

PETER DIAS AMARASINGHE

M.Sc., Rural Development Planning

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KEY EXPERIENCE

- Over 30 years of experience in policy planning and development in the fields of Disaster Management, Education, Rural and Regional Development, Community Development/Community Mobilization, and Public Administration at various levels of government in Sri Lanka
- Over 15 years of experience leading programs and projects in strengthening community organizations for poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor, disaster risk reduction, and education planning and management.
- Over 15 years of experience implementing development programs with international development agencies such as The World Bank, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, Asian Development Bank, GTZ, UNICEF, UNHCR, and UNESCO for program development, execution, and monitoring.
- Key positions in Sri Lankan government, including Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, and Additional Secretary to the Ministries of Education, Public Administration and Home Affairs, Agriculture & Lands, and District Secretary
- Member of the International Advisory Council of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) and chairman of the Regional Consultative Committee and the Regional Steering Committee on Multi-Hazard Early Warning of ADPC

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- MSc. in Rural Regional Development Planning, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand, 1986
- B.Sc. (Hons), University of Ceylon, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, 1971
- Certificate in Community Development, Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation, Thailand, 1982
- Diploma in Regional Industrial Development for Executives (National Institute of Business Management, Sri Lanka) 1981
- Member of Sri Lanka Administrative Service, 1974 - 2008.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

May – June 2011 | Midterm Project Evaluation Team Leader, UNICEF project titled “Building the Future for Conflict-affected Returnees and Host Communities in Batticaloa and Trincomalee Districts”

Reviewed the education component of the project, which aimed to make the selected schools inclusive environments to ensure that all children of school-going age are enrolled and key learning competencies are achieved.

March – Sept 2010 | Technical Expert, *Development of a five-year plan for the Eastern Province*

Produced two sector papers: one on Provincial Governance and Service Delivery Systems; and the other on Disaster Management, Environment Management, and Post-conflict Rehabilitation. Identified the development gaps and thrust areas in both sectors and thereby identified the projects with tentative costs which need to be implemented.

Feb 2006 – June 2008 | Secretary, *Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights*, Secretary, *National Council on Disaster Management*, and Chairman, *Interim Management Committee of the National Building Research Organization*

Development and implementation of the Disaster Management Act, the Road Map for Disaster Risk Reduction 2005-2015 in Sri Lanka.

Supervising the Department of Meteorology, the Disaster Management Centre, and the National Building Research Organization, and establishing mechanisms required for effective coordination of activities related to disaster management.

Introducing community-led processes for both Disaster Risk reduction and promotion of Human Rights.

April 2002 – Feb 2006 | Additional Secretary, *Ministry of Education*.

Resolving policy issues in the education sector, supervision and monitoring foreign-funded projects, and all other educational development activities implemented by the Ministry.

Led the eight-member team appointed by the Prime Minister for the preparation of a National Plan of Action for Reconciliation, 2003.

Led the efforts of reconstruction of the schools affected by the Tsunami in 2004

April 2000 – April 2002 | Executive Director, *Hadabima Authority of Sri Lanka, Ministry of Agriculture*

Formulation, implementation, and monitoring of all upland development programs implemented for the benefit of small upland holders in the central hills.

Introduced an innovative program called the Land Productivity Improvement Farmer Group (LAPIG) Programme based on the concepts associated with social mobilization and the concept of Farmer Field Schools developed by the FAO.

Nov. 1996 – Feb. 1999 | District Secretary, *Matale*, Additional Secretary, *Home Affairs, Agriculture, and Lands*

Formulation, implementation, and coordination of programs on Agricultural Development, Environment improvement, Poverty Alleviation, Women's Development, and Infrastructure Development within the district.

Coordination and implementation of the UNDP-funded Civil Society Organization Development Project which was implemented in three poverty-stricken sub-divisions of the district to assist in strengthening community organizations with a major emphasis on empowering women of low-income families.

November 1991- November 1994 | *National Consultant, UNDP, Enhancing Public Sector Management, Restructuring Management Unit, Ministry of Policy Planning and Implementation*

Designed formats needed to analyze functions performed by both district-level organizations and the provincial councils, which helped in drafting several user-friendly handbooks. Involved in preparing "Financial Guideline for Divisional Secretariats".

Produced a chapter on Devolution and Decentralization for the National Programme Document on Public Sector Reforms, which spelled out the policy on reforms.

PUBLICATIONS/ PAPERS PRESENTED

Implementation of Rural Development Programmes within a Framework of Limited Decentralization: Case of Nuwara Eliya Integrated Rural Development Programme, Sri Lanka. (M.Sc. Thesis, AIT, Bangkok, 1986)

The Development of Tambon Huay Heang, Saraburi Province, Research Report No. 13 AIT, Bangkok, 1987 (Co-authored with Hiran D. Dias)

Organizational Framework for Rural Center Planning: Case of Sri Lanka, Paper presented at the seminar on Rural Center Planning, 13th - 24th May 1991, Bandung, Indonesia. (Co-authored with C. Abeygunawardana)

International Agriculture Marketing: The case of Sri Lanka, A paper presented at the Seminar on International Agricultural Marketing 25 - 29 August 1997, Bangkok, Thailand.

Formative Evaluation of Monaragala Integrated Rural Development Project: Component of Social Mobilization, Published as a Working Paper by Regional Development Study Center, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2000. (Co-authored with Y. Rasanayagam)

OTHER SELECTED ASSIGNMENTS

Field supervisor for a Master's Degree dissertation (Master of Public Administration, Post Graduate Institute of Management, Sri Jayewardenepura University, Sri Lanka)

Visiting Lecturer in Community and Local Resource Mobilization, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka, 1996-1998

Visiting Lecturer in Rural Development, Statistics, Network Analysis and Socio-Economic Survey Methodology at SLIDA, 1987-1990

Research Associate, Human Settlement Division, Asian Institute of Technology, January-April, 1987