

**Department of Social Work
St. Joseph's College (Autonomous),
Irinjalakuda**



**Report on INICIO-2024
International Conference on**

***“Enhancing the Efficiency of Disaster Management
through Social Work Innovations, Collaboration, and
Resilience Building”***

Collaborators

- 1. Department of Social Work, St. Joseph's College, Autonomous,
Irinjalakuda, Thrissur, Kerala*
- 2. Rhodes University, Makhanda, Eastern Cape, South Africa*
- 3. Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA),
Trivandrum*



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

INICIO- 2024

International Conference on

**Enhancing Efficiency of Disaster Management through Social Work
Innovation, Collaboration and Resilience Building**



Organized by

The Department of Social Work

**St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, Kerala, India
in collaboration with**

**Rhodes University, Makhanda,
Eastern Cape, South Africa**



27th & 28th February 2024

Chief Guest

SHRI KARTHIK PANIGRAHI

*Assistant Collector,
Thrissur*



Inaugurator

*Dr. Sekhar Lukose Kuriakose
Member Secretary, KSDMA*



Advocates of the Conference



Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon
Founder Member,
National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA),
Government of India



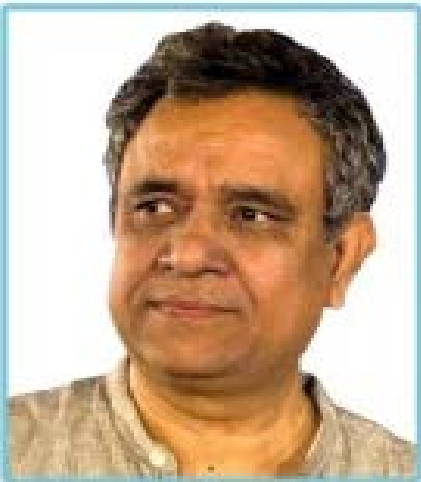
Mr. Gopinath T Menon
Convenor
Retd. UNICEF, Maharashtra

Organizers


Organizers

 Dr. Siji P.D Conference Patron Principal	 Dr. Jessy K.C. Convenor HoD, Dept. of Social Work	 Dr. Roman Tandlich Convenor Rhodes University	 Mr. Gopinath T Menon Convenor Retd. UNICEF, Maharashtra
 Ms. Krishnendhu K.B Co ordinator & Faculty Incharge		 Ms. Delia Co ordinator & Faculty Incharge	

Dignitaries Delivered Felicitations



Suman Ahsanul Islam
Adviser and Co-Founder, inSights
Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Dr. Basil Leodoro
Consultant General Surgeon,
Northern Provincial Hospital,
University of South Pacific, Vanuatu



Adi Vutevute Emi
Deputy Chair - Ra District Council
of Social Services, Pacific Region, Fiji



Akmal Ali
Coordinator FALE ,Pacific PIANGO,
Pacific Region, Fiji



Tobias Nauruki
Deputy Director
TEAM Environment Kenya, Nairobi



Dr. Binu, IQAC Coordinator
Department of Chemistry



Dr.Sr.Rose Bastain
Sel Financing Section
Co-Ordinator

Speakers of the Conference



Mr. Shailendra Yashwant

Independent Environmental Photo Journalist and
Climate Communications Consultant
Senior Advisor to Climate Action Network South
Asia (CANSA)

Topic: Importance of Social and Mass Media for
Communication in Disaster Management



Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon

Founder Member, National Disaster Management
Authority (NDMA), Government of India; Mem-
ber, Advisory Board, Quantectum AG, Switzeland;
Regional Director Asia TIEMS, Oslo & Brussels;
President, RedR India.

Topic: Strategies of the Global North and Global
South to Prepare for, Respond to and Recoer from
Disasters, Climate Change & Extreme Events and
Conflicts



Roman Tandlich

Associate Professor

Rhodes University, South Africa & Regional
Director Africa, The International Management
Society (TIEMS), Oslo

Topic : Drought Preparedness and Response: A
Case Study from South Africa



Ms. Susmy Sunny

Hazaard Analyst, Thrissur

Kerala State Disaster Management Authority
(KSDMA)

Topic: Community Resilience and Capacity
Building



Dr. Jyothi Krishnan

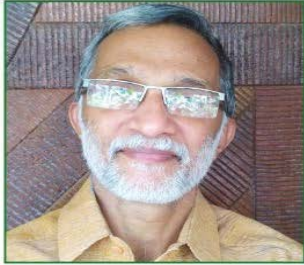
Loyola College, TVM

Topic: Social Work Ethics and Human Rights in
Disasters



Dr. S. Sreekumar

Disaster Risk Management Expert, KILA, Thrissur
Topic: Ecosystem based Approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction



Dr. Abey George

Associate Professor, CHRD, KILA, Kottarakkara Kollam
Topic: Role of Local Self Government (LSG) Institutions in Policy Making and Advocacy in Disaster Management

Chief Guest - Valedictory Function



Dr. Joy Elamon

Director General, Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), Thrissur

Architects of Success: Faculty Pillars of the Conference



Introduction- Inaugural Ceremony

The Department of Social Work at St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, successfully orchestrated *INICIO-2024*, an international conference held on the 27th and 28th of February 2024. This significant event, centered around the theme "*Enhancing the Efficiency of Disaster Management Through Social Work Innovations, Collaboration, And Resilience Building*," was organized in collaboration with the Kerala Disaster Management Authority (KDMA) and Rhodes University, Makhanda, Eastern Cape, South Africa. The conference aimed to address the pressing challenges in disaster management through the lens of social work, innovation, collaboration, and resilience-building strategies.

Welcome Address

(Dr. Jessy K.C, HOD)

The inaugural day of *INICIO-2024* began with a formal ceremony at 9:30 AM. Dr. Sr. Jessy K.C, Head of the Department of Social Work at St. Joseph's College, welcomed all attendees and set the tone for the conference.



Keynote Address by Mr. Gopinath T. Menon, retired Chief of UNICEF Maharashtra



Mr. Gopinath T. Menon, retired Chief of UNICEF Maharashtra State Office and conference convener, provided a comprehensive overview of the conference, highlighting its objectives and significance.

Presidential Address (Dr. Siji P.D, Principal)



The presidential address was delivered by Dr. Siji P.D, Principal of St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, who emphasized the importance of collaboration between academic institutions, government bodies, and international organizations in enhancing disaster management efforts.

Inaugural Address (Dr. Sekhar Lukose Kuriakose, Member Secretary of the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KDMA))

Dr. Sekhar Lukose Kuriakose, Member Secretary of the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KDMA) and Head (Scientist) of the State Emergency Operations Centre in Thiruvananthapuram, officially inaugurated the conference by lighting the ceremonial lamp.



Inaugural Address (Asst. Collector Sri Karthik Panigrahi)

Though the district collector, Sri Krishna Teja IAS, was unable to attend, the event was graced by the presence of Asst. Collector Sri Karthik Panigrahi, who inaugurated the event in his stead.



The inaugural ceremony was further honored by the presence of distinguished personalities, including Dr. Sr. Rose Bastian, Coordinator of Self-finance Programs, Dr. Binu T.V, Assistant Professor and IQAC Coordinator of St. Joseph's College Irinjalakuda, and representatives from international organizations such as Mr. Tobias Nauruki (Deputy Director of TEAM



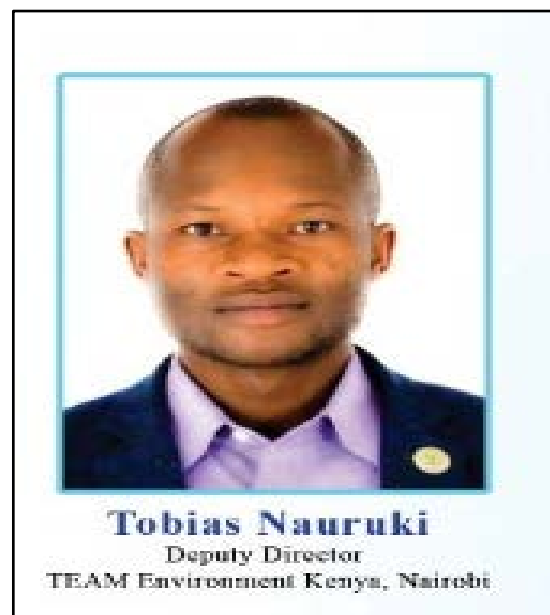
Environment Kenya), Mr. Akmal .

Dignitaries Delivering Felicitations

Facilitator: Mr. Tobias Nauruki, Deputy Director, TEAM Environment Kenya, Nairobi & Africa Regional Coordinator at the UN Family Caucus, Nairobi.

