

Information System for Local Authorities Needs to face Disaster

# ISLAND



ISTED



A project funded  
by the EU EuropeAid  
IT&C program

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The ISLAND (Information Systems for Local Authorities Needs to face Disasters) project is part of the European Union's EuropeAid / ASIA-IT&C programme. It started in November 2004 (duration: 31 months) and is coordinated by the ISTED (*Institut des Sciences et Techniques de l'Équipement et de l'Environnement pour le Développement – Paris, France*). Based on the outcome of the earlier OSIRIS EU FP5 project (Solutions for the Management of Flood Risks in the Information Society, 2000-2003), ISLAND's objective is to improve the crisis and risk management information provided to the rural communities in three South-Asian countries: Vietnam (the Red River delta), Cambodia & Lao PDR (the Mekong River).

## Project planning

- Stage 1 (Nov. 2004 – March 2005): preparation and workshops in Asia
- Stage 2 (April 2005 – Nov. 2005): field surveys at Asian sites and needs assessment
- Stage 3 (Dec. 2005 – Jan 2007): specification and development of ICT tools
- Stage 4 (Feb. 2007 – May 2007): implementation, testing, evaluation, final seminar, dissemination



## A community-based approach

The aims of the project are to:

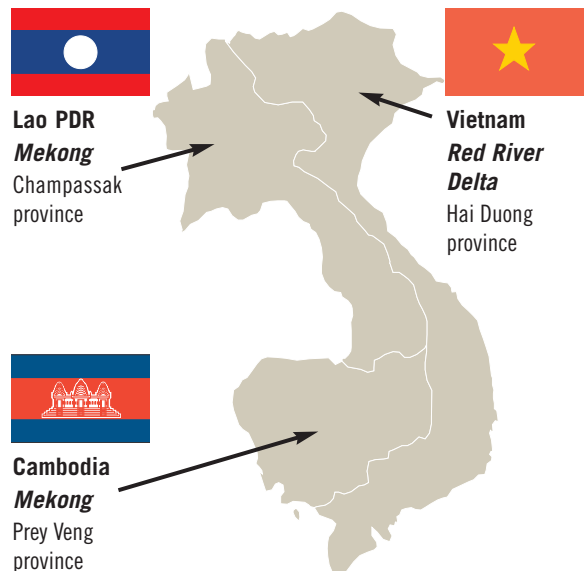
- listen to the needs of vulnerable communities, helping them to make their own risk and vulnerability assessments
- provide access to suitably adapted communication and information tools, allowing adoption and uptake by local communities
- convey reliable, understandable messages from national and international sources with all the relevant information needed for sustainable development of the communities.

## Pilot sites and needs analysis

In each of the three Asian partner countries, provinces, districts and villages were selected in order to carry out field surveys and to propose solutions adapted to their specific needs in terms of risk information (prevention and warning):

- Hai Duong Province / Tu Ky district in Vietnam (Red River delta)
- Champassak Province in Lao PDR (Mekong River)
- Prey Veng Province and the Peam Ro district in Cambodia.

Three targeted countries



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## Field surveys results

It appears that information which is useful in the field already exists upstream (i.e. on regional or national levels) but that the communication channels are too slow and modern tools (if they exist) too scarce. Hence, ISLAND suggests using ICT to improve (i) the speed of information transmission between the main national, regional and local stakeholders and (ii) the quality of the messages (i.e. content and format) distributed to rural populations.

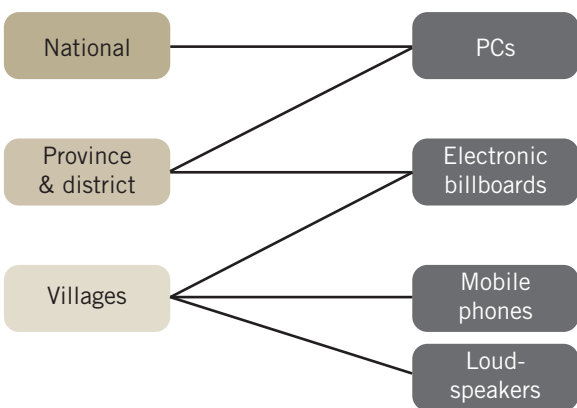
The risk of flooding has been chosen as the reference standard, since this hazard is common to the three countries. However, it become apparent that the “flood risk” communication tools should also provide inhabitants not only with information on other hazards (health, fire, pollution, etc.) but also with daily local news. This would be a prerequisite for sustainable development and use of the ICT tools.

