

Focus on disaster and development



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Syed Miraz Ahmed 23 November 2014 Updated 23 Nov 16195 views

Eastern and North East India's most proactive industry organization the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in association with crude petroleum producing public enterprise Oil India Limited Saturday organized a seminar on [Natural Disasters](#) and [Sustainable Development](#) in Guwahati.

The seminar focused on Natural and Industrial Disasters aiming to create awareness among industry leaders, entrepreneurs, CSOs, NGOs, bringing all the stake holders like the Assam State Disaster Management Authority ([ASDMA](#)), Fire and Emergency Services, Government of Assam, [National](#) Disaster Response Force (NDRF), International NGO Doctors For You ([DFY](#)) and the Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Assam.

“Guwahati was an unplanned city since the capital of Assam was shifted from Shillong to Dispur during 1970, following a very short notice. A major chunk of population was shifted and settled and haphazardly administrative buildings were raised, houses built without planning as a result of which Guwahati today is inundated with flash flood time and again. It is a major crisis of Guwahati and the Government machinery is aware of it. Long term and permanent steps to mitigate this challenge is being taken,” said Captain Robin Bordoloi, Chairman, Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA).

He outlined the initiatives taken by GMDA in mitigating both natural and manmade disasters and in reply to a question said that Disaster Management initiatives need to be taken along side development.

Nandita Hazarika, Deputy Secretary and State Project Coordinator Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Government of Assam participating in the seminar said that most disasters across Assam can be averted by researched based studies, general awareness, integrating all the stakeholders, proper scientific planning, data and information sharing and most importantly with civic sense and acting more responsibly. She made an elaborate presentation on the issues and measures taken by [ASDMA](#) since its inception in 2010.

S K Mishra, Head of the Chemical Division of OIL India Limited spoke about industrial disasters and its impact on the society and environment. He presented ways and measures that need to be taken by establishments to avert industrial disasters. “Assam predominantly has been a rich state in terms of natural and mineral resources and it is importantly that we manage it without loss,” he added. Presentations were also made by Surendra Kumar, Assistant Commandant, [National Disaster Response Force \(NDRF\)](#), Guwahati, Hemanta Bhattacharjee, Deputy Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Government of Assam and Mridul Deka, Program Manager, Doctors For You. Anusuya Barua, Assistant, Geologist, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Assam also made her observations during the seminar.

Several CSOs, NGOs, students, research scholars, scientists, policy makers and stake holders attended the daylong seminar.



Syed Miraz Ahmed

Writes, edits and researches. In 2013 he was conferred the Rotary International District 3240 Young Achiever Award for his work in the area of environment and digital journalism. In 2006 he was awarded first in the category of Wildlife Photography by the Department of Environment & Forests and Tourism, Government of Assam.

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