

Report on public consultation program organized by PCRCD, DHMS, MoEA.

1. Objective

The consultation program was mainly focused on advocating the roles of Department of Hydro-Met Services and to induce awareness for enhancing national capacity for managing disasters and risks due to climate change. This meeting was also for informing the school on what kind of activities are being undertaken under NAPA.

The following officials from PCRCD under DHMS participated in conducting this program.

1. **Phuntsho Namgyal, Chief of Division.**
2. **Ugyen Chopel, Statistical Officer.**
3. **Pema Wangyel, Engineer.**
4. **Dema Yangzom, Engineer.**
5. **Tshering Tashi, Engineer.**

2. Venue and Date

Venue: Rinchen Higher Secondary School

Date: 12th April 2013

3. Introduction

The team was warmly greeted by the School management and given the leeway by the Principal, the Chief of PCRCD addressed the morning assembly, which consisted of 950 students and school faculty members. The chief briefed on vision and mission of DHMS, Weather, Climate and Hydrological Services in Bhutan. He also emphasized on global warming and its impacts on climate change due to anthropogenic activities. He then informed the gathering on NAPA activities as well.

4. Presentation

After the assembly, the team conducted Presentation to interested Students and teachers in the ICT hall. Due to the hall capacity the presentation was conducted for two batches. Each batch consisted of fifty students from Arts and Commerce streams and teachers.

The presentation comprised of

1. Slides Presentation
2. Documentary video clips
3. Poster Presentation

The fifteen minutes Slides Presentation began with explanation of paradigm of DHMS encompassing the mandated activities which are mainly to improve the delivery of Weather, Climate, and Hydrological services and products to the end users. The students and teachers were briefed about the trends in Climate Change due to anthropogenic activities and various other factors, knowledge of weather, water and climate events and their paramount importance in sustaining the environment. The presentation also included of functioning Early Warning Systems for natural hazards like flash floods and GLOF in our river basins; working principle of the weather and climate monitoring equipment. The students were informed about NAPA Project and the activities proposed in the project in the hope of getting valuable feedbacks from them.

To make presentation more enthusiastic, a short documentary on flash flood occurred in 1994 in Pho-chhu river basin due to GLOF was showed. The team stressed on the causes of flash floods and GLOF and its mitigation measures.

The team also explained the floor about the functions of automatic and manual weather station components, principal/secondary hydrology equipment and Data Base Management Systems with the help of poster presentation.

The students were able to identify the natural disasters and rank them in the order of their risks. They were also asked if they could think of any remedial solutions. The students identified and ranked the disasters follows:

1. Floods
2. Earthquakes
3. Landslides
4. Forest fires.

They suggested the installations of Early Warning Systems and afforestation as top remedial solutions.

5. Discussion

The questioning and answering session was also organized for more interaction with the participant, during which following points were raised by the students and teachers.

- a) Will Bhutan be able to contribute to solve the problems induced due to climate change, while carrying out developmental activities?
- b) Does eating meat contribute to global warming of the earth?
- c) Is there any possibilities of getting employed in DHMS for graduates holding Arts and Commerce background?
- d) During the last winter, siren of the flood alarmed in Punakha and Wangdi, but nothing had happened after alarm. How did that happen?

The Chief responded to their questions and clarified their doubts.

Before concluding the consultative meeting, refreshments were served to the students and teachers of Rinchen HSS.

5. Conclusion

The program successfully concluded after affirmative interactions with Principal, Staffs, and students. The Principal acknowledged the team for having organized such program in creating awareness and educating the society about the Department and its service products, effect and prospective of climate change.