

## ABSTRACT

SUYO, JEE GRACE BUELVA. 2012. University of the Philippines Visayas, April 2012. A Study of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Initiatives and its Implications for Coastal Resource Management: The Case of Tigbauan and Guimbal, Iloilo.

Special Problem Adviser: Prof. Alice Prieto-Carolino

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) has been a popular topic of discussion in recent years due to the increase in the intensity and occurrence of disaster events. Local institutions play a significant role in DRRM particularly in planning and implementing disaster risk management mechanisms and in establishing consolidated efforts aimed at preparing for, responding to, and mitigating impacts of disasters. The municipalities of Tigbauan and Guimbal are threatened by recurrent hazards like typhoons and flooding and were among those municipalities heavily affected by Typhoon Frank in 2008. Both towns have established their Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (LDRRMCs) and are presently initiating various activities in support of the DRRM program of the government.

This paper describes the DRRM related activities initiated by the local governments of Tigbauan and Guimbal. The coping mechanisms of the households were also identified and analyzed including how they manage disasters through the assistance of local institutions. The challenges and constraints in the implementation of activities at various phases of disaster management were also discussed. This paper contends that disaster risk management is not a stand-alone solution to the problems faced by the communities. DRRM needs to be integrated with other long term development plans of the local government, i.e. Coastal Resource Management (CRM), in order for it to be more effective.

Key informant interviews were conducted to gather all the primary and secondary data from the Municipal and Barangay levels. Focus group discussions were also conducted in order to identify the coping mechanisms implemented by the households to prepare for and mitigate impacts of disasters.

The households and the local governments of the research sites have identified a number of disaster risk management activities that are effective in managing hazards. However, there remain some challenges and constraints in the implementation of DRRM programs especially in terms of coordination among various organizations and the households. Resource management was also not seen as an important aspect of managing hazards. As such, policy recommendations were presented to be used as reference for the improvement of the DRRM program and integration in CRM of the municipalities.