As part of the conference on **Disaster Management**, **Mr. Tobias Nauruki**, Deputy Director of TEAM Environment Kenya, Nairobi, and Africa Regional Coordinator at the UN Family Caucus, Nairobi, shared valuable insights into the impact of disasters on African countries. His session highlighted the unique challenges faced by the African continent and emphasized the crucial role of social workers in managing and mitigating these disasters.

Mr. Nauruki discussed how various African countries, especially those in regions prone to natural hazards such as floods, droughts, and earthquakes, face significant vulnerabilities due to economic, social, and environmental factors. He noted that many of these countries are not only battling the immediate effects of natural disasters but are also struggling with long-term recovery, infrastructure damage, and loss of livelihood. Drawing from his extensive experience in disaster management, Mr.

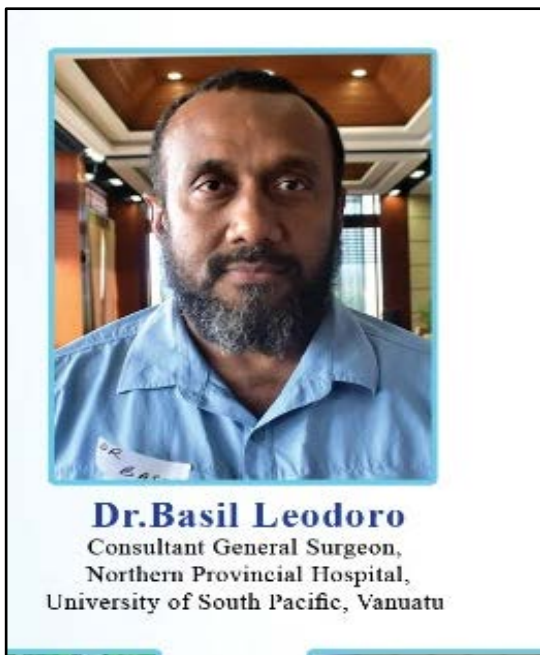


Nauruki shared real-life examples of how disasters have affected communities in Africa. He emphasized that disasters often exacerbate existing social inequalities, leaving marginalized groups, such as women, children, and the elderly, especially vulnerable.

A key focus of his speech was the role of social workers in disaster management. Mr. Nauruki stressed that social workers are essential in providing immediate relief, supporting affected communities, and facilitating long-term recovery efforts. He outlined the specific skills and approaches that social workers must adopt, such as crisis intervention, community engagement, and mental health support. He highlighted the importance of a holistic, community-driven approach to disaster management, which takes into account the social, psychological, and economic needs of affected individuals. He further pointed out that social workers play an integral part in bridging the gap between governmental disaster relief efforts and the needs of local communities. By working closely with affected individuals, social workers help ensure that relief efforts are effective, inclusive, and culturally sensitive. Mr. Nauruki concluded his session by urging the students and attendees to recognize the critical role they can play in disaster management, particularly through social work. He called for more training and awareness around disaster response strategies in African contexts, with an emphasis on sustainable practices that can help mitigate future disasters.

The session by Mr. Nauruki was an eye-opening experience for all attendees, providing them with a deeper understanding of the complexities of disaster management in African countries and the indispensable role of social workers in these efforts.

Facilitator: Dr. Basil Leodoro, Consultant General Surgeon at the Northern Provincial Hospital and University of South Pacific in Vanuatu.



He spoke about the health challenges faced by affected populations, including the spread of diseases in the aftermath of disasters. Dr. Leodoro stressed the importance of healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response,

particularly in rural and remote areas. He pointed out that healthcare infrastructure often gets overwhelmed during large-scale disasters, and immediate medical assistance can be life-saving. He emphasized that preparedness must also include healthcare training and the establishment of emergency medical systems to support affected populations.

Felicitator: Adi Vutevute Emi , Deputy Chair of the Ra District Council of Social Service in Fiji

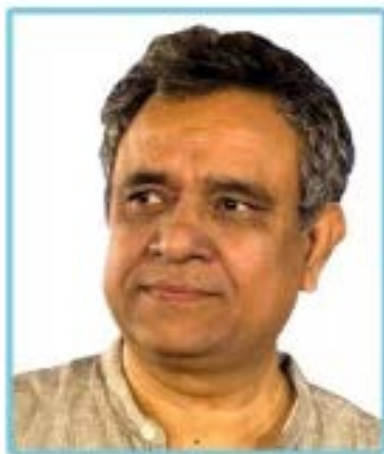
Ms. Emi discussed the role of social services in disaster management. She stressed the importance of social workers and local leaders in fostering community solidarity during disasters. She shared how the Ra District has developed community-based disaster response initiatives, focusing on creating networks of support and resources that can be quickly mobilized during emergencies. Emi highlighted that empowering communities with the knowledge and tools to respond effectively to disasters is key to reducing vulnerability and promoting recovery.



Adi Vutevute Emi
Deputy Chair - Ra District Council
of Social Services, Pacific Region, Fiji

Felicitator: Suman Ahsanul Islam, Advisor and Co-Founder, Institute of Innovation for Gender and Humanitarian Transformations, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Suman Ahsanul Islam began his speech by discussing the profound impact that



Suman Ahsanul Islam
Adviser and Co-Founder, inSights
Dhaka, Bangladesh.

an individual's experiences with disasters can have on disaster management practices. He explained that the challenges and hardships one faces during a disaster are not just personal memories but can also serve as crucial learning experiences. These experiences, he noted, often contain lessons that can be converted into knowledge for better disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

Mr. Suman emphasized that those who have experienced disasters firsthand possess unique insights that are often overlooked in traditional disaster management approaches. By documenting and reflecting on these experiences, individuals can contribute to a larger pool of knowledge that can be applied to future disaster management efforts. He called for a more inclusive approach, where the voices of those affected by disasters are actively heard and integrated into decision-making processes.

Facilitator: Dr. Sr. Rose Bastain, Coordinator of Self-Financing



Programmes, St. Joseph's College, Irinjalkuda delivered



an insightful and thought-provoking speech. The seminar aimed to raise awareness about the importance of disaster preparedness and the role of individuals and communities in managing and mitigating disasters. Dr. Sr. Rose Bastain began her speech by emphasizing that while technology plays a crucial role in modern society, it cannot fully prevent disasters. She stressed the importance of understanding the root causes of disasters, highlighting that the widespread destruction of trees and deforestation severely impacts the global environment,

contributing to climate change and natural disasters. She further explained that the balance of nature is vital for preventing such crises, and the preservation of forests and ecosystems is key to maintaining a healthy planet. According to Sr. Rose, human activities, such as deforestation and the misuse of natural resources, are major contributors to the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters. She called for a collective effort to adopt sustainable practices and protect the environment from further harm.

In her speech, Dr. Sr. Rose also shared the college's initiative to adopt 13 Manipuri students, an act that symbolizes the institution's commitment to social responsibility and inclusivity. She mentioned how this initiative aligns with the broader goal of social work and community development, reinforcing the idea that collaboration and mutual support are essential in tackling global challenges, including disaster management. Dr. Sr. Rose concluded her speech with an empowering message, encouraging students to use the knowledge gained from

the seminar to become agents of change. She expressed her hope that the seminar would serve as a stepping stone for social work students, inspiring them to actively participate in disaster relief and prevention efforts.

Dr. Binu , Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), St. Joseph’s College, Irinjalakuda emphasized the relevance of the seminar's subject in the current global scenario, where natural disasters have become more frequent and severe due to various environmental and human factors.

Dr. Binu pointed out that the topic of disaster management is of utmost importance today, considering the increasing impact of climate change and human activities on the environment. She highlighted the growing need for effective disaster management strategies, as well as the vital role that education and awareness play in preparing individuals and communities to respond to disasters efficiently. Dr. Binu expressed his hope that the seminar would provide a new pathway for understanding and addressing the challenges of disaster management. She acknowledged the significant role that institutions like St. Joseph’s College can play in raising awareness, training students, and fostering a culture of preparedness. She urged the students and faculty to take the lessons learned from the seminar seriously and to apply them to real-world situations.



Dr. Binu concluded by wishing that this seminar would serve as a stepping stone for future initiatives in disaster management, encouraging everyone to adopt proactive measures and contribute to a safer and more resilient society.



Keynote Address (Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon, Retd. Chief, UNICEF, Maharashtra)

Following a brief tea break, the technical sessions of the conference commenced. The first session was presented by **Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon**, who explored strategies employed by both the

Global North and South to tackle challenges arising from climate change, extreme weather events, and conflicts.

Speaker: Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon, Founder Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India

Prof. Menon addressed the topic: “Strategies of the Global North and Global South to Prepare for, respond to, and Recover from Disasters, Climate Change, Extreme Events, and Conflicts.”

Understanding Disasters:



Prof. Menon began the session by defining a disaster as a **serious problem** that occurs over a **short or long period of time**, resulting in **widespread human or environmental loss**. He explained that disasters exceed the capacity of the affected community to cope with and manage, leading to severe repercussions for people, property, and the environment. This definition laid the foundation for the discussion on disaster preparedness and response strategies.

