

CHANDRA LAXMI HADA

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OVERVIEW

Graduate Research Assistant in the Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas in the Department of Marine and Coastal Environmental Science at Texas A&M University, Galveston Campus. Humphrey Fellow 2019-2020 in the Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies (SPURS) in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. 18 years' experience in architecture design, housing development, urban planning, green recovery and reconstruction, disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) at the local, national and regional level. Have worked on behalf of government, private sector, and multiple national and international NGOs such as UNDP, UN-Habitat, WWF, ADPC, DCA, IGES, BPDA, WB, and DAI.

EDUCATION

Current	Ph.D. on Marine and Coastal Management and Science Department of Marine & Coastal Environmental Science, Texas A&M University at Galveston, TX, USA
2020	Graduate on Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MA, USA
2013	Graduate on Comprehensive Crisis Management (CCM) College of Security Studies, Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, Hawaii, USA
2009	M.SC - Master of Science in Urban Planning Institute of Engineering, Pulchowk Campus, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal
2001	B.Arch. - Bachelor's Degree in Architecture Nepal Engineering College, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1. Ph.D. Student / Graduate Research Assistant** June 1, 2022 onwards
Advisor – Prof. Samuel D. Brody, Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas, Department of Marine & Coastal Environmental Science, Texas A&M University at Galveston, United States
 - Review and analyze the State Hazard Mitigation Plans – California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Washington State, and Texas.
 - Engage on Texas State Hazard Mitigation Plan Project
- 2. Disaster Risk Reduction Management Specialist** July 01, 2020 – May 16, 2022
USAID's Tayar Nepal – Improved Disaster Risk Management Project managed by DAI, Nepal
 - Led the program's municipal-level activities under Component 2: Building Capacity at the Municipal Level.
 - Developed the implementation approach for municipal capacity building of Component 2.
 - Provided technical and managerial oversight of Tayar's municipal-level DRRM activities in eight municipalities
 - Provided strategic and technical assistance to each municipality to develop and adopt a comprehensive, realistic, and actionable action plan.
 - Led on setting up and strengthening DRRM institutions – Environment and Disaster Management Section, Municipality Emergency Operation Centers, and forming and activating Local Disaster Management Committees (LDMCs) / Ward DMCs in 8 municipalities
 - Guided field team and provide technical support on preparing DRRM Policy documents in 8 municipalities
 - Led the field assessment, project selection, design drawing process, BOQ, technical specifications, vendor selection, finalization process and ensure implementation of 11 disaster mitigation projects.

- Led the multi-hazard risk assessments, risk sensitive land use plan (RSLUP), planning regulations and building by-laws, national building code training manual for municipal engineers' preparation process by providing technical and managerial support and ensured implementation of RSLUPs and other policy documents.
- Assisted municipalities to demonstrate improved capacity for DRRM
- Developed partnerships to establish CSEB, Bioengineering, eco-tourism promotion, landslide mitigation, flood mitigation, lightning arrestor protection to promote economic opportunities.
- Supervised the Eastern and Western field team Directors and guide field officers/engineers who will manage Tayar's network of municipal level DRRM
- Provided essential technical knowledge and expertise to the implementation of Components 1 and 3 - building capacity at national level, and disaster preparedness and response.

3. Short Term Consultant

May 04 – June 12, 2020

World Bank, Washington, DC, USA

- Took an assignment with South Asia Region – Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Unit, World Bank as part of my Humphrey professional affiliation.
- Learned about the World Bank climate change and disaster resilience approach in the South Asian region.
- Learned about investments and support for community recovery in different countries
- Participated in knowledge sharing activities and contribute specific knowledge where applicable
- Contributed to the work of the World Bank by applying advanced analytical techniques learned during her academic program and professional work experience
- Attended internal and external meetings and do site visits for more insight.

