



Workshop on

“Minimizing Industrial Hazards and Encashing Opportunities through Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives in Marble Sector”

2nd March 2010

Use of modern tools stressed to avert disasters in marble sector.



77

and rules, with reference to the Marble and Granite Sector from a DRR perspective to make industrial activities in these sectors safer & sustainable by developing them on modern scientific lines.



Islamabad:

To shed light on the challenges encountered in the Marble and Granite Sectors, experts and scholars stressed the need of Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into these sectors in order to shift from the obsolete technology to modern techniques that would result in disaster reduction.

The day long workshop was organized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM). On Tuesday, 2nd March 2010, in collaboration with the Ministry of Industries & Production and Pakistan Stone Development Company (PASDEC). The workshop was supported by UNDP Pakistan under the One UN DRM Joint Programme. It was attended by various stakeholders of mine owners and marble products manufacturers / processors, chips industry and professionals from various relevant organizations and academia.

Mr. Tariq Rafique, DRM National Project Manager, while welcoming the participants said that in Pakistan, since earthquake 2005, focus is on incorporation of DRR in all policy & regulatory instruments and steps are being taken to ensure that the DRR elements are incorporated in all future programmes, practices and procedures. He said, our policies and practices should be

Economically viable and technologically sound. He continued that the policy documents which are particularly being referred to today include, National Mineral Policy 1995, Ministerial Strategy on DRR for Ministry of Industries & Production and NWFP Mining Concession Rules 2005, which, he stressed, are important to be viewed with a DRR lens. He hoped that the recommendations of the workshop would identify gaps in the Industrial Policy of Pakistan, and the above mentioned policies

Mr. Insan Ullah Khan, Chairman PASDEC, was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Addressing the participants of the workshop he said that there are various quarrying activities, with more than 100,000 workers in NWFP and Balochistan wherein the Marble and Granite are extracted and thereafter processed into value added products. He added that use of explosives, unscientific mining and improper waste disposal also causes land degradation, stagnant pool and flooding of water, bad visual impact, pollution, health and safety hazards. He stressed the need for improved engineering practices, usage of calculated explosives and shifting to explosive-free extraction through introduction of modern techniques could help prevent lung diseases in quarrying workers. In addition to land creeping, where effective engineering controls are not possible, workers should wear approved respirators/PPEs, he advised. Referring to the Quran, he stressed that saving of a single life carries un-imaginable rewards. Mr. Shahid-R-Khan, Chief Executive, Indus Mining Company (Member Board of Governors PASDEC), while appreciating the efforts of the NDMA, assured full support on behalf of the Marble Sector. He termed the NDMA initiative a right step in the right direction as modernization and incorporation of DRR will enable these sectors to contribute significantly to the exchequer of the country.



New Pak Marble Industries®



Air Port / Defence Road,
Bhatta Chowk Near

Sunder Raiwand Road,