Global North vs. Global South:

A significant part of Prof. Menon’s lecture focused on the differences between the **Global North** (developed nations) and the **Global South** (developing nations) in their approaches to disaster management. He explained that while the Global North tends to have advanced infrastructure, better disaster management systems, and more resources to handle extreme events, the Global South often faces challenges such as limited resources, poor infrastructure, and increased vulnerability due to socio-economic factors. Despite these disparities, both regions face similar challenges when it comes to climate change, extreme weather events, and conflicts.

Prof. Menon emphasized the importance of **collaboration** between these regions, as the Global South can learn from the experiences and strategies of the Global North, while the Global North can benefit from the adaptive strategies and grassroots solutions of the Global South.

Multi-Hazard Preparedness:

Prof. Menon further explained the concept of **multi-hazard preparedness**, stressing that it is crucial to develop systems that are equipped to handle multiple

hazards simultaneously, such as earthquakes, floods, cyclones, and pandemics. He noted that disasters rarely occur in isolation, and communities must be prepared to manage several crises at once. Effective disaster management systems must be versatile and capable of responding to a range of hazards.

Role of Humanitarian Aid Workers:

Another key point in Prof. Menon's session was the role of **humanitarian aid workers** during disasters. He emphasized that aid workers play a pivotal role in disaster response, often being the first line of support for affected communities. Prof. Menon outlined the various functions of humanitarian workers, including providing immediate relief, coordinating recovery efforts, and ensuring the continuity of essential services such as food, water, and healthcare. He highlighted the challenges that aid workers face in disaster zones, such as logistical issues, security risks, and cultural barriers.

Disaster Management Toolkits:

Prof. Menon introduced the concept of **disaster management toolkits**, which are essential resources that help organizations and governments prepare for and respond to disasters. These toolkits include guidelines, best practices, and methodologies that can be adapted to specific disaster scenarios. He explained how toolkits provide a structured approach to disaster management, offering resources for planning, risk assessment, response coordination, and recovery strategies.

Climate Change and Adaptation:

A major part of the session was dedicated to discussing the impact of **climate change** on disaster risk. Prof. Menon stressed that climate change is amplifying the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, floods, and droughts. He also talked about the **adaptation process**, explaining that communities must not only respond to disasters but also proactively adjust to the changing climate. Adaptation strategies, he noted, include building resilient infrastructure, adopting sustainable farming practices, and creating early warning systems that can save lives.

Conclusion:

Prof. Menon concluded his session by reinforcing the need for **global cooperation** and **localized action** in disaster management. While the challenges of climate change and extreme events are daunting, he expressed hope that through coordinated efforts, knowledge-sharing, and innovation, both the Global North and Global South can enhance their disaster preparedness and response capabilities. The session provided attendees with comprehensive insights into disaster management strategies, emphasizing the importance of multi-hazard preparedness, the role of humanitarian aid workers, and the need for adaptation to the realities of climate change.

Speaker: Ms. Maite Rodriguez Blandon, Fundación Guatemala, Central America

Topic: focused on “Women-led Development in Disaster Reduction”, emphasizing the importance of women’s leadership in building disaster-resilient communities and nations.

Women’s Leadership in Disaster Resilience:

Ms. Rodriguez Blandon began by pointing out that **women’s leadership** in disaster resilience has not been adequately highlighted across the world, despite women playing a pivotal role in disaster management and recovery. She argued that women, particularly in rural and marginalized communities, often have unique knowledge and skills related to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, yet their contributions are frequently overlooked.



She emphasized that **women's leadership** is crucial in developing effective, sustainable disaster management strategies. Women, who often bear the brunt of the impacts of disasters, are uniquely positioned to lead efforts to reduce risks, increase community awareness, and strengthen local resilience. She called for greater recognition of women's roles and encouraged the inclusion of women in decision-making processes related to disaster risk reduction at all levels.

Community Mapping and Innovation in Resilient Systems:

Ms. Rodriguez Blandon explained the concept of **community mapping** as a tool for understanding local vulnerabilities and resources. Community mapping involves gathering information about local risks, resources, and strengths through community engagement. It allows communities to identify areas that are most vulnerable to disasters and develop strategies to mitigate these risks. She highlighted how this approach empowers communities to take control of their own disaster preparedness and resilience efforts.

Ms. Rodriguez Blandon also discussed the importance of **innovation in resilient systems**. She pointed out that communities need to adopt creative solutions and modern technologies to strengthen their resilience to disasters. These innovative

solutions could range from the use of early warning systems to adopting sustainable practices in agriculture, water management, and infrastructure.

Community Resilience Fund (CRF):

A significant part of Ms. Rodriguez Blandon's presentation was devoted to the **Community Resilience Fund (CRF)**, a project initiated by Fundación Guatemala to support disaster risk reduction efforts in local communities. The CRF focuses on empowering communities to develop and implement their own disaster resilience projects. Through the fund, local initiatives are supported that enhance both social and environmental resilience. She discussed various successful projects that had been made possible through the CRF.

Key Projects Funded by CRF:

Ms. Rodriguez Blandon shared details of several impactful projects that were launched with the support of the **Community Resilience Fund**:

1. **Tool Banks:** These are community-managed resources that provide access to tools and equipment for disaster preparedness and recovery. Tool banks help local communities quickly respond to disasters by ensuring they have the necessary tools for rebuilding homes, clearing debris, and other recovery tasks.
2. **Organic Agriculture for Local Markets:** This initiative focuses on promoting **organic farming** as a sustainable and disaster-resilient practice. By encouraging local communities to grow organic crops, the project helps ensure food security and economic stability even during difficult times, such as after a natural disaster.
3. **Seed Banks:** Seed banks are essential for preserving local agricultural diversity and providing communities with the means to recover after disasters. By collecting and storing seeds, the project helps ensure that farmers can replant crops quickly after a disaster, thus maintaining food supply and local economies.
4. **Rainwater Harvesting:** Ms. Rodriguez Blandon explained the importance of **rainwater harvesting systems** as a means of ensuring a reliable water source for communities during times of disaster. This sustainable practice not only reduces dependency on external water sources but also increases resilience to droughts and other water-related issues.

Conclusion:

Ms. Rodriguez Blandon concluded her session by stressing the importance of **community-driven solutions** and **women's leadership** in building disaster-resilient systems. She highlighted that disaster risk reduction efforts must prioritize inclusivity and empowerment, with women playing a central role in shaping the future of resilient communities. Through initiatives like the **Community Resilience Fund** and projects such as tool banks, organic

agriculture, and seed banks, communities can build long-term resilience and prepare for the inevitable challenges posed by natural disasters.

The session was an inspiring reminder of the transformative power of community-based action and the critical role women play in driving positive change in disaster management.

Conclusion and Acknowledgements:

The session concluded with a round of thanks. **Mr. Gopinath T Menon** and **Prof. N Vinod Chandra Menon** expressed their gratitude to Ms. Rodriguez Blandon for her efforts in conducting the session online. They acknowledged the value of her insights into disaster management, women's leadership, and the innovative strategies presented for building community resilience.

Closing Remarks: The session ended at 3:00 p.m., having successfully provided valuable knowledge on disaster management and resilience-building strategies. The talk underscored the importance of women's leadership in disaster reduction and the role of community-driven initiatives in fostering sustainable resilience. The practical examples and innovative projects presented by Ms. Rodriguez Blandon offered actionable solutions for enhancing disaster management efforts, particularly in vulnerable communities. Overall, the session was an informative and impactful discussion that highlighted the critical intersection of social work, innovation, and leadership in disaster risk reduction.

Technical Session-3 (27th February-2024-3.00 pm -4.00 pm)

Speaker: Dr. Maureen Fordham, Professional Research Associate in Gender & Disaster, University College, London, UK

Topic: "Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation in a Changing World"

Dr. Fordham laid out the **key objectives** for the session, which were to address the following:

1. **What does gender have to do with disaster?** She emphasized that disaster response and preparedness are often viewed through a gendered lens, primarily focusing on **women** and their roles in disaster management.
2. **What does social work have to do with DRR & climate adaptation?** Dr. Fordham explored the critical role social workers play in building resilient communities, particularly in the context of disaster and climate change.
3. **Why is understanding and valuing care in disaster important?** She highlighted the **care economy**, which is predominantly carried out by women, and discussed how it is often undervalued and under-resourced, despite being essential for disaster recovery and community resilience.

