

Provincial Disaster Management Authority Observed Disaster Awareness Day

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) observed 'National Disaster Awareness Day' at Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management, University of Peshawar in remembrance of the Martyrs of October 8, 2005 Earthquake, the greatest of all Disasters in the history of Pakistan.

Professor Dr. Rasool Jan, Vice Chancellor University of Peshawar was the chief guest on this occasion. Deans and Faculty from different departments along with large number of students were present on this occasion.

The objective of this event is to express solidarity with the bereaved families who lost their family members on that October day and to arouse the spirit of individual and group enrichment to face the challenges in the post disaster scenario. In consonance with the significance of the occasion, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in collaboration with Malteser International, Action against Hunger, Care international, IDEA and other non-government organizations launched an awareness campaign for civil society.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Muhammad Khalid, director HR & Relief PDMA, said that in the 2005 earthquake, northern parts of the province were badly affected. Muzaffarabad was the hardest hit area mainly because the epicentre of earthquake was just 19 kilometres (12 miles) to its northeast, he added.

He said the PDMA, observing the day in the memory of the martyrs of the devastating quake, which left more than 73,000 people dead and millions of others injured in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. PDMA had recently established Disaster Risk Management Strategic Unit, which would work on risk assessment studies, surveys, capacity building and advocacy. The PDMA also intends to involve all stakeholders, particularly organisations with extensive experience in disaster risk management, to make Disaster Resilient Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he added.

Dr. Rasool Jan Vice Chancellor, University of Peshawar said "They cannot stop natural disasters but they can reduce the losses through DRR. As a nation we need to take the ownership and should be ready for any volunteer work. He said Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management, UOP conducts regular trainings. **"This centre was established with the vision to equip human beings with the knowledge and skills to minimize the damages and miseries of disasters and CDPM is functioning in a right direction in achieving its goals. PDMA is doing wonderful job with Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management (CDPM) and we are ready for partnerships with every one for this good cause. He appreciates PDMA for organising the event"**.

The Ceremony concluded with prayers for the departed souls of disaster victims and safety of Pakistan.