4. Professional Affiliation

January – April 2020

Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA), Boston, USA

- Learn about Boston's planning approach, including understanding the impact and sustainability of development outcomes to see what lessons can be learned to improve the performance of on-going projects.
- Learn about factors influencing land use in Boston and the public processes to address growth and contribute to coastal resilience and urban planning.

5. Team Leader

January-August, 2019

Urban development projects executed by the Government of Nepal.

- Mobilized and directed the work of multiple team members on preparation of integrated urban development plans for 14 municipalities and a master plan for developing one municipality as a Smart City in Nepal.
- Reviewed and revised conceptual, block and infrastructure plans, plus engineering design & cost estimates.

6. Project Consultant

May - July, 2019

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Kanagawa, Japan

- Carried out research study titled "Adaptation communication of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region."

7. Urban Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor

August 2017 – December 2018

DCA Nepal – Danish International Humanitarian and Development Organization, Nepal

- Led the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) program in Nepal and provided strategic and technical support to DCA Nepal's urban DRR portfolio, PRAGATI Project and the Partners including local government, private sectors and communities and promoted collaboration among these sectors.
- Led on setting up Municipal Emergency Operation Centre (MEOC) and DRR & Climate Change Learning Centre in two urban municipalities in Nepal.
- Directed the preparation of the standard operating procedures model for local EOC, jointly with the Ministries. This initiative has replication potential for 753 municipal governments in Nepal.

8. Project Manager

January - July 2017

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Nepal

- Led the country team of public agencies and partners in a regional workshop on strengthening the preparedness for response by the Government and local humanitarian organizations in coordination with Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Led the preparation of an analysis of Nepal's overall emergency preparedness and response.
- Managed the preparation of Nepal-specific assessment tools & selection criteria and finalized the sampling size and timeframe for a baseline assessment for local humanitarian actors.

9. Green Recovery and Reconstruction Specialist

September 2015 – January 06, 2017

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Nepal

- Led WWF's Green Recovery and Reconstruction (GRR) Program during 2015-2017 and promoted advocacy and outreach at different levels from parliament members to community as part of promoting and scaling up environmentally sound practices across different sectors in earthquake affected districts.
- Managed the preparation of Environment Briefing Sheets for multiple sectors, e.g., Shelter, Education, Food Security, WASH, etc.
- Managed the overall preparation and wrote several chapters of "Building Back Safer and Greener - A Guide to Sound Environmental Practices for Disaster Recovery in Nepal," WWF Nepal, 2016.

10. Team Leader and Principal Architect

August 2014 – August 2015

Hada Design Associates, Bhaktapur, Nepal

- Directed and managed multiple projects including building design and construction, urban master planning, disaster recovery design and training programs. Clients for these projects included local public government, INGOs, UN Agencies, private sector, and academic Institutions etc. Significant Projects included the following:
 - a. Conceptual master planning and design project of Ramagram Stupa Area in Nawalparasi.
 - b. Urban Planning Expert: Project: Integrated Watershed Management and Climate Risk Assessment Plan of Madi municipality, Chitwan funded by UNDP.
 - c. Post-earthquake damage assessment and retrofitting design plus design and construction supervision of civil, electrical and plumbing for Mahakaruna Sakyapa School Building, Boudha, Kathmandu.
 - d. Building damage assessment of American Himalayan Foundation, Maharajgunj, Kathmandu.
 - e. Design of Chhahari Bridashram (Old Aged Home) Project in Biratnagar.

11. Project Officer - Emergency Preparedness & Response and Early Recovery

March 2012 - June 2014

UNDP / Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme for Nepal

- Managed the expansion of the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) network to regional, district and municipal level of Nepal.
- Led the preparation of SOP documents for national, regional and district EOCs and tested in simulation exercises at different level.
- Conducted simulation exercises at the national level and in 16 District EOCs to strengthen disaster response capacities for government officials, using web-based Sahana DMS and Disaster.
- Led the Early Recovery and Disaster Risk Reduction Project for 141-school reconstruction, renovation and retrofitting in two earthquake-affected districts in Eastern Nepal.
- Managed the Early Recovery Network (Cluster) of UNDP Nepal.