Gender and Disaster:

Dr. Fordham began her presentation by emphasizing the **gender gap** in disaster outcomes. She discussed how women and marginalized groups tend to bear a disproportionate burden during and after disasters due to pre-existing inequalities. She outlined various gender-based outcomes in disaster contexts, including:



- **Health outcomes:** Women often face worse health outcomes in the aftermath of disasters, including **higher mortality rates** and **lower life expectancy**, especially in regions with inadequate healthcare infrastructure.
- **Mental health:** The emotional toll of disasters often affects women more significantly, particularly those who are caregivers or who have experienced gender-based violence in the aftermath of disasters.
- **Educational outcomes:** Dr. Fordham explained how **education** can be disrupted by disasters, with girls often being the first to drop out of school, thereby perpetuating gender inequalities in education.
- **Economic outcomes:** Women are often excluded from economic recovery plans, which further exacerbates gender inequality. Women are also more likely to work in informal sectors, leaving them vulnerable to economic disruptions caused by disasters.
- **Voice & agency outcomes:** She discussed the issue of **gender-based violence** during and after disasters, pointing out that women's voices and agency are often marginalized in disaster recovery planning, despite their central role in community resilience.

The Role of Social Work in DRR & Climate Change Adaptation:

Dr. Fordham explored the role of **social workers** in **disaster risk reduction** and **climate change adaptation**. Social workers, she explained, are uniquely positioned to support vulnerable populations before, during, and after disasters. Their work includes:

- **Advocacy and support:** Social workers advocate for vulnerable groups, ensuring that their needs are addressed in disaster preparedness and recovery plans.
- **Building resilience:** By supporting communities and helping individuals access resources and services, social workers play a key role in strengthening resilience and ensuring that recovery is inclusive.
- **Emphasizing care:** Social workers also address the **care economy**, which is crucial in disaster settings, by supporting those who provide unpaid care, often women, and ensuring that their work is recognized and adequately resourced.

Challenges in Disaster Management:

Dr. Fordham also discussed some of the **challenges** in **disaster management** and **climate change adaptation**, which include:

- **Climate change:** The increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters due to climate change present significant challenges to both communities and disaster management systems. Dr. Fordham stressed that climate change is disproportionately affecting women, particularly in developing regions, and that adaptation efforts must prioritize the needs of women and marginalized groups.
- **Decision-making without social input:** Dr. Fordham pointed out that decisions related to disaster management are often made without sufficient **social input**, especially from those most affected by disasters, such as women, children, and marginalized communities. She called for **inclusive decision-making** processes that consider the social and cultural contexts of communities, ensuring that the voices of vulnerable populations are heard.

Conclusion:

Dr. Fordham concluded the session by reiterating the critical importance of addressing gender inequalities in disaster management and climate change adaptation. She emphasized that women's leadership, the recognition of the care economy, and the inclusion of social workers in disaster response are key to building resilient communities. Furthermore, she stressed the need for **gender-sensitive policies** that recognize the unique vulnerabilities and capacities of women and marginalized groups in disaster contexts.

The session provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of the intersection of **gender**, **disaster risk reduction**, and **climate change adaptation**, and reinforced the importance of **inclusive** and **equitable** approaches to disaster management.

Technical Session-4 (27th February-2024,4.30 pm -5.30 pm)

Speaker: Dr. Roman Tandlich, Associate Professor at Rhodes University, South Africa

Topic: on "Drought Preparedness and Response: A Case Study from South Africa," drawing from real-world experiences in managing droughts in the region.

On 27/02/2024 (4.30 pm) Dr. Roman Tandlich, a renowned expert on water resources and environmental challenges, delivered an insightful presentation on the topic of South Africa's ongoing drought crisis with a focus on understanding the complex environmental, social, and health issues surrounding water scarcity and quality in the region.

Overview of the Talk

Dr. Tandlich began his presentation by emphasizing the significant challenges posed by South Africa's growing population, which has put increasing pressure on the country's water resources. With a high population density, especially in the arid and semi-arid regions of the country, many communities living in hot climates and near bodies of water are facing severe water shortages. This situation has exacerbated the existing strain on water systems, making the management of water resources even more critical.



Types of Droughts and Their Impact

A key portion of Dr. Tandlich's presentation focused on the two main types of droughts commonly faced by South Africa: hydrological and methodological droughts. Hydrological drought refers to the deficit in the supply of water, typically caused by prolonged periods of low rainfall, leading to a decrease in the availability of surface water sources such as rivers and dams. Methodological drought, on the other hand, pertains to the reduction in the effectiveness of water systems due to human-induced factors, such as poor management and over-extraction of water resources. Dr. Tandlich discussed the impact of these droughts on both urban and rural populations in South Africa, stressing the need for innovative solutions to address the growing water crisis.

Eastern Cape Drought

In October 2018, the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa was officially declared a drought zone, a decision that highlighted the severity of water shortages in this region. Dr. Tandlich noted that this declaration underscored the urgency of finding solutions to manage water scarcity and improve the region's resilience to future drought events.

The Public Perception of Rainwater

Dr. Tandlich also addressed a critical public health issue related to water consumption. He pointed out that many South Africans rely on rainwater as a primary source of drinking water. However, there is a misconception that rainwater is inherently pure and safe for consumption. He emphasized that, in

reality, rainwater is often contaminated by pollutants in the atmosphere and may carry significant health risks, including waterborne diseases like cholera and diarrhea.

This widespread belief that rainwater is pure poses a serious public health challenge, as it may lead to unsafe water consumption. Dr. Tandlich stressed the importance of proper water quality monitoring and treatment to ensure that rainwater and other water sources are safe for drinking.

Conclusion and Appreciation

Dr. Tandlich's talk was not only informative but also thought-provoking, shedding light on the pressing issues of water scarcity, public health, and environmental sustainability in South Africa. The use of a detailed PowerPoint presentation helped clarify complex topics and provided attendees with a clearer understanding of the challenges faced by the people of South Africa in managing their water resources. At the conclusion of the session, Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon and Mr. Gopinath T. Menon extended their heartfelt thanks to Dr. Tandlich for his valuable contribution to the event. Their appreciation for his effort in sharing critical knowledge on such an important issue was echoed by all the attendees.

The session ended at 5:30 PM, leaving attendees with a deeper awareness of the drought crisis in South Africa and the urgent need for sustainable solutions to safeguard the country's water resources and public health.

The first day of the conference concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Ragi M.R, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) Irinjalakuda.

Technical Session-5 (28th February-2024,9.30 pm -10.30 am)

Speaker: Mr. Dr. S. Sreekumar, an esteemed Disaster Risk Management Expert from the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA)

Topic: Ecosystem-based Approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction

On the 28th of February, 2024, an insightful session was held as part of an international conference, focusing on the pressing need for ecosystem-based approaches in disaster risk reduction. The session was delivered by Mr. Dr. S. Sreekumar, an esteemed Disaster Risk Management Expert from the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), Thrissur. His presentation shed light on the critical role of ecosystem restoration and management in reducing the frequency and severity of natural disasters.



Key Highlights of the Presentation

Mr. Dr. S. Sreekumar began the session by emphasizing the growing concern over ecosystem degradation, a challenge that continues to threaten biodiversity and the well-being of communities across the globe. He highlighted the urgency for immediate and sustained efforts toward ecosystem restoration to safeguard both the environment and human life.

The presentation revolved around several key strategies that can play a pivotal role in mitigating disaster risks, including:

1. **River Restoration:** The restoration of rivers can help reduce flooding, improve water quality, and enhance biodiversity.
2. **Bank Protection:** Strengthening riverbanks to prevent erosion and safeguard communities living near water bodies.
3. **Water Conservation:** Implementing measures to conserve water, particularly in regions vulnerable to droughts and water scarcity.
4. **Mountain Hazards Mitigation:** Addressing the risks posed by mountain hazards, such as landslides and avalanches, through effective planning and restoration efforts.

Mr. Sreekumar emphasized that by adopting these ecosystem-based measures, we can restore ecological balance, which in turn will reduce the occurrence of natural disasters.

Additionally, he highlighted the importance of **Sustainable Environmental Management**, stressing that investing in long-term environmental health can not only reduce disaster risks but also assist in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation efforts. By focusing on nature-based solutions, communities can be better prepared for future challenges while ensuring the sustainability of their ecosystems.



Technical

Session-6 (28th February-2024,10.40 am -11.40 am)

Speaker: Mr. Roy Alex, an expert in Disaster Management, Darjeeling, West Bengal

Topic: Instrumental Role of Social Workers During the Kerala Floods.



Mr. Roy Alex, an expert in Disaster Management, led the next session, focusing on the Instrumental Role of Social Workers During the Kerala Floods. He discussed how ESAF (Evangelical Social Action Forum) assisted the affected population through volunteer recruitment and

highlighted the importance of social workers in disaster management .

The virtual session, led by Mr. Roy Alex, a renowned expert in the field of disaster management, commenced at 10:40 AM. The primary focus of the session was to discuss effective strategies and approaches in disaster management, with specific reference to the 2018 Kerala floods. The session also highlighted the critical role of local self-government, volunteers, social workers, and organizations like ESAF Finance Bank in disaster response and recovery.

