

Information Dissemination Strategies Utilizing Geohazard Maps for Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

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Abstract

Under the National Geohazard Assessment Program of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) the 1:10,000 scale landslide and flood susceptibility assessment of 42,036 barangays in 1,643 cities and municipalities was completed in 2014. Copies of these geohazard maps have been provided to the Local Government Units (LGUs) and to other entities directly related to Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM).

To ensure that the LGUs concerned fully understand the geohazard maps which are essential in developing their Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Disaster Contingency Plan, an intensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign has been conducted by MGB since 2015 and is set to be completed by the end of 2017. This aims to increase public awareness on natural hazards particularly rain-induced landslide, flood, river and coastal erosion, and subsidence hazard in order to mitigate impacts of these hazards and for more rational development planning and disaster management.

The intensive IEC campaign includes interactive lectures on the basic concepts on rain-induced landslide, flood, coastal erosion and subsidence; presentation of the barangay geohazard map per municipality and steps on how to access geohazard maps through the MGB website. The lectures are followed by workshops aimed at enabling the workshop participants to know the geohazards affecting their community based on MGB's geohazard map and the participants' local knowledge. Another workshop objective is for the participants to examine the exposure of elements at risk (e.g., population, critical government structures) in their communities to geohazards, and determine the appropriate location of evacuation centers and evacuation routes. At the end of the workshop, the participants are able to produce the community-based geohazard map upon which the risk elements exposed to the geohazards, as well as the appropriate evacuation centers and routes are plotted. This community geohazard map is an important tool in the preparation of the community-based disaster preparedness plan and early warning systems deemed appropriate in increasing the community's capacity in developing a proactive approach towards DRRM.

The IEC campaign is a one-day activity per cluster of barangays of a city or municipality. This is being conducted in collaboration with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to ensure that information dissemination trickles down to all sectors of society, the targeted participants consist of ten (10) key persons from the provincial LGU, ten (10) from the municipal LGUs, and five (5) from each barangay.

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