

PRESS RELEASE

VISIT OF UN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL TO NDMA

01 April, 2011

During the first ever visit by an United Nations Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator to India, Ms. Valerie Amos along with other officials from Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) also visited NDMA on 31st March 2011 to call on Shri M Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman, NDMA. She held a detailed discussion on global humanitarian issues and challenges with the Vice Chairman, Members and other Officials of the NDMA. India's extensive experience of disaster response and its increased role in region cooperation were also deliberated upon. The Vice Chairman of NDMA stressed on the requirement for strengthening collaboration and partnership between the UN OCHA and the NDMA. Urgent need of INSARAG Certification for NDRF was highlighted by the NDMA.

Avenues for International Cooperation within disaster reduction and response and identification of mutual cooperation/ partnership between India and OCHA were also deliberated upon. Possibilities for arriving at a common framework for undertaking joint ventures in the domain of public awareness, advocacy and capacity building were also explored.

Ms. Amos shown keen interest on the Guidelines released so far by the NDMA and also praised the other initiatives of NDMA. She further stressed upon the need for knowledge and technology sharing and exchange of best practices.