2. Opening Video

The session began with an insightful video showcasing the efforts of Kerala's ESAF Finance Bank during the devastating 2018 floods. The video demonstrated

how the bank provided significant assistance to the flood-affected population, highlighting its proactive approach to offering financial resources, aid, and support to the victims. This served as a precursor to the discussion on the importance of community-driven disaster relief efforts.

3. Key Discussion Points

Following the video, Mr. Roy Alex delved into various aspects of disaster management, particularly focusing on the Kerala floods. The key points discussed included:

a) Role of ESAF Finance Bank

Mr. Roy explained how ESAF Finance Bank took the initiative to help the people affected by the 2018 floods in Kerala. The organization provided financial assistance, distributed relief resources, and supported the rehabilitation of families whose lives had been severely impacted by the disaster. Their swift response not only aided immediate relief but also contributed to the long-term recovery of the affected regions.

b) The Role of Volunteers

Mr. Roy emphasized the indispensable role of volunteers in disaster management. He discussed how ESAF and other organizations recruited volunteers to support the rescue, relief, and recovery operations. Volunteers, who often come from local communities, play a crucial role in providing on-the-ground support, including distributing aid, helping with evacuation, and assisting in rebuilding efforts.

c) Importance of Social Workers

Mr. Roy highlighted the vital role social workers play in disaster management. Social workers help address the psychological and emotional needs of affected individuals, providing counseling and support. Their presence ensures that disaster management efforts take a holistic approach, addressing both physical and mental health concerns of the disaster-affected populations.

d) Role of Local Self-Government

Mr. Roy also discussed the importance of local self-government in disaster management, particularly during and after a disaster. Local bodies play an essential role in resource provision, coordination of relief activities, and ensuring that the affected populations have access to the necessary services and aid. He stressed that the ability of local self-government to respond effectively to disasters can significantly impact the overall success of relief and recovery operations.

Conclusion

The session concluded with Mr. Roy Alex underscoring the need for collaboration between government bodies, local self-governments, social workers, and volunteers. The collective efforts of these stakeholders are essential in mitigating the impacts of disasters and ensuring the swift recovery of affected communities. The importance of preparedness, resource management, and community involvement was reiterated as key components of successful disaster management.

Technical Session-7 (28th February-2024,12.00 pm -1.00 pm)

Speaker: Dr. Jyothi Krishna, Associate Professor, Department of Disaster Management at Loyola College, Trivandrum

Topic: "Social Work Ethics and Human Rights in Disasters,"

Overview of the Session

The session focused on critical issues surrounding human rights and social work ethics, particularly during disasters. Dr. Jyothi Krishna started by discussing the **factors leading to human rights** and their relevance to social work ethics in the context of disasters. She highlighted the plight of vulnerable groups during catastrophic events and explored how disasters exacerbate human rights violations. She also delved into historical examples such as the **1940s concentration camps** to draw parallels to contemporary disaster scenarios.

Key Topics Discussed

- 1. Human Rights During Disasters:** Dr. Jyothi Krishna outlined the fundamental human rights that should be upheld during disasters, including the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to work and education. She emphasized that human rights are inherent to all individuals by virtue of their humanity, irrespective of the state or government.
- 2. Vulnerability During Disasters:** A significant part of



the session was dedicated to understanding the **vulnerability** of individuals during disasters. Dr. Jyothi Krishna categorized vulnerability into physical, social, economic, and geographic factors. She pointed out that the most affected individuals are often those who are powerless, marginalized, and unable to assert their demands.

3. **Impact of the 2004 Tsunami:** One of the key case studies discussed was the **2004 Tsunami**, which caused widespread devastation across multiple countries. Dr. Jyothi Krishna reflected on the aftermath of the disaster, particularly the slow pace of **reconstruction** and the many challenges in **rehabilitating coastal communities**. She cited specific examples of affected regions such as **Aratupuzha, Maharashtra colony, and Alappuzha tsunami colony**, where the impact of the disaster was most severe. Dr. Jyothi Krishna also pointed out the gender-based violence and **sexual abuse** that occurred in the aftermath, particularly in relief camps.
4. **Humanitarian Support and Disaster Response:** Dr. Jyothi Krishna discussed the importance of **humanitarian support** in disaster response, focusing on the need to alleviate suffering through ethical and responsible interventions. She stressed the role of social workers in advocating for **social justice** and ensuring **human rights** are upheld, even in the chaos following a disaster.
5. **Ethics in Social Work During Disasters:** A key message was the need for social workers to adhere to a strict **code of ethics** while engaging in disaster response. She emphasized that social workers must always prioritize the dignity and rights of affected individuals, ensuring that their actions are guided by compassion, respect, and justice.

Case Studies and Rehabilitation Efforts

Dr. Jyothi Krishna provided real-world examples of **rehabilitation efforts** post-disaster, including the **Valiyathura Relief Camps**, the **Punargehem project**, and resettlement efforts in **flat complexes**. These examples highlighted the complexities of disaster recovery, particularly in addressing both physical and emotional trauma among affected communities.

Reflection:

The session was highly informative and relevant, particularly for emerging social workers who are likely to encounter disaster scenarios in their professional careers. Dr. Jyothi Krishna's expertise and the case studies she shared provided valuable insights into the intersection of **Human Rights, Social Work Ethics, & Disaster Management**. The session not only deepened the understanding of the challenges faced by vulnerable populations during disasters but also reinforced the importance of ethical, rights-based approaches in disaster relief and recovery efforts. The event concluded on a note of gratitude, with attendees expressing appreciation for the depth and relevance of the session in addressing contemporary social work issues related to *disaster* response.

Speaker: Ms. Susmi Sunny, Hazard Analyst at KSDMA, Thrissur.

Topic: "Community Resilience and Capacity"

Session Overview: The session began with Ms. Susmy Sunny highlighting the necessity of building community resilience, particularly after the catastrophic floods in Kerala in 2018 and 2019. These events brought the importance of community engagement in disaster management into the public spotlight. The speaker emphasized the significance of public involvement in building resilience and reducing disaster risks. Several key areas were discussed, including:

1. Community Resilience:

Ms. Susmy outlined the multifaceted approach to building resilience, stressing the need for proactive measures in disaster risk reduction. The presentation covered critical aspects such as **mitigation, capacity building, training, and awareness programs**, along with the importance of having well-structured **disaster management plans** at the household level.

2. Local Government Disaster Management Plans:

The speaker elaborated on the disaster management plans executed by KSDMA in collaboration with the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA). These plans are being implemented in all 14 districts of Kerala and include various chapters on:

- Disaster risks and vulnerable areas
- Types of disaster risks specific to the region
- Panchayat maps indicating disaster-prone zones
- Mitigation strategies and preparedness plans
- Online training programs available on the KILA website to enhance public awareness and capacity.

3. Inclusive Disaster Management Programs:

Ms. Susmy highlighted several inclusive disaster management programs run by KSDMA,



focusing on marginalized communities. These include:

- Disability-inclusive disaster management programs
- Transgender-inclusive initiatives
- Palliative care programs
- Tribal disaster management initiatives

4. **Interactive Session with Participants:**

Ms. Susmy interacted with the participants, engaging them in a discussion about the involvement of local communities, especially fishermen and other local groups, in rescue operations during the Kerala floods. She also introduced several key volunteer and community organizations, including:

- **Samuhya Sannadha Sena** (a registered volunteer group for disaster management)
- **Inter-Agency Group**
- **Human Society International**
- **Apta Mithra**
- **Drowning Prevention Awareness Campaign** (a new initiative focusing on schools and colleges in Kerala).

Conclusion by Dr. S. Sreekumar:

Dr. S. Sreekumar, a Disaster Risk Management Expert from KILA, offered additional insights on the topic, reinforcing the importance of community-based disaster management and the need for local government initiatives in enhancing resilience.

Conclusion:

The session concluded at 3:00 pm, having successfully provided valuable insights into community resilience and disaster risk reduction. It emphasized the collective efforts required from both government and local communities to build a safer and more resilient Kerala. The various disaster management plans, inclusive programs, and volunteer groups were key takeaways, showcasing the power of community involvement in disaster preparedness and response.

The session highlighted the importance of awareness, capacity building, and proactive planning in creating a more resilient society capable of withstanding future disasters.

Technical Session-9 (28th February-2024,3.00 pm -4.00 pm)

Speaker: Mr. Shailendra Yashwanth, an Independent Environmental Photojournalist and Senior Advisor to the Climate Action Network in South Asia.

Topic: "Importance of Social and Mass Media for Communication in Disaster."

The final session was led by **Mr. Shailendra Yashwanth**, an Independent Environmental Photojournalist and Senior Advisor to the Climate Action Network in South Asia, who explored the *“Importance of Social and Mass Media for Communication in Disaster.”* The session focused on the role of media in disaster awareness, communication, and mobilization of resources.

