Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management

KPD
Olaf Handloegten, Head of Management Unit, GIDRM
Berlin, 27th October 2015
Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM)

The number and intensity of extreme natural events, such as storms, floods and earthquakes, has increased in recent decades and led to a higher number of disasters.

Metropolitan areas are significantly affected by economic losses as they are at risk from both natural events and industrial disasters.

This has an impact on the competitiveness and sustainable developments of cities and regions worldwide as disasters constitute a high risk to public and private investment and jeopardise developmental progress.

GIDRM was founded by the German Government in 2013 and is led by BMZ. Regional focus Asia, recently expanding to Latin America.
Risk Management – “Made in and with Germany”

Generate added value by advocating for new and supporting existing partnerships “Made in and with Germany” for comprehensive disaster and climate risk management across countries and regions.

- Taking a whole of government approach bringing together key German ministries and its respective Federal Agencies
- Cluster German DRM expertise, services and technologies from civil society, academia, public and private sector
- Linking German and Global DRM solutions by facilitating knowledge exchanges, transfers, networking, joint learning and innovation
- Foster partnerships of mutual interest developing tangible “products” and "business cases" that can easily be up-scaled and replicated
GIDRM priority working areas and products

By leveraging each stakeholder’s comparative advantages, the Global Initiative focusses on three priority working areas:

• **Disaster Response Preparedness and Civil Protection**
  - Integrated Fire Prevention and Safety in Industry Clusters

• **Resilient Critical Infrastructure and Risk-sensitive Economic Cycles**
  - Hotel Resilient
  - Strengthening Resilience of SMEs
  - Risk-sensitive Public and Private Investment Planning

• **Effective Early Warning Systems**
  - National & Local Early Warning System
Hotel Resilient

Strengthening the Resilience of the Tourism Sector

With support from the German Government through
Why Tourism Matters

Source: UNWTO Tourism Highlights 2015
Hazardous Leisure

• Tourism is one of the **most severely exposed sectors**
• Location of many destinations in **hazard prone areas**
• **Tourists are vulnerable** due to their unfamiliarity with the destination, lack of local knowledge and/or language
• **Interruptions of supply chains** in the tourism sector as flights are cancelled and suppliers affected
• Hotel industry is often **unable to reduce their risk** to natural and technological hazards or to prepare adequately
• Strong emphasis on disaster response rather than **reducing risks**
Disaster Risk Management in Tourism

- Partnerships with the private sector, which is responsible for 70% to 85% of all investments worldwide, are needed.
- Tourism development can create new risk but also presents great opportunities for risk management solutions.
- Communities in destinations are heavily reliant on tourism.
- Risk perception influences tourists’ decision to travel, besides crime and terrorist attacks, disasters are of most concern for tourists.
- Effective disaster risk management in hotels is expected by hotel clients in all price categories.

“[...] economic losses from disasters are now reaching an average of US$250 billion to US$300 billion each year.” (GAR15)
Hotel Resilient

Partner:

UNISDR
Pacific Asia Travel Association
GI:DRM

Objective: To improve disaster risk management in the hotel industry and strengthen resilience throughout tourism destinations

Approach:
- Strong partnerships with the public and private sector in the field of tourism and disaster risk management
- Development of standards, guidelines, checklists/evaluation forms and tools to reduce business risk and the risk of tourists, workers, and surrounding communities to natural and technological hazards
Hotel Resilient

Current Focus Countries:

- Indonesia
- Maldives
- Myanmar
- The Philippines
- Thailand

Outcomes:

- Hotel Resilient governance structure
- Scoping study ‘Developing strategies to strengthen the resilience of hotels to disasters’
- Promotion/Agenda setting (DRM and tourism events)
- Handbook including multi-hazard risk management standard module (standards, checklist, tools etc.)
Scoping Study - Methodology

• Semi-structured interviews with 17 representatives from government agencies, hotel industry, hotel and tourism associations, tour operators, and insurance companies in Indonesia, the Maldives, the Philippines, and Thailand

• Key Areas:
  – Hotel risk management strategies
  – Benefits and barriers to adoption of standards
  – Marketability of disaster risk management
  – Needs of the tourism sector
Scoping Study - Recommendations

1. Develop international recognized standards to promote best practice behaviours and create more alignment between risk management approaches.
2. Reflect relevant legislation to avoid contradiction and prevent duplication.
3. Promote both legislative and market forces to obtain adoption of the standard module.
4. Focus on business to business marketing of the Initiative - wholesales, tour operators, conference organizers and industry associations request effective risk management, providing market opportunities.
5. Engage global insurers and industry associations to promote the Initiative and identify key elements they consider important.
Market Prospects

• The development of a multi-hazard risk management standard module for climate and disaster resilience is supported by and developed with the tourism industry

• Effective demand from the hotel industry, especially bigger hotels and chain hotels recognising the importance of standardised procedures in disaster risk management

• Purchase and adoption of standards is often a costly process that small and medium sized (SME) hotels might not have the resources for

• Through cooperation with ADPC and ADB we focus our efforts also on SMEs and provide technical assistance in DRM and BCP in tourism and other sectors