants.
- May – Jun. 2003 **Research Consultant**, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)
Ahmedabad, India
- Initiated research on appropriate information technologies for disaster risk information dissemination in urban information centers for slum communities in Bhuj, Gujarat.
- Jan. – Feb. 2003 **Field Consultant**, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)
Ahmedabad, India
- Investigated community-based information strategies for disaster risk reduction.
- Feb. – Apr. 2002 **Volunteer**, Cross Cultural Solutions (CCS)
New Delhi and Rajgarh, Himachal Pradesh, India
- Taught Macromedia Dreamweaver and Microsoft PowerPoint and Excel to 10-15 students ranging from ages 9-20 at Katha Khazana school in Govindpuri, New Delhi.
 - Conducted water surveys for ARTI (Action Research and Training Institute) in 15 communities in Himachal Pradesh.
 - Designed and carried out health surveys for a CCS initiative.

Conferences/Trainings

- Oct. 2008 **Second United Nations International UN-SPIDER Workshop: “Disaster Management and Space Technology – Bridging the Gap”** Bonn, Germany
Presenter, “Last Mile Hazard Information Dissemination”
Session III: Contribution of space-based technologies to existing and proposed early warning systems
United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), German Aerospace Center (DLR), UN-ISDR Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (UNISDR-PPEW), United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)
<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/unspider/workshops.html>
- Aug. 2008 **International Disaster Reduction Conference (IDRC Davos 2008)** Davos, Switzerland
Panelist, “Achieving Effective Last-Mile Early Warning: Opportunities for Community-based Approaches”
Session Name: “Implementing ICTs in Last-Mile Hazard Information Dissemination Systems through Innovative Public-Private Partnerships”
Session Organizer: P. Anderson (Simon Fraser University)
[Session Convener for a session entitled “Challenges for Adaptation for a Changing Climate”]
<http://www.idrc.info/>
- Mar. 2008 **Sharing Knowledge on Disaster Warning: Community-Based Last-Mile Warning Systems Workshop**
Organizer and Presenter – “Methodology, Preparedness, Training and Community Organization” and “Determination of a Hazard at the National Level: Sri Lanka Experience”
LIRNEasia and Indonesian Institute for Disaster Preparedness (IIDP), Jakarta, Indonesia,
www.lirneasia.net
- Dec. 2007 **Communication Policy Research South 2 (CPRsouth)**
Presenter – “A Last-Mile Hazard Warning System for disaster risk reduction in Sri Lankan villages: Community organization”.
IIT-Madras, Chennai, India, <http://www.cprsouth.org/index.html/>.
- GKP Event on the Future, Third Global Knowledge Conference, GK3**
Session Lead and Presenter – “Making Communities Disaster Resilient”
Kuala Lumpur Convention Center, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
<http://www.gkpeventsonthefuture.org/gk3/>.
- Nov. 2007 **Sharing Knowledge on Disaster Warning: Community-Based Last-Mile Warning**

Systems Workshop

Organizer, Facilitator and Presenter – “First Responder Action: HazInfo Experience” and “Transmission of Warnings to Local Level”

LIRNEasia and All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), New Delhi, India,
www.lirneasia.net

- Oct. 2007 **Sharing Knowledge on Disaster Warning: Community-Based Last-Mile Warning Systems Workshop**
Organizer, Facilitator and Presenter – “Determination of a Hazard at the National Level: Sri Lanka Experience” and “Methodology, Preparedness, Training and Community Organization”
LIRNEasia and Bangladesh Network Office for Urban Safety at BUET, Dhaka, Bangladesh,
www.lirneasia.net
- Mar. 2007 **Sharing Knowledge on Disaster Warning, with a focus on Community-based Last-Mile Warning Systems (Forum)**
Facilitator and Presenter
Sarvodaya/LIRNEasia, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
- Feb. 2007 **Training of Untrained Village Workshop on Last-mile HazInfo Project**
Presenter – “Community Disaster Risk Reduction Universal Norms and Best Practices”
Sarvodaya/LIRNEasia, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
- Dec. 2005 **First Bangladesh Earthquake Symposium (BES-1)**
Presenter
Bangladesh Earthquake Society, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Apr. 2005 **Rapid Environmental Assessment Tool Workshop**
Benfield Grieg Hazard Center - University College London, CARE, USAID
Arlington, Virginia, USA

Publications

Godavitarne, Chandra, Natasha Udu-gama, Mathini Sreetharan, Jane Preuss and Dr. Frederick Krimgold. “Social and Economic Prerequisites for Recovery in Sri Lanka.” *Earthquake Spectra*. June 2006 -- Volume 22, Issue S3, pp. S845-S861. Online: <http://scitation.aip.org/getabs/servlet/GetabsServlet?prog=normal&id=EASPEF0000220000S300S845000001&idtype=cvips&gifs=yes>.

Krimgold, Dr. Frederick, Keith Critchlow, Natasha Udu-gama. “National Capital Region Critical Infrastructure Protection Program: Emergency Services Sector Report,” George Mason University School of Law: Critical Infrastructure Protection Program. September 2005. Online: <http://cipp.gmu.edu/archive/Vol-06-Emergency%20Services.pdf>.

Udu-gama, Natasha. “Evacuation and Sheltering in the City of Danville, Virginia.” City of Danville, Virginia and Disaster Risk Reduction Program (DRR), Virginia Tech. May 2006.

Udu-gama, Natasha. “Promoting Community Disaster Resilience through Technology, Training and Community Empowerment: The HazInfo Experience”. *“Making Communities Disaster Resilient” Session: Global Knowledge Partnership 3 Session Proceedings*. LIRNE.net. December 2007. Online: http://www.gkpeventsonthefuture.org/GK3/dsp_page.cfm?pageid=717#et.

World Institute for Disaster Risk Management, Inc. and General Directorate of Disaster Affairs, 2004: Seismic Microzonation for Municipalities. Executive Summary, Pilot Studies, Manual, State-of-the-Art Report. Online: http://www.drmonline.net/drmlibrary/pdfs/MERM_Executive_Summary_2004_03_E.pdf.

Television

Interview with Natasha Udu-gama. *Sudut Pandang*. Astro Awani Cable Television (Malaysia). 11 December 2007. Hosted by Kamarul Bahrin Haron.

REFERENCES PROVIDED UPON REQUEST