



VIE/85/019

Disaster preparedness and rehabilitation in Binh Tri Thien zone, Vietnam
Chống thiên tai và khôi phục ở khu vực Bình Trị Thiên, Việt Nam



CHUYÊN GIAO KỸ THUẬT XÂY DỰNG NHÀ CHỐNG GIÓ BÃO
DEMONSTRATION OF STORM RESISTANT BUILDING TECHNIQUES

31



VIE/85/019

Development
Workshop

Viện Thiết Kế Xây Dựng, Thừa Thiên-Huế
Institute For Building Design, Hue
Viện Thiết Kế Nhà Ở - Công Trình Công Cộng, Bộ Xây Dựng
Institute For Housing and Public Building Design, Hanoi

GRET

On the occasion of the Public Education Campaign (P.E.C) launched in Thua thien-Hue province in April 1990 , Hue T.V. Station invited Mr Nguyen Si Vien , Director of IBD and Director of the Sub-project VIE/85/019C to an interview .

Q : Could you please state clearly the general objectives of the sub-project VIE/85/019C " Demonstration of Cyclone Resistant Building Techniques" for our province ?

A : As you know , the typhoons number 7 and 8 that hit Binh Tri Thien province in October 1985 caused heavy destruction : extensive material damage and human loss . The total losses were estimated at 5 billion Dongs . Over 100,000 houses collapsed (including both private dwellings and small public buildings), hundreds of thousands of other houses got their roof ripped off and over 1,000 died or were missing(excluding the injured)

Right after the catastrophe , the people from all Vietnam and friends and international organizations from all over the World gave us emergency aid. And in February 1986 , experts from Habitat (UNCHS) in Nairobi - Kenya came to Binh Tri Thien for a fact - finding tour to evaluate on the spot the damage extent , at the same time studying why private houses and small public buildings suffered so much damage . It boils down to this : in general , no proper attention has been paid so far to designing and reinforcing the local houses and small public constructions on the one hand , and on the other , technicians and builders haven't passed on to the public traditional buildings techniques which can be cyclone resistant , not to speak of new ones. It is precisely for this reason that the United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP) promptly found means and ways to fund the Project VIE/85/019 " Demonstration of Storm Resistant Building Techniques " (called for short the Sub-project No 3). Its main objectives are as follows :

- To organise workshops for technicians at provincial and district levels, and for builders at commune level to train them in necessary techniques in designing , building or reinforcing the houses so as to minimize the effects caused by cyclones ,

- To disseminate cyclone resistant building techniques to the population, which help people reinforce their own houses in accordance with the storm resistant building techniques to make them stronger and safer .

Q : The Sub-project No 3 has been being carried smoothly for nearly one year and a half , would you kindly let us know some of its principal results achieved ?

A : On 31 December 1987 , our Government and UNDP officially signed the Project VIE/85/019 . And since May last year , the Institute of Building Design (IBD) , Thua thien Hue , the Institute of Housing and Public Building Design (IHPED) , Ministry of Construction , and two French Organizations - Development Workshop(DW) and GREP have jointly organized 3 workshops and Seminar in May 1989 for 30 decision-makers representing different construction branches , for 52 technicians at district level and for 60 builders in May

June 1989 in Phu loc district and December 1989 and in March 1990 in Trieu hai district (Quang tri province) and in Quang trach district (Quang binh province) and completed the construction of 2 cyclone resistant demonstration buildings , i.e, the primary school at Loc dien commune , Phu loc district , Hai lam Commune Health Centre , Trieu hai district . We tried to apply and include the principles of storm resistant building techniques in these constructions so that they can be served as examples for the public to follow .

A public Education Campaign was launched from 9 April in Thua thien Hue and last up to 28 April 1990 .

Q : So , what are the main actions and prospects the P.E.C in service of this year's disaster preparedness ?

A : In 4 months' time , the rainy season , or rather , the cyclone season comes at the time when we end the final phase of conducting the workshops for technicians and builders in the 3 provinces (Thua thien-Hue , Quang tri , Quang binh) with the 3rd workshop for builders and the 3rd Demonstration building-the library for Quang trach Lycee No 1 .

