Flooding – Rotterdam, Netherlands

Which stakeholder role did you play in the mitigation activity? Describe three ways that your role was vulnerable to the hazard we are focusing on this week.

Describe one part of the mitigation plan – Cost estimate, when it would be implemented, how much of the population it would effect.

As a citizen of Rotterdam I was most vulnerable due to my location to the hazard by living close to the river that can flood due to storm surges from the nearby ocean. Even though I live on a higher floor, the type of building I live in could collapse due to a flood weakening the base of the building. Additionally I am not fluent in Dutch, which a good portion of the population speaks.

Due to all of the preventative measures in the area being fairly effective it leaves the opportunity for residence and business goers to forget about the potential risk of a flood in the area. Spreading awareness is probably one of the cheaper ways of affecting nearly everyone in the area in the shortest amount of time. Risk maps, such as those provided in class, could serve as a 'wake up call' to citizens and get that 'flood risk' as something to keep in mind. This could be implemented into schools where students will most likely be concerned and share with their family. In comparison to the flood gate this would appear to be a minor expense that could save many lives. Residents could also receive an awareness manual similar to a phone book (which surprisingly are still being distributed in this 'paperless' society.) Being aware of the risk prevents the sense of security resulting in residents being caught off guard in the event of a flood.

Mass Wasting – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Describe three ways that your role was vulnerable.

Describe one part of the mitigation plan

As a middle aged father of two living in the area I am most prone to my proximity to the potential land slide that could occur along the slope on which my house is built. My children require me to look out for them in the event of a landslide and my finances due to having a low income will make losses devastating.

To me my only option is to request financial aid from the local or national government. I cannot afford to move, which would ideally eliminate the threat of my location, and I cannot afford insurance to cover my house in the event of a landslide due to its known probability. A government funded insurance aid plan would benefit the majority of residents in this area of similar income levels but might cost the government a good amount of money. The time frame for this could be setup over a 10 year period with providing aid to those who are at most risk, closest to the potential landslide, and/or those who are unfortunately affected by a future landslide when it actually occurs.

Severe Weather – Greensburg, Kansas

Describe three ways that your role was vulnerable.

Describe one part of the mitigation plan

As the mayor of Greensburg my biggest asset are my citizens and companies that are located in the county. The people I look out for, as well as myself, are all in danger of being located in tornado ally, which we have seen can produce some violent storms. With many small homes and farms in the area the buildings aren't the most tornado structures known to exist. Inside these homes are many families with children as with any other place in the world.

One of the most effective mitigation efforts is a warning system. It is my goal to inform every single person as early as possible of a possible tornado. This effort would be requiring a storm warning radio to be in all homes and offices. This radio would be similar to a fire alarm, it will always be on and should be able to obtain attention. There should be a flashing light such as fire alarms we often see in larger buildings in case people don't hear it initially, such as in a factory. The cost of something like this is minor compared to attempts to tornado proof buildings and cover insurance costs. This is also one of the fastest methods to implement and would benefit anyone who is in the vicinity, so these should be as common as a fire alarm for example.

Hurricanes/Cyclones – New York City, New York

Describe three ways that your role was vulnerable.

Describe one part of the mitigation plan

As a hotel owner in the outer flood zone my business is most vulnerable to a hurricane's storm surge, and will most likely see damage from any sized direct hit hurricane. My customers are also at risk due to having so many guests in such a tall building I am responsible for their ability to evacuate. The subways may be shut down already if the evacuation isn't started in time as well.

I as well as other business owners would like to have designated evacuation sites set up to avoid overcrowding or uncertainty. Perhaps my customers could be welcomed to stay at available rooms further inland with another hotel, competitor or not. There won't be enough hotel rooms further inland for all the evacuees so I believe guests at a hotel should have that priority. Other businesses like ports or office buildings should have designated buildings that can accompany large populations for about a week. The time frame for this shouldn't be any longer than year, and cost would be covered in regards to hotels by transferring the 'sale' to the hotel the customer ends up at. This would mainly be focused on hotels but if applied to officers it has the potential to reach out to many more people who might be affected.