Session Overview:

Mr. Shailendra Yashwant's talk centered on the critical role that both **Social Media** And **Mass Media** play in disaster management and communication. He emphasized how media platforms, when used effectively, contribute to the overall management of disasters, from providing immediate information to offering psychological support to affected communities.

1. **Media as Psychological First Aid:** Mr. Yashwant began by discussing how media, especially social media, acts as a **psychological first aid** during disasters. He explained that media helps in reducing the anxiety and panic of the public by providing real-time information, updates, and support, which helps people to stay informed and calm during chaotic situations.
2. **Linking the Public in Critical Situations:** A key point of the discussion was how media platforms, particularly social media, can **link the public** in times of crisis. He explained that during disasters, social media helps in connecting people with the necessary resources, relief efforts, and emergency services. It also facilitates communication between local authorities and the public, ensuring that important information reaches those in need.
3. **Contribution of Media in Disaster Management:** Mr. Yashwant highlighted the significant contribution of both traditional media and social media in disaster management. He pointed out that the media serves as a **conduit for leadership goals**, shaping public perception and mobilizing communities for action. Media also plays a role in raising awareness about disaster risks and the importance of preparedness, which can ultimately lead to more resilient communities.
4. **Convergence of Social Networking and Mass Media:** One of the main points Mr. Yashwant addressed was the **convergence** between **social networking** and **mass media**. With the rise of digital platforms, the boundary between traditional mass media and social media has blurred, creating an interconnected communication network. He discussed how this convergence has revolutionized the way information is shared during disasters, making it faster and more widespread.



5. **Social Solidarity:** In concluding his talk, Mr. Yashwant underscored the importance of **social solidarity** during and after a disaster. He emphasized that during crises, the ability of communities to come together and support one another is vital. Media plays an essential role in fostering this sense of unity by spreading messages of hope, solidarity, and collective action.

Conclusion:

Mr. Shailendra Yashwant's talk concluded with a reflection on the vital role of social and mass media in disaster communication. He reinforced that while media provides information, it also serves as an essential tool for emotional support and community solidarity during times of crisis. His experience and insights illustrated how media, when effectively used, can be an invaluable asset in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. The talk highlighted the evolving relationship between traditional and social media and their collective power in shaping disaster response and management strategies. Social solidarity, according to Mr. Yashwant, is fundamental in the aftermath of a disaster, and the media plays a crucial role in nurturing this spirit.

Participation and Engagement



INICIO-2024 witnessed the participation of 183 delegates, including 143 students from St. Joseph's College, Irinjalakuda, and 40 participants from various colleges such as St. Albert's College, Ernakulam, Vimala College, Thrissur, Bharath Mata College, Thrikkakara, Don Bosco College, Mannuthi, Chinmaya College,

Kolazhi, and Christ College, Irinjalakuda.

Paper Presentation Session and poster-making competition



The conference included a paper presentation session that saw the participation of 23 teams with 30 participants, showcasing a diverse range of academic and practical insights into disaster management.

Additionally, a poster-making competition was organized on February 15th, 2024, as part of the conference activities, which were well-received by the participants.



Conclusion

INICIO-2024 successfully brought together experts, practitioners, and students to discuss and explore innovative strategies in disaster management through social work approaches. The conference provided a platform for the exchange of ideas, best practices, and collaborative efforts to enhance disaster preparedness, response, and resilience-building.

The diverse range of sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities ensured that participants gained valuable insights into global disaster challenges, particularly in the context of climate change, gender, community resilience, and media communication. The successful collaboration between St. Joseph's College, KDMA, and Rhodes University laid the foundation for continued dialogue and partnership in disaster management and social work innovation.

The conference concluded with a strong commitment to future collaboration and a renewed focus on empowering communities and social workers to respond more effectively to the evolving challenges of disaster management.

Valedictory Function

Chief Guest

The valedictory function of the conference was held on 28th February 2024, during which the valedictory address was delivered by Dr. Joy Elamon, Director General of KILA.



Best Paper Awards and Prizes for the poster-making competition were distributed at the event.





A Lifetime Achievement

Award was presented to Mr. Paul Thomas, Founder of ESAF, for his dedicated services in disaster management.

Three significant decisions were announced: establishing the **St. Joseph's College Disaster Management Task Force** and the **St. Joseph's College Global Peace Corps Unit**.



Overview of the Conference

INICIO-2024 featured **8 technical sessions** led by experts from varied fields, alongside insightful paper presentations by students, researchers, academicians, and practitioners. The themes explored spanned disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation, offering fresh perspectives and actionable solutions.

We were privileged to honor esteemed dignitaries such as:

- **Shri. Karthik Pani Grahi, Assistant Collector, Thrissur**
- **Dr. Sekhar Lukose Kuriakose, Member Secretary, KSDMA**
- **Dr. Joy Elamon, Director General, KILA**
- **Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon, Founder Member, NDMA**

- **Mr. Gopinath T. Menon, Retired Chief of UNICEF Maharashtra**

Additionally, we recognized the extraordinary contributions of **Mr. Paul Thomas, Chairman and Managing Director of ESAF**, who received the *Lifetime Achievement Award* for his pioneering work in microfinance and humanitarian assistance across India.

Highlights and Achievements

1. Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building:

- Experts and participants shared groundbreaking research findings, best practices, and empirical evidence, emphasizing interdisciplinary collaborations to tackle evolving disaster risks.

2. Empowering Vulnerable Communities:

- Discussions underscored the importance of community-led initiatives, advocating for tailored interventions to empower vulnerable populations and enhance their resilience.

3. Fostering Collaborations:

- The conference served as a catalyst for partnerships, fostering dialogue among academics, practitioners, and policymakers to strengthen disaster resilience locally and globally.

4. Creative Engagement:

- The college community actively participated in a *poster-making competition*, showcasing creative expressions of disaster management themes.

Key Outcomes

1. Enhanced Awareness and Knowledge Sharing:

- Participants gained insights into cutting-edge strategies and emerging challenges, contributing to the collective knowledge base.

2. Policy and Practice Alignment:

- The conference outcomes are expected to guide evidence-based policy development, shaping future disaster management strategies.

3. Strengthened Networks:

- Delegates exchanged ideas, forged alliances, and laid the groundwork for collaborative initiatives that prioritize resilience-building.

Acknowledgments

The Department of Social Work, St. Joseph's College, Irinjalakuda extends heartfelt thanks to our collaborators, especially Dr. Vinod Chandra Menon and Mr. Gopi Nath T Menon for their unwavering dedication to this conference's success. We are deeply grateful to the dignitaries, speakers, and participants who enriched this event with their expertise and insights.

Conclusion

The valedictory session of *INICIO-2024* marks the culmination of a transformative journey dedicated to enhancing the efficiency of disaster management through social work innovations, collaborations, and resilience-building. As we move forward, let us channel the momentum generated here into concrete actions. Together, we can create a safer, more resilient world, turning our shared vision into reality.

Thank you all for your participation and contributions to making *INICIO-2024* a resounding success.

Addressing the Dignitaries and Vote of Thanks





Distribution of Tokens of Gratitude





Poster-making Competition on Disaster Management on 15th February 2024








Programme Schedule

	Dr. Basil Leodoro Consultant General Surgeon Northern Provincial Hospital University of South Pacific Vanuatu	10.40 AM -10.45AM
	Suman Ahsanul Islam Advisor& Co-founder inSights-Institute of Innovations for Gender and Humanitarian Transformations, Dhaka Bangladesh	10.45 AM-10.50AM
	Adi Vutevute Emi Deputy Chair – Ra District Council of Social Services, Pacific Region, Fiji	10.50 AM-10.55 AM
Keynote Address	Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon Founder Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India	10.55 AM- 11.15 AM
Vote of Thanks	Krishnendhu K B Assistant professor Department of Social Work St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda	11.15 AM-11.20AM
Tea Break		
1.00 PM onwards Paper Presentation will be held at Mariyan Hall		
TECHNICAL SESSIONS – DAY 1		
Delegates	Topic	Time
Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon	Strategies of the Global North and Global South to Prepare for, Respond to and Recover from Disasters, Climate Change, Extreme Events and Conflicts	11.45 AM – 1.00 PM
Lunch Break 1.00 PM-2.00PM		
Ms. Maite Rodriguez Blandon Fundacion Guatemala, Central America	Women led Development in Disaster Risk Reduction	2.00 PM-3.00 PM
Dr. Fordham Maureen Professorial Research Associate	Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in a Changing World	3.00 PM- 4.00 PM
	in Gender and Disaster Fordham of University College, London, UK	
Tea Break		
Dr. Roman Thandlich Associate Professor Rhodes University, South Africa	Drought Preparedness & Response: A case study from South Africa.	4.30 PM – 5.30 PM
Ms Ragi M R Assistant Professor Department of Social Work St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda	Vote of Thanks	5.30 PM
DAY 2: 28/2/2024 WEDNESDAY		
Ms. Mary Amrutha K C Assistant Professor Department of Social Work St. Joseph's College(Autonomous) Irinjalakuda, Kerala, India	Welcome Speech	9.25 AM -9.30AM
Dr. S. Sreekumar Disaster Risk Management Expert,KILA, Thrissur	Ecosystem Based Approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction	9.30 AM – 10.30 AM
Dr.Abey George Associate Professor, CHRD KILA, Kottarakkara, Kollam	Role of LSG Institutions in Policy Making and Advocacy in Disaster Management	10.30 AM– 11.30 AM
Tea Break		
Dr. Jyothi Krishnan Associate Professor, Dept. of Disaster Management, Loyola College Thiruvananthapuram	Social Work Ethics and Human Rights in Disasters	12.00 PM – 1.00 PM
Lunch Break 1.00 PM-2.00 PM		
Ms.Susmy Sunny Hazard Analyst KSDMA, Thrissur	Community Resilience and Capacity Building	2.00 PM – 3PM
Mr. Shailendra Yashwant Independent Environmental Photo Journalist and Climate Communications Consultant Senior Advisor to Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs)	Importance of Social and Mass Media for Communication in Disaster	3.00 PM – 4.00 PM
Tea Break		