We are now developing a province-wide P.E.C. in Thua thien-Hue relating to techniques for house reinforcement in particular and storm resistant building techniques in general . This Campaign aims at raising the awareness of the population on the destructions caused by cyclones each year , at supplying the public with simple building techniques adapted to the economic situation and available cheap materials so that the people themselves can reinforce their existing houses or build their new dwellings in the hope of reducing to the maximum the damage once a cyclone comes . The Campaign is taking multiform and rich activities such as exhibitions , street demonstrations , competition for drawings , poems , songs , radio and TV announcement, articles published in local newspaper , interview on radio, TV and newspaper etc ...

We all know that disaster preparedness is a permanent job because a great number of private houses and small public buildings were built not up to the right standards for 2 main reasons : one is that the bulk of the population is poor , they can't afford semi-strong built houses and the other is the bad supervision for public buildings . Therefore , the main aims of this P.E.C. are to equip the public with necessary cyclone resistant building techniques and the last but not least , to make the local authorities different levels show greater concern for disaster preparedness , take appropriate measures against natural calamities and finally consider the annual cyclone prevention a vital action for the life of the local population .

Thank you for your listening .

THE PROVINCE-WIDE PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ENDED IN SUCCESS

For Mr G. Chantry

Phan

Phan Thien Huan

To implement the UNDP funded sub-project N^o 3 (VIE/85/019c) " Demonstration of Cyclone Resistant Building Techniques " which is now entering its final phase, in April 1990, from 9 to 28, one Public Education Campaign on disaster preparedness at provincial level was organised in Thua Thien-Hue province to raise the public awareness of storm prevention of the great importance of strengthening houses and small public buildings old and new - so that they can withstand better the force of a typhoon, at the same time popularising as widely as possible the cyclone resistant strengthening and building techniques adapted to the local context and to the economic situation which can be used by the local population and by the authorities and thus reducing to the maximum damage caused by cyclones.

The three-week Campaign involved activities at provincial level, as at the level of every district and communes in areas touched by typhoons. ~~The~~ The Campaign is the first experimental step towards a nation-wide campaign . And it is also considered as part of the sub-project N^o 3 . It is precisely for this reason that the authorities at different levels from province to the Central Government and international organisations take a great interest in .

To begin with the campaign, a preparatory meeting, then a provincial level Seminar on cyclone prevention were held by the Institute of Building Design, Thua Thien-Hue (IED), member of the sub-project to pay the way for the Campaign .

Present at the Seminar were representatives from various province-Hue city-district branches, from mass-organisations and reporters from local and central newspapers and radios .

In his speech at the Seminar, Mr Phan Ba Dien, President of Thua Thien-Hue People's Committee, Director General of the VIE/85/019 project " Disaster Preparedness and Rehabilitation in Binh Tri Thien zone " and Head of the provincial organising Committee emphasized the importance of the public education campaign on cyclone prevention for the people to reinforce ~~their~~ their own houses themselves . Mr Dien called ^{on the people} ~~to~~ to respond actively and effectively ^{to} the Campaign .

The P.E.C. activities were multiform and rich : In town, provincial newspaper devoted a full page to run articles, interviews, ~~and~~ press release on ~~the~~ the sub-project and the P.E.C edited by the core team of the project; the province and Hue City radio-diffusion network broadcast 3 days in succession write-ups relating to the P.E.C. ; members of the sub-project core team took turns in giving lectures on the sub-project Plan of Action and the Campaign ; interviews made on the small screen,

radio station or radiodiffusion network . At districts and communes , the video film " We build our new house " was shown before the main feature (mobile loudspeakers announce the time and place of video showings; photo and drawing exhibitions on the activities against natural calamities were organised ; with the local school, organising drawing and poetry competition about cyclone resistant Campaign ; mass organisations such as Women's Union, Youth Union, Farmers' Union v.v....organised public meetings and information gatherings through which to disseminate cyclone resistant building techniques ; street demonstrations of school children in support of the Campaign were held ; big posters on the 10 key principles for storm resistant building techniques were stuck at the main public places of gathering in the district and its communes (markets, bus station, theatre, *Cafés,* railway station..) . TV and Radio stations broadcast special programmes on 26 April . - the Provincial Day of Cyclone Preparedness .

Thanks to the ~~thorough~~ preparations made by the provincial and district organising Committee, the I.N.C. ended successfully . Its good results will contribute actively to the similar ^{activities} in other provinces in Central Vietnam ~~provinces~~ which are prone to suffer cyclone damage, creating favourable conditions for our country to participate in the International Decade for Disaster Preparedness launched on 1.1.1990 .

Some areas in the province plan to prolong this campaign up to the end of May .

Phan Huu Hanh

(Member of the project VII/85/019c)