

GENERATING AWARENESS WITH A DIFFERENCE:

Documentary Film Screening For Line Department Officials

Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) conducted the screening of District – Level Documentary Films on disaster management and preparedness and interactive session on disaster management in the month of May 2014. The exercise was designed in association with Film & Cultural Society of North East, Indian Documentary Producers' Association, HBO, and individual filmmakers, involving the use of audio-visual medium. It involved the use of documentary films whose impact is likely to be ever-lasting on recipients irrespective of age-group or sex. This Documentary screening was conducted for the officer of the various line departments.

The Documentary Screening was organised in selected five districts of **Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Kamrup Metro and Barpeta**. The documentaries screened in various districts were: *Mumbai Floods*; *Cyclone Nargis: When Time Stopped Breathing* (Myanmar); *When a City falls* (New Zealand); *One Night in Bhopal* (BBC Documentary) and *Escaping the Flood* (The Netherlands). The screening was followed by interactive sessions and group discussions

Film Maker Gerard Smyth of New Zealand whose Film *When a City Falls* was screened in all the districts and Bhopal Gas activists Satinath Sarangi interacted with the line Department officials and resources persons through **Skype in the Districts**. This was a unique feature of the entire exercise.

Deputy Commissioner of Dibrugarh, Smt Aruna Rajoria, Deputy Commissioner of Jorhat, Shri Solanki Vishal Vasanth, Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur Shri Gaurav Bothra, Deputy Commissioner of Barpeta Shri Siddhartha Singh, all graced the occasion and inaugurated the screening in their respective district. In Kamrup Metro, Chief Executive Officer, ASDMA, Shri Ajay Tewari inaugurated the screening.

The Number of participants in districts for the programme was as follows; Dibrugarh: 80; Jorhat: 50, North Lakhimpur: 80 (on the second day there were 300 college students as well), Kamrup Metro: 56 and Barpeta :65.