Current Trends on Disaster Situations Telecom Regulators Perspective

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Country Profile

- **Capital** - Colombo/ Sri Jayawardenapura
- **Area** - 65,610 sq km
- **Population** - 19.36 millions
- **Urban Population** - 4.162 millions (21.5%)
- **GDP** - US$ 14,585 millions
- **GDP per Capita** - US$ 839
- **Currency** - Sri Lankan Rupee
Administrative setup of Telecommunication sector in Sri Lanka

President of Social Republic of Sri Lanka, The Minister in charge

The Telecommunication Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL)
Chairman – Secretary to the President/ The Line Ministry
Members – Director General of TRCSL
Expert in Management
Expert in Finance
Expert in Law

Staff of the Commission

Regulations/ Facilitation

Service Providers
Statistical Overview of the Telecommunications Sector as at the June 2006

- **Fixed Lines**: 1,511,189
  - Teledensity: 7.5
- **Cellular Telephony**: 4,284,256
  - Teledensity: 21.5
- **Total No of Telephone Lines**: 5,794,169
  - Teledensity: 29.1
- **Public Payphones**: 7,260
- **E-mail and Internet Subscribers**: 125,800* (Provisional)
Cumulative Number of Licenses Granted under section 17 of the Sri Lanka Telecommunications Act.

- Fixed Access Telephone services: 3
- Cellular Mobile Services: 4
- Data Communications & ISP: 29
- Radio Paging: 4
- Trunk mobile radio: 2
- Leased Circuit Providers: 1
- Payphone services: 2
- External Gateway Operators: 32
Disaster Threats in Sri Lanka

**Floods**—2003 South and South west of Sri Lanka
- Rathnapura, Galle, Matara, Hambantota and Kaluthara Districts
- 265 Died and about 500 people are reported missing
- 76,000 Families affected in 2006

- The most affected Districts are Gampaha, Puttalam, Kalutara and Colombo
- Landslides have been reported from other Flood and Landslide prone Districts in the country.
- Around 76,000 families consisting around 338,000 members have been affected
- 26 deaths were reported.
Land Slides – Middle part of the country
Tsunami - Divisions affected by tsunami
Drought
Anuradapura, Polonnaruwa, Kurunegala, Hambantota and Monaragala Districts
Cyclone

Northern and Eastern Provinces
Animal Damages (Elephants)

- In Kurunegala, Anuradapura, Polonnaruwa, Ampara, Monaragala Districts
Regulatory Environment in Emergency Telecommunications

- Sri Lanka Telecommunications Act No. 25 of 1991
- Telecommunications Act No. 27 of 1996 as amended.
- Operators License Condition (Planning and Implementation of Special Arrangements for Emergencies)
National Authorities Involved in DM

Ministry of Disaster Management
Sri Lanka

* General Information

* Minister:
  * Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, MP
  * Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights

* Ministry Office:
  * Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights
  * 383, Baudhhaloka Mawatha
  * Colombo 07
  * Tel: 94-11-2390895, 2384116

* Secretary:
  * Dr. P D Amarasinghe
  * Tel: 94-11-2681982

Departments and Statutory Institutions
National Disaster Management Council
Subjects and Functions

• Co-ordination and management of relief activities pertaining to natural and man made disasters
• Co-ordinating awareness programmes on natural disasters
• Early Warning Systems
• Administration of Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No: 13 of 2005
Departments and Statutory Institutions

National Disaster Management Council

Ministry of Disaster Relief Services

National Disaster Management Centre
, No. 189, Galle Road, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka
National Authorities Involved in DICOM

DICOM TEAM

- Presidential Secretariat
- Service Providers
- Telecommunication Regulatory Commission
- MET Department
- Irrigation Department
- Radio Society of SL
- Ministry of Defence
- Police Department
- Reconstruction and Development Agency
- NGO
- Ceylon Electricity Board
- Disaster Management Center
- Telecommunication Regulatory Commission
- Service Providers

DICOM TEAM

- TRC, main sponsor, timely follow-up
- Consist of Authorities, Service providers
- Ensure availability of communication facilities for Disaster recovery
- Ensure fast recovery of public communication facilities at Disasters
- Inform and Liaise with institutions in E&DM
Strategy and Initiatives towards disaster management

• Implementation of Incident Command System (ICS) for Disaster Management.

• Tsunami early warning system Sri Lanka’s needs.

• Early Warning, Disaster Preparedness, and Damage Prevention through awareness.

• Formulate National Emergency Communication Plan

• Disaster Communication Management Team (DICOM)
Work Progress So Far

- Pilot Study on the Use of Telecommunications In Disaster and Emergency Situations in Sri Lanka
- Initiatives to Draw up National Emergency Communication Plan
- Formation of DICOM team
- Initiated rapid programs for Telecom Network Expansions
- Ratify Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations (Finland, 1991)
- Completion of Training of Trainers program, Incident Command System for Disaster Management.
- Steps are in place for installing Early Warning System
- Implemented common emergency numbers 118, 119
- A counter setup for clearance of emergency related telecom equipments
- ITU Assistance for implementing Disaster management plan for the telecommunications sector/conducted a workshop with participation of all stake holders / DICOM team
- Formation of Disaster Management Center
Challenges and areas of assistance needed in Disaster Management

- Need a reliable National Disaster Communication System for Sri Lanka that should be readily available for relief teams.
- Public need a system to receive early warnings and real information with directions on what to do.
- Need a Unified Commanding System to Manage Emergency Situations
- Need Emergency Drills
- Public need protection from some of the dangers (Elephant threats, Relocation from Land Slide prawn areas and flooding areas)
- Realization of licensing conditions on Emergency Communication
Identified Communication Sources Useful in Emergencies

• GSM/ CDMA Voice, Data, Text and SMS Alerting/ National Roaming
• Radio Broadcasting and Data Services (RDS)
• VHF/ UHF Communications, (CEB, Police, Forces, Volunteers)
• Satellite communication
• Call prioritization
• Armature Radio (HF, VHF Communications)
• Common Emergency numbers 118, 119
Identified Emergency Warning Systems

• SMS alerting (GSM, CDMA), Cell Broadcasting
• Remote Siren and Multiple Alarms
• Light and Radio Activations
• Radio, TV Broadcasting
THANK YOU!

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