12. International Consultant

November 2011 – February 2012

- a. Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Institutional Assessment and Capacity Building, Thailand, Feb 01 - 29, 2012
- b. UN Habitat, Lao PDR, Disaster Risk Reduction and Building Back Better (Full Time), Nov 15, 2011 – Jan 5, 2012

Representative Projects:

- Prepared capacity development framework for Nepal – training needs matrix.
- Prepared mapping, monitoring and evaluation of DRR activities in Asia and recommended appropriate activities for LAO PDR and mapping of all the funding agencies open to UN Habitat.
- Developed concept notes and project proposals on Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction, Management and Reconstruction for several locations in LAO PDR (for both DIPECHO and UNTFHS).

13. Project Engineer - Training

April 01, 2008 – July 31, 2011

UNDP / Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness Programme for Nepal

- Led capacity building trainings and sensitization program on earthquake resistant building design and construction in 5 municipalities for engineers, architects, masons, supervisors, overseers and community members.
- Led earthquake orientation and earthquake safety drills in 15 Schools in Kathmandu Valley and elsewhere.
- Oversaw development of multiple training manuals on design and construction of earthquake resistant buildings, pre and post vulnerability assessment of buildings, risk sensitive land use plans, recovery preparedness and guidelines, etc.
- Managed the architectural design and construction supervision of Adarsha Saulya Yubak Higher Secondary School project.

14. Architect

Dec 2001 – March 2008

Worked as an architect in private firms and public agencies, including:

- a. Singhadurbar Secretariat Reconstruction Committee, Singhadurbar, Nepal, January – March 2008
- b. Civil Homes, Civil Housing Project, Kathmandu, Nepal March 2003 – Feb 2007
- c. Trainee Architect - Takenaka Corporation, Osaka, Japan September 17 – October 18, 2003
- d. Institute of Engineering Consultancy Services (IECS), Pulchowk, Nepal Dec 2001 – Feb 2003
 - Prepared master plans for the Singhadurbar Complex and design & working drawings for the Ministry of Local Development (MoLD).
 - Prepared master plans, architectural and interior design, and working drawings, and did project supervision for three housing projects (371 Independent Bungalows) and one office building.
 - Coordinated work with project managers, senior architects, and engineers.

SELECTED (RECENT) PRESENTATIONS

Gave multiple presentations on earthquake risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response, early recovery, architecture and urban planning topics, green recovery and reconstruction, disaster risk reduction management to diverse participants in many countries. Recent examples:

- July 2020, **Keynote Speaker - Federal Role in Community Recovery through Hazard Mitigation Programs in the United States after Disasters**, Virtual International Conference on Natural Disasters and their Early Warning System 2020, VIT, India
- January 2020, **"The Federal Role in Community Recovery through Hazard Mitigation Programs in the United States after Disasters,"** Department of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT, Cambridge.
- October 2019, **"Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative in Nepal,"** Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies, MIT, Cambridge.
- April 2019, **"Importance of Risk Sensitive Land Use Planning for emerging municipalities."** Nepal Engineers' Associations Regional Chapter, Nepalgunj.
- December 2018, **"Urban Disaster Risk Reduction in Nepal: Experiences on the use of innovative RSLUP & VCA approaches."** ADRRN Regional Innovation Forum - RIF 2018, Bangkok.
- February 2017, **"Country Situational Analysis on Emergency Preparedness and Response in Nepal."** ADPC's regional workshop and training on Strengthening the Preparedness for Response by the Government and Local Humanitarian Organizations, Siem Reap.
- November 2016, **"Roles of Local Humanitarian Organizations in Emergency Response, Nepal"** Asian Disaster Preparedness Center Regional Workshop, Bangkok.

