

# Summary

## National All Hazards Warning System Expert Consultation

Colombo  
26 January 2005

Dr. Catherine Hickson  
Geological Survey of Canada



Natural Resources  
Canada

Ressources naturelles  
Canada

# Summary

- Acknowledgement of the tremendous work that has been done so far - the community has come together, some things have worked.
- We all know intuitively what must be done, the problem seems to be getting it done.  
LOTS OF GOOD IDEAS!

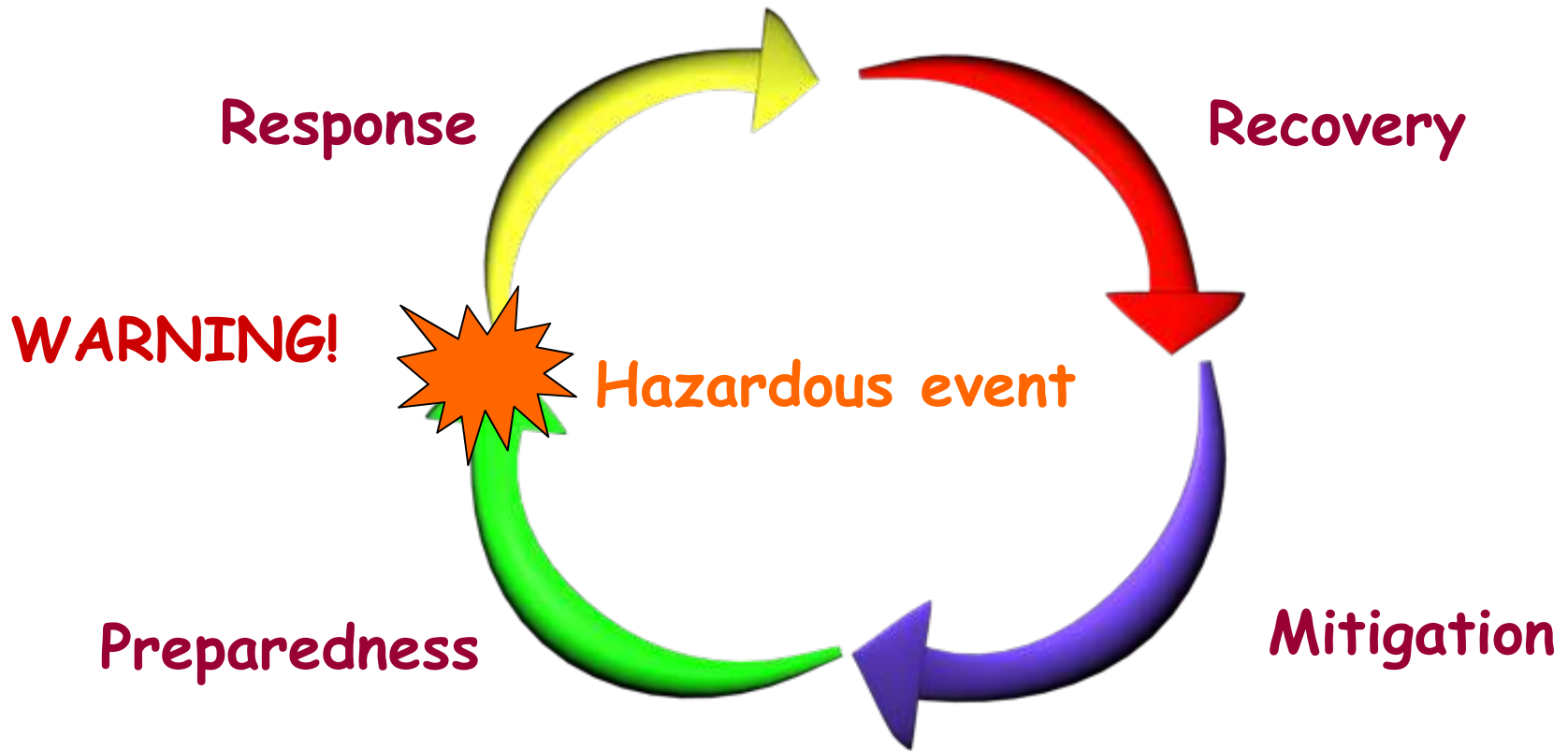
# Summary

- A hazardous event need not become a disaster - planning and preparation, can reduce the impact of a hazardous event. (first presentation)
- An early warning system is not just one solution - it is an integrated network of private and public and government sectors. (second presentation)

# Summary

- Use what you have - adapt and modify existing systems.
- Essential to build in sustaining activities - keep the "system" fresh!
- Choose appropriate technology and solutions that will work here!

# Summary



Think holistic! Consider what needs to happen in all parts of the cycle - multiagency, multilevel, multihazard, etc....

# Summary

- Any system is only as good as its weakest link!
- Make sure you consider sustainability of any system!

# Summary

## Key! community involvement EDUCATION



**Building Disaster Resilient Communities**

# Next Steps

- Determine who will lead the reform of the disaster management/preparedness system. Who is in charge??
- Determine what went well in the current response
- "Concept of operation" - figure out what you want to do (e.g. Bangladesh)
- Assess current systems (flood forecasting, bell, hand operated siren)
- Determine critical gaps - what are they and who is going to fill them?
- Determine critical connections that need to be made



# Next Steps

- Bring industry representatives together (eg. Fishing, hotels, telecommunications, media, etc.)
- Business preparedness/continuity planning (Chamber of Commerce?)
- Building credibility of "warning department" and all parts of the system.
- Don't expect government to do everything - individual initiative is important
- Assess environmental aspects
- Identify stakeholders

# Next steps

- Which institutional option would best address the problem of a dysfunctional government with respect to hazards watches/warning?
- Who are the best organizations to do the work? Is it government? Is it the Private sector? Each aspect needs to be assessed separately.
- **Choose a small piece that you can accomplish!**

# MAKE A PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO MAKE SURE THE TSUNAMI LESSONS ARE INDEED LEARNT!



Daily Mirror, May 21st 2003 on Ratnapura Floods 200 dead

# Iundationlanka.org

- [www.vanguardfoundationlanka.org](http://www.vanguardfoundationlanka.org)
- [www.lirneasia.net](http://www.lirneasia.net)