Brochure




RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn


INICIO- 2024

International Conference on

**Enhancing Efficiency of Disaster Management through Social Work
Innovation, Collaboration and Resilience Building**



Organized by
The Department of Social Work
St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, Kerala, India
in collaboration with
Rhodes University, Makhanda,
Eastern Cape, South Africa



27th & 28th February 2024

About the Organizers

St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, Kerala, India is a college for women, affiliated to the University of Calicut and managed by St. Joseph's Educational Society of the Congregation of Holy Family, founded in 1964. The College was awarded 'Autonomy' in March 2016 and was certified as a 'College with Potential for Excellence' by UGC in April 2016. The College, which is an answer to the ever increasing demand for higher education among young ladies, re-accredited in the fourth cycle at A++ level with 3.66 in 2023 by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) - an autonomous institution under the U.G.C.

Department of Social Work:

The inception of the Department of Social Work was on 20th November 2002, offering Postgraduate Programme (MSW), and added Bachelor's Degree (BSW) in 2014. The Department is deep rooted in the great demand of quality and value based higher education, with multi-faceted action plan by giving importance to the mission of our college, "to groom academically and globally competent women". The Department promotes a culture that supports professional grooming, freedom of initiation, and innovative learning and in an atmosphere of mutual respect, trust, and cultural enrichment.

Rhodes University, South Africa

Rhodes University, founded in 1904; the University has a well-established reputation for academic excellence. Rhodes University's vision is to be an outstanding internationally-respected academic institution which proudly affirms its African identity and which is committed to democratic ideals, academic freedom, rigorous scholarship, sound moral values and social responsibility. The University takes pride in its motto, Where Leaders Learn and producing graduates who are knowledgeable intellectuals, skilled professionals, and critical, caring, and compassionate citizens who can contribute to economic and social development and an equitable, just and democratic society.

Students can undertake an extensive range of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Humanities, Science, Commerce, Pharmacy, Law, and Education. Rhodes students are guaranteed easy access to academics and close supervision with the most favorable academic staff to student ratio among South African universities. The University consist more than 8000 students, 30% are postgraduates, and over 18% are international students from 54 countries worldwide, making Rhodes a dynamic and cosmopolitan knowledge institution.

In Consonance with



SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Relevance of the Theme

The theme is highly relevant in addressing the evolving challenges of Disaster Management. Social Work innovation emphasizes proactive strategies, leveraging technology and community engagement to enhance preparedness. By shifting focus from reactive measures to resilience-building initiatives, this theme encourages a forward - thinking approach essential for effective disaster management in an ever changing world.

Main Theme of the Conference

From Reaction to Resilience; Enhancing Disaster Management through Social Work Innovation and Collaboration.

Sub Themes

1. Climate Change, Adaptation and Mitigation.
2. Building Community Resilience.
3. Mainstreaming Gender in Disaster Management.
4. Collaborative Alliances in Disaster Management.
5. Social Work Ethics and Human Rights in Disasters.
6. Psycho Social Support and Mental Health (Crisis Intervention).
7. Role of Social Work in Disaster Relief.
8. Effective Information Management and Communication Strategies in Disaster Management.
9. Social Work Education and Training for Disaster Resilience.
10. Role of Local Self-Government Institutions (LSGs) in Policy Making and Advocacy in Disaster Management.
11. Nature Based Solutions and Eco System-Based Approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction.
12. Rehabilitation and Economic Recovery Revitalization in Disaster Affected Areas.
13. Strategies Taken by Developed and Developing Countries for Mitigating Different Type of Disasters.
14. Tribal Population and Disaster Resilience.



Days to Remember

Submission of Abstract : 15th January 2024

Acceptance of Abstract : 20th January 2024

Submission of Full Paper: 20th February 2024

Send papers to : inicio@stjosephs.edu.in

Guidelines

- Paper should be prepared in APA 7th style
- Abstract not exceeding 250-300 words
- Submission must be original and should not have been published elsewhere
- The full paper should contain 3000 words

Selected Papers will be Published in e-book

Registration Fees

Academicians and Practitioners: ₹1500

Research Scholars: ₹1250

Paper Presentation for Students : ₹ 1000

Participation for Students : ₹750

Limited accommodation can be provided to outstation participants on payment. Please Contact in advance and provide travel information

Payment of Registration Fees can be made to

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Conference Patron : **Dr. Siji P D**, Principal, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, Kerala, India

Convenors : **Dr. Jessy K C**, HoD, Department of Social Work, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, Kerala, India

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INICIO - 2024

International Conference on
Enhancing the Efficiency of Disaster Management through Social Work Innovations,
Collaborations and Resilience Building

February 27th & 28th

SPEAKERS



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Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA)



V R Krishna Teja IAS
District Collector, Kollam



Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon
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Mr. Shailendra Yashwant
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Hazard Analyst,
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With Great Gratitude.....



Media Coverage

Irinjalakuda Times's post

സെന്റ് ജോസഫ്സിൽ ദ്വിദിന ഇൻ്റർനാഷണൽ സെമിനാർ ആരംഭിച്ചു

ഇരിങ്ങാലക്കുട : സെന്റ് ജോസഫ്സ് കോളേജ് (ഓട്ടോണമസ്) സോഷ്യൽ വർക്ക് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റും, കേരള സ്റ്റേറ്റ് ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് അതോറിറ്റിയും റോഡ് യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റി മക്കണ്ട, സൗത്ത് ആഫ്രിക്കയുമായി സഹകരിച്ച് "ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ്" എന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ ദ്വിദിന ഇൻ്റർനാഷണൽ സെമിനാർ ആരംഭിച്ചു.

പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ ഡോ പി ഡി സിജി അധ്യക്ഷത വഹിച്ചു.

കേരള സ്റ്റേറ്റ് ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് മെമ്പർ സെക്രട്ടറി ഡോ ശേഖർ ലൂക്കോസ് കുര്യാക്കോസ് ഉദ്ഘാടനം നിർവ്വഹിച്ചു.

സബ് കളക്ടർ കാർത്തിക് പാണിഗ്രഹി, നാഷണൽ ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് അതോറിറ്റി ഫൗണ്ടർ മെമ്പർ പ്രൊഫ എൻ വിനോദ് ചന്ദ്രമേനോൻ എന്നിവർ മുഖ്യാതിഥികളായിരുന്നു.

സെൽഫ് ഫിനാൻസിങ്ങ് സെക്ഷൻ കോർഡിനേറ്റർ ഡോ സിസ്റ്റർ റോസ് ബാസ്റ്റിൻ, ഐക്യഎസി കോർഡിനേറ്റർ ഡോ ടി വി ബിനു ആശംസകൾ നേർന്നു.

ഫിജി, സൗത്ത് പസഫിക്, ബംഗ്ലാദേശ്, സെൻട്രൽ അമേരിക്ക, സൗത്ത് ആഫ്രിക്ക, കെനിയ, ലണ്ടൻ എന്നീ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നുള്ള ആശംസകളും ടെക്നിക്കൽ സെക്ഷനുകളും പ്രബന്ധ അവതരണങ്ങളും കോൺഫറൻസിൻ്റെ ആദ്യദിനത്തിൽ നടന്നതായി ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റ് മേധാവി ഡോ സി ജെസ്സിൻ അറിയിച്ചു.



