

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Americas
Latin American and Caribbean Center
Florida International University
Supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development,
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

***“Pasantía”* on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation**



The Latin American and Caribbean Center of Florida International University (LACC/FIU), with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Office of U.S Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID /OFDA) presented a one week Miami based Pasantía on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA).

The Pasantía brought together professionals, technicians and leaders working in public administration, project management, non-government and international organizations, and academic institutions who have disaster risk reduction and/or climate change management responsibilities. Special consideration was given to candidates who could guide or influence their institutions toward improved disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. There were a total of 18 participants, 16 representing the countries of Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Bangladesh and Nepal, and two representatives from USAID/OFDA-LAC.

The FIU- Disaster Risk Reduction Program covered travel expenses, lodging, and meals.

The *Pasantía* bridged the gap between the conceptual and the operational and practical by combining site visits, presentations, real world observations, and discussions, taking advantage of notable DRR and CCA experiences and capabilities in South Florida. The *Pasantia* looked at DRR from a high level research down to community preparedness and also illustrated the private sectors corporate social responsibility of developing Emergency Plans and Business Continuity Plans. The South Florida partners included a cross section of the various sectors, city, county and state government, academia, business, and NGO’s, each with unique but complementary perspectives on both DRR and CCA. The SF partners’ participation illustrated key components of CCA/DRR, individual partners did not address all of the facets of CCA/DRR, but highlighted their particular expertise; the *Pasantia* generated a two way exchange of experiences, to the benefit of all parties.





The *Pasantia* was designed around the DRR Self Study Course produced by USAID/OFDA-LAC with support from the University of Wisconsin.

During the week participants saw real examples of the following topics:

Risk Identification

- Hazard & Vulnerability Assessment
- Probabilistic Risk Assessment
- Hazard monitoring and Early Warning System

Risk Reduction & Transfer

- Physical and engineering- Mitigation works
- Land-use planning and building codes
- Economic incentives for pro-mitigation behavior
- Education, training and Awareness about risks and prevention
- Self-insurance
- Disaster & emergency funds
- Protecting lifelines and critical facilities
- Insurance and reinsurance of public infrastructure and private assets

Disaster Management

- Early warning and Communication systems
- Emergency & Contingency planning
- Emergency Operation Center
- Shelter facilities and evacuation plans

Recovery

- Rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure
- Business continuity Plans
- Incorporation of disaster mitigation components in Reconstruction activities

Climate Change Adaptation

- Multisectoral taskforce
- Building risk scenarios
- Mitigation & Adaptation



There was a special emphasis on hydro-meteorological hazards (tropical cyclones, extreme weather conditions, storm surges, flooding) and Climate change adaptation.

At the conclusion of the *Pasantia* the participants were presented with a USB drive containing the pictures, presentations and relevant documents of the event.



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