## ICT tools – Results

ISLAND promotes a wide range of solutions which are adapted to local situations:

- Facilitate access to basic telecommunication technologies where they are still scarce (mobile phones, Internet access etc.) and integrate these news tools into official transmission channels: State, province, district and village. These technologies should complement the means of communication usually used in Asia (loudspeakers, blackboards, etc.).

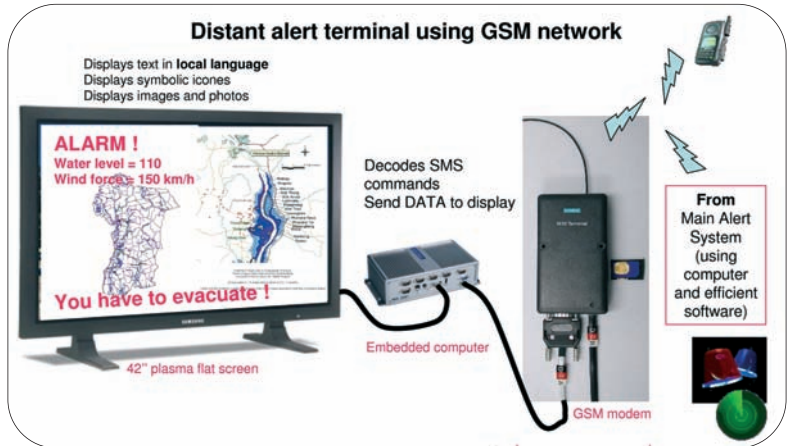
### ISLAND communication channels



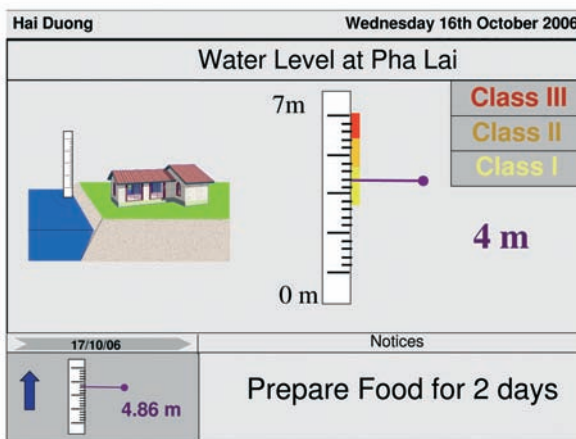
Level of responsibility

Device used

- Offer an innovative solution for improving the content and quality of the messages sent to local managers and the population when ICT infrastructure does exist: visual and sound signals about natural hazards delivered by electronic billboards. In particular, a generic system developed by MICA in Hanoi facilitates information transmission and updating, from the top levels (State and province) down to the most remote villages via the use of GSM or Internet technologies (depending on the context).



### ISLAND information on water levels forecasts and flood alert messages



## Impact and perspectives

A first prototype has been developed for the Vietnamese pilot site (Red River delta) and is currently being tested in Hai Duong Province in collaboration with the national and local authorities. Its adaptation to Lao PDR (the Champassak district) is being studied and its extension towards a general system for communication to local communities is envisaged in Cambodia. The evolution of the prototype into an operational, sustainable system that is adopted by local partakers, will first be considered within the framework of existing regional programs, such as those of the Mekong River Committee (MRC), in association with the International Red Cross and the ADPC (Asian Disaster Preparedness Center).





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## Asia IT&C

*The Asia IT&C Programme was launched in October 1999 as an initiative by the European Union (EU) in order to co-finance mutually beneficial projects in Information Technology and Communication between Europe and Asia. Information Technology and Communication is a cross-cutting theme, which supports and enhances the development and co-operation policy of the EU. The total budget allocated to the First Phase of the Programme was €30 million. In November 2003 a Second Phase of the Asia IT&C Programme was approved. EU-Asia IT&C Phase II rolled out in 2004 and the indicative amount available for the 2004 Call was €9.95 million. The Programme could supply up to 90% co-financing to Information Technology and Communication projects proposed by a consortium of non-profit organisations from EU Member States and selected Asian countries in the areas of agriculture, e-Governance, education, health, environment, and transport. The 90% cofinancing could apply only to those actions, where the main beneficiaries were in one of the 8 Least Developed Countries.*

## Website

[www.isted.com/programmes/island/anglais/homepage.htm](http://www.isted.com/programmes/island/anglais/homepage.htm)

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