ഇരിങ്ങാലക്കുട ഓൺലൈൻ

ദിവിന ഇൻ്റർനാഷണൽ സെമിനാർ
 പര്യവസാനിച്ചു. പരമേശ്വരൻ
 പാപ്പയുടെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷതയിൽ



ദൂരന്തനിവാരണ അന്തർദേശീയ സെമിനാറിൻ്റെ സമാപന
 സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ KILA ഡയറക്ടർ ഡോ. ജോയ് ഇളമൻ
 സംസാരിക്കുന്നു

സെന്റ്. ജോസഫ് കോളേജ് (ഓട്ടോണമസ്) സോഷ്യൽ വർക്ക് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റും, കേരള സ്റ്റേറ്റ് ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് അതോറിറ്റിയും റോഡ് യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റി മക്കണ്ട, സൗത്ത് ആഫ്രിക്കയുമായി സഹകരിച്ച് ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് എന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ നടത്തിയ ദ്വിദിന ഇന്റർനാഷണൽ സെമിനാർ പര്യവസാനിച്ചു. KILA ഡയറക്ടർ ഡോ. ജോയ് ഇളമൻ മുഖ്യ അതിഥിയായിരുന്നു.

KILA ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ റിസ്ക് മാനേജ്മെന്റ് വിദഗ്ദ്ധൻ ഡോ.എസ്. ശ്രീകുമാർ, തിരുവനന്തപുരം ലയോള കോളേജ് ദുരന്തനിവാരണ വിഭാഗം അസോസിയേറ്റ് പ്രൊഫ. ഡോ. ജ്യോതി കൃഷ്ണൻ , KSDMA ഹസാർഡ് അനലിസ്റ്റ് ശ്രീമതി സുസ്മി സണ്ണി , ഇസാഫ് സ്മോൾ ഫിനാൻസ് ബാങ്ക് സസ്റ്റെയിനെബിൾ ബാങ്കിംഗ് വിഭാഗം മേധാവിയും വൈസ് പ്രസിഡന്റുമായ ശ്രീ.റെജി കെ ഡാനിയൽ , ഡെറാഡൂണിൽ നിന്ന് ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് വിദഗ്ദ്ധൻ ശ്രീ. റോയ് അലക്സ് , പരിസ്ഥിതി ഫോട്ടോ ജേർണലിസ്റ്റ് ശ്രീ. ശൈലേന്ദ്ര യശ്വന്ത് എന്നിവരുടെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ ടെക്നിക്കൽ സെഷൻസ് നടത്തപ്പെട്ടു.

ഇസാഫ് സ്മോൾ ഫിനാൻസ് ബാങ്ക് സ്ഥാപകനും ഡയറക്ടറുമായ മാനേജർ ശ്രീ പോൾ തോമസിന് ലൈഫ് ടൈം അച്ചീവ്മെന്റ് അവാർഡ് നൽകി ആദരിച്ചു.സെന്റ് ജോസഫ് കോളേജ് ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് ട്രസ്റ്റ് ഫോർഡ് രൂപീകരിക്കുമെന്നും സെന്റ് ജോസഫ് കോളേജ് ഗ്ലോബൽ പീസ് കോർപ്പറേഷൻ ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് ട്രസ്റ്റ് ഫോർഡ് കോളേജ് വളർത്തിയേക്കുന്നതിനായി ഏപ്രിൽ,മെയ് മാസങ്ങളിൽ ട്രെയിനിങ്ങ് പ്രോഗ്രാം നടക്കുമെന്നും സോഷ്യൽ വർക്ക് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റ് മേധാവി ഡോ.സി. ജെസ്സിൻ സമാപന ചടങ്ങിൽ അറിയിച്ചു.

സെന്റ് ജോസഫ്സ് കോളജിൽ ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് ഇന്റർനാഷണൽ സെമിനാർ

ഇരിങ്ങാലക്കുട: സെന്റ് ജോസഫ്സ് കോളജ് സോഷ്യൽവർക്ക് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റും കേരള സ്റ്റേറ്റ് ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് അഥോറിറ്റിയും ദക്ഷിണാഫ്രിക്കയിലെ മക്കണ്ട റോഡ്സ് യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റിയും ചേർന്നു നടത്തുന്ന ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് ഇന്റർനാഷണൽ സെമിനാർ ആരംഭിച്ചു.

കേരള സ്റ്റേറ്റ് ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് മെമ്പർ സെക്രട്ടറി ഡോ. ശേഖർ ലൂക്കോസ് കുര്യാക്കോസ് ഉദ്ഘാടനം നിർവഹിച്ചു.

പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ സിസ്റ്റർ ഡോ. ബ്ലേസി അധ്യക്ഷത വഹിച്ചു. സബ് കളക്ടർ കാർത്തിക് പാണിഗ്രഹി, നാഷണൽ ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് അഥോറിറ്റി ഫൗണ്ടർ മെമ്പർ പ്രഫ. എൻ. വിനോദ് ചന്ദ്രമേനോൻ എന്നിവർ അതിഥികളായിരുന്നു.

സെൽഫ് ഫിനാൻസിംഗ് സെക്ഷൻ കോ-ഓർഡിനേറ്റർ സിസ്റ്റർ ഡോ. റോസ് ബാസ്റ്റിൻ, ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റ് മേധാവി സിസ്റ്റർ ഡോ. ജെസിൻ, ഐക്യഎസി കോ-ഓർഡിനേറ്റർ ഡോ. ടി.വി. ബിനു എന്നിവർ പ്രസംഗിച്ചു.



ഇരിങ്ങാലക്കുട സെന്റ് ജോസഫ്സ് കോളജിൽ ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് എന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ നടക്കുന്ന ദ്വിദിന ഇന്റർനാഷണൽ സെമിനാർ ഡോ. ശേഖർ ലൂക്കോസ് കുര്യാക്കോസ് ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്യുന്നു.

'ഇനിഷ്യോ 2024'

ഇന്നും നാളെയും

ഇരിങ്ങാലക്കുട: സെന്റ് ജോസഫ്സ് കോളജ് സോഷ്യൽ വർക്ക് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റും കേരള സ്റ്റേറ്റ് ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് അഥോറിറ്റിയും സൗത്ത് ആഫ്രിക്കയിലെ റോഡ്സ് യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റി മക്കണ്ടയും ചേർന്ന് ദ്വിദിന ഇന്റർനാഷണൽ കോൺഫറൻസ് ഇന്നും നാളെയുമായി നടത്തും. ഇന്ന് രാവിലെ 10ന് സെമിനാർ ഹാളിൽ നടക്കുന്ന ചടങ്ങിൽ കേരള സ്റ്റേറ്റ് ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് അഥോറിറ്റി മെമ്പർ സെക്രട്ടറി ഡോ. ശേഖർ ലൂക്കോസ് കുര്യാക്കോസ് ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്യും. ജില്ലാ കളക്ടർ വി.ആർ. കൃഷ്ണതേജ, നാഷണൽ ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് അഥോറിറ്റി ഫൗണ്ടർ മെമ്പർ പ്രഫ. എൻ. വിനോദ്ചന്ദ്ര മേനോൻ എന്നിവർ മറ്റു അതിഥികളായിരിക്കും.

കോളജ് പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ സിസ്റ്റർ ഡോ. ബ്ലേസി, വകുപ്പ് മേധാവി സിസ്റ്റർ ഡോ. ജെസിൻ, ഡോ. ജോസ് കുര്യാക്കോസ്, പ്രഫ. അഞ്ജു ആന്റണി എന്നിവർ പത്രസമ്മേളനത്തിൽ പങ്കെടുത്തു.

സെന്റ് ജോസഫ്സിൽ ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് സെമിനാർ

ഇരിങ്ങാലക്കുട • സെന്റ് ജോസഫ് കോളജിലെ സോഷ്യൽ വർക്ക് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റും, സംസ്ഥാന ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് അതോറിറ്റിയും സൗത്ത് ആഫ്രിക്കയിലെ മക്കണ്ട റോഡ്സ് യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റിയും ചേർന്ന് 27,28 തീയതികളിൽ സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ഇന്റർനാഷണൽ കോൺഫറൻസ് ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് അതോറിറ്റി സെക്രട്ടറി ഡോ.

ശേഖർ ലൂക്കോസ് കുര്യാക്കോസ് ഉദ്ഘാടന ചെയ്യും. കലക്ടർ വി. ആർ.കൃഷ്ണതേജ, നാഷണൽ ഡിസാസ്റ്റർ മാനേജ്മെന്റ് അതോറിറ്റി ഫൗണ്ടർ പ്രഫ.എൻ. വിനോദ് ചന്ദ്ര മേനോൻ എന്നിവർ അതിഥികളായി പങ്കെടുക്കും. ടെക്നിക്കൽ സെക്ഷനുകളും, പ്രബന്ധ അവതരണവും ചർച്ചകളും നടക്കും. കൂടുതൽ വിവരങ്ങൾക്ക്:9544393107,7592834688.