- November 2016, **“Introduction of Green Recovery and Reconstruction, WWF GRR Interventions and Sustainable Building Reconstruction.”** National Workshop on GRR for Parliament Members, Dhulikhel.
- September 2016, **“WWF Nepal Initiatives: Green Recovery and Reconstruction in Nepal.”** International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress, Hawaii.
- June 2014, **“Earthquake Preparedness and Recovery Awareness Program in Eastern Nepal.”** Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, Hawaii.

PUBLICATIONS

Wrote multiple articles on disaster recovery and risk management. Recent examples:

- Chandra Hada, **“Bend it like Boston,”** The Kathmandu Post, December 6, 2020, Nepal. <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2020/12/06/bend-it-like-boston>
- Chandra Hada, Rajib Shaw, Anil Pokhrel, **“Preparation and Adoption of Risk Sensitive Land Use Plans in the New Federal Context of Nepal,”** for Integrated Research on Disaster Risks Book, being published by Springer, 2020.
- Chandra Hada, **“Coronavirus crisis: Up-close and personal account of a Nepali in the US,”** english.onlinekhabar.com, April 10, 2020, Nepal. <https://english.onlinekhabar.com/writer/chandra-hada>
- Chandra Hada, **“Coronavirus Up-Close and Personal,”** Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies (SPURS) Newsletter, MIT, April 2020, USA.
- Ar. Chandra Laxmi Hada, **“Improving Disaster Risk Reduction for Safer and Resilient Cities in Nepal,”** Special Publication Bulletin 2017, Armed Police Force, Disaster Management Training Center, Nepal.
- Judy Oglethorpe and Chandra Laxmi Hada, **“Building Back Safer and Greener - A Guide to Sound Environmental Practices for Disaster Recovery in Nepal,”** WWF Nepal, 2016. (<http://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/54170>)
- C. L. Hada, 2014, **“Supporting Earthquake Early Recovery in Eastern Nepal through the Building Back Better Approach,”** Journal of the American Planning and Associations, Volume 80, Issue 4, 2014, Special Issue: Planning for Disaster Recovery. (<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs>)

LANGUAGES

- English (Excellent), Nepali (Excellent), Newari (Excellent), Hindi (Basic)

COMPUTER SKILLS

- MS Office, Photoshop, Corel Draw, AutoCAD 2015, 3d-Max, Arc GIS.

AWARDS

- Awarded as **“Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Award”** for Urban and Regional Planning Course at Massachusetts Institute of Technology by US Department of State and Institute of International Education, August 2019 – June 2020.
- Received the **“Outstanding Woman Engineer Award”** on the occasion of 57th Engineers’ Day by Nepal Engineers’ Association, July 19, 2019.
- Designated **“Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Young Scientist”** by 19th IRDR Scientific Committee, April 2018. (by International Science Council and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction)
- Awarded the **“Expert of the Year”** by International Friendship Award Ceremony organized by Japan and Nepal in 2016 for my outstanding contribution to the earthquake recovery.
- Awarded as **“Best Fellows Project on Earthquake Preparedness and Response”** by Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, Hawaii, USA, June 2014.
- Received the **“Best Architect Award”** from Nepal Peace Society & National Unity Day, 2006.
- Scholarships awarded for **“Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture & Arts”** by Tadao Ando Program, Sept 18 to Oct 17, 2003 (Takenaka Corporation, Osaka, Japan)

HONORS

- Received **certification of appreciation** from the Indian Ambassador to Nepal in 2017 for supporting risk assessment and designing of the Monastic School, Boudha, Kathmandu, Nepal
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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS

- Appointed as Co-chair on April 25, 2021 - Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA) Committee on International Relations
 - Nepal Engineering Council (NEC)
 - Life Member - Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA)
 - Life Member - Nepal Engineering Association (NEA)
 - Life Member - Regional and Urban Planners' Society of Nepal (RUPSON)
 - Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS)
 - International Society for Digital Earth – Individual Member
 - Integrated Research on Disaster Risks (IRDR) Young Scientist – IRDR
 - American Planning Association (APA)
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