Region: Asia

Japan: Severe Local Storm

Dates: April 3, 2012[1]
Areas affected: Toyama/ Kagawa /Tokyo Japan[1]
Hazard type: Severe Storm[1]
Casualties: 2 deaths, 160 injured[1]
Property damage: 500 flights, 10,000 households[1]
Summary:
A rainstorm hit japan leaving thousands of households without electricity and grounding more than 500 flights in Tokyo. People were urged to stay indoors, however two people died in warehouse collapse incidents. 160 were reported to be injured. Winds were around 10kmph, almost up to typhoon speeds.[1]

Images:

1

Sources:

(1) http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/article3276969.ece?css=print

India: Cyclonic Storms

Dates: April 10, 2012[1]
Areas affected: Tripura India[1]
Hazard type: Strong Winds and Hail[1]
Casualties: 7 deaths, 30 injured[1]
Property damage: 1,000 households[1]
Summary:
Seven people were killed with at least 30 injured due to strong winds and hailstorms over the course of five days in Tripura. Two were killed from lightning alone. Roughly a thousand homes were damaged and many cattle were killed as well as some crop damage. District administrators aided affected families with Rs.1,000 to help fund recovery.[1]

Images:

[2]

Sources:

(1) http://in.news.yahoo.com/squalls-hailstorm-kill-seven-tripura-104234532.html
(2) maps.google.com

India: Cyclonic Storms

Dates: April 13, 2012[1]
Areas affected: Jalaun India[1]
Hazard type: Cyclonic Weather and Hail[1]
Casualties:14 deaths, 200 injured[1]
Property damage: ?
Summary:
14 people were killed and 200 were injured from the Thunderstorms in India. 9 of these deaths occurred in Jalaun, with the majority of the deaths caused by house and wall collapse incidents. The storm lasted about two hours and was caused by upper cyclonic air circulation over eastern UP, India. Disctric Administrators compensated families of dead people with RS 20,000.[1]

Images:

2

Sources:

(1) http://disaster-report.blogspot.com/2012/04/natural-disasters-list-april-13-2012.html
(2) maps.google.com

Thailand: Drought

Dates: April 22, 2012[1]
Areas affected: Thailand[1]
Hazard type: Drought[1]
Casualties: ?
Property damage: 100,000 households affected[1]
Summary:
42 provinces were announced as a drought disaster zone by the Deparment of Disaster Mitigation and Prevention of Thailand. 100,000 homes were affected but rainfall is expected by the end of the month. Water storage at Queen Sirikit Dam will provide until then.[1]

Images:

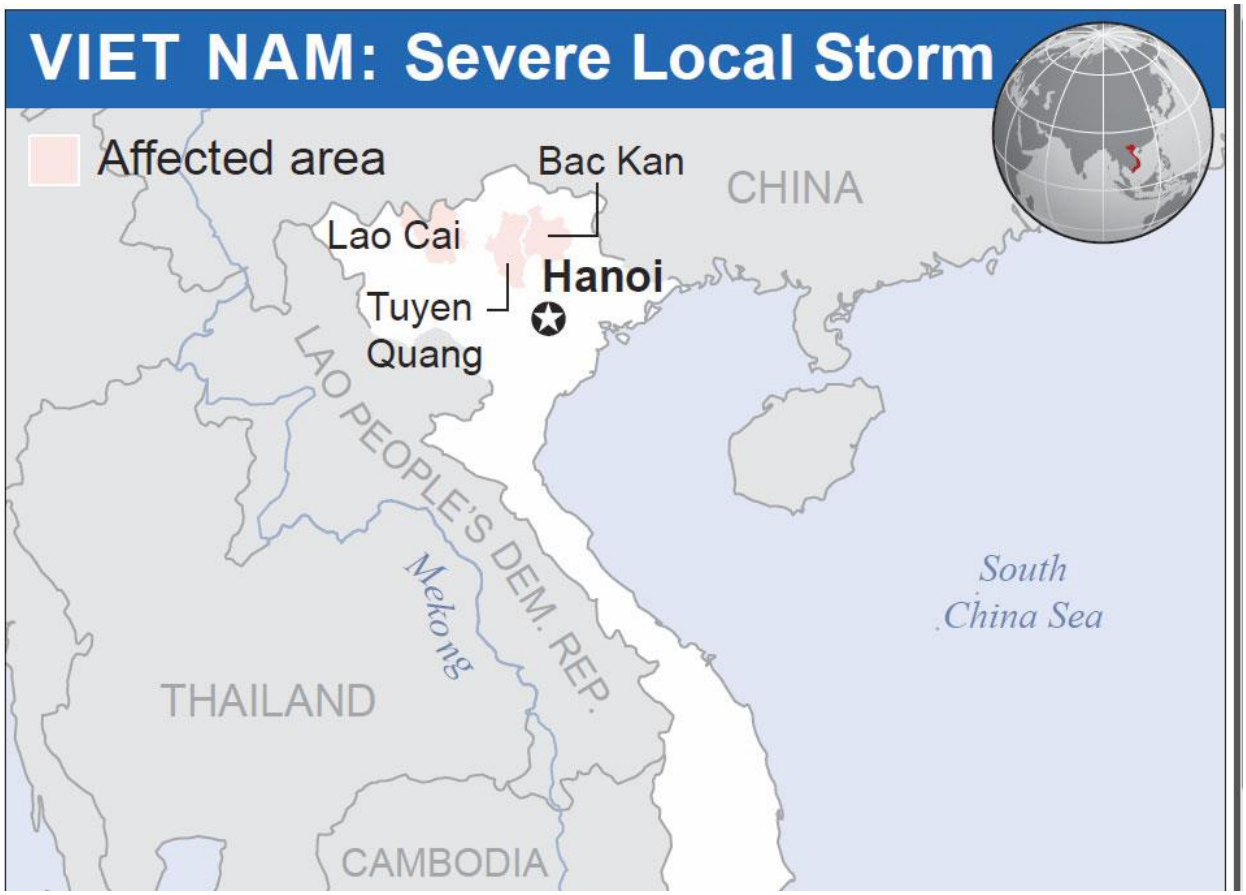
Sources:

(1) http://www.pattayamail.com/news/42-thai-provinces-declared-emergency-drought-hit-areas-12041

Severe Storm: Viet Nam

Dates: April 20, 2012[1]
Areas affected: Lao Cai, Bac Kan and Tuyen Quang[1]
Hazard type: Severe storm[1]
Casualties: 2 killed[1]
Property damage: 4,500 households affected[1]
Summary:
Two people were killed and more than 4,500 houses damaged as hailstorms and whirlwinds struck the northern provinces of Lao Cai, Bac Kan and Tuyen Quang on 20 Apr 2012. Subsidiary crop areas were also destroyed [1]

Images:



[2]

Sources:

(1) http://reliefweb.int/node/491779
(2) http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ST-2012-000061-VNM_0425.pdf

Cyclone: India

Dates: April 25, 2012[1]
Areas affected: Assam, India[1]
Hazard type: Cyclone[1]
Casualties: 3 killed[1]
Property damage: 3,000 people displaced, 100s of houses, 1 hospital, 1 church[1]
Summary:
3 people were killed due to a cyclone and heavy hail in Tinsukia district of Assam. Of those who died, one was 9 who had a tree fall on her and another was 55 in a similar situation. With 3000 displaced they are taking shelter with neighbors, schools, and churches. Several buildings were damaged including houses, schools, and a church. [1]

Images:

[2]

Sources:

(1) http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=apr2512/state06
(2) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tinsukia_district