Acknowledgements

The long journey to this stage have been mired in varied experiences all of which have helped shape my academic career. At the outset I would like to express a deep sense of gratitude to my esteemed supervisor, Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, for his constant guidance, help and encouragement. His patient evaluation of my drafts, extremely useful suggestions, stimulating discussions enlightened by his varied experience have helped me in undertaking this voluminous research.

I am also greatly indebted to the faculty members of the South Asian Division for their valuable suggestions. In this regard I would like to thank Prof. I.N. Mukherjee, Prof. S.D. Muni and Dr. Savita Pande for their moral support and encouragement.

This academic endeavour would never have been possible without the inspiration, support and valued guidance of my parents at every stage of my career right from my childhood. I would also like to express my thanks to my Uncle and Aunt for their support.

I owe a special word of thanks to Prof. Ashwini K. Ray for his invaluable guidance and support during various crucial moments, which have helped shape my academic career.

My special thanks are to all in Bangladesh whose help on numerous occasions, their warmth and hospitality during the course of my field-work has helped ensure its successful completion.

Words would be inadequate to express my deep gratitude and sincere thanks to Prof. Ameena Mohsin, Prof. Imitiaz Ahmed Chairperson, Prof. Meghna Guhathakurta, Department of International Relations, Dhaka University and Prof. K. Nizamuddin, Prof. Abdur Rob Khan, Prof. A.Q.M. Mahbub, Department of Geography, Dhaka University. Prof. Ameena Mohsin, Prof. Imitiaz Ahmed and Prof. Abdur Rob’s academic guidance, help and the care and concern extended to my family have been an unforgettable experience of my Bangladesh trip. Dr. Atiur Rahman’s suggestions, guidance and his two-hour long interview followed by
extremely fruitful discussion pertaining to his work in the area was of immense help as much as was the logistical support extended by Mr. Tarif and Mr. Ali at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). Despite his very busy schedule and his impending series of lectures abroad, Dr. A.Q.M. Chowdhury (Director, Research, BRAC) helped me significantly, through an hour-long interview as also the necessary literature and information regarding role of Non-governmental organizations in Bangladesh with specific focus on BRAC’s activities.

Mr. Nitai Chandra De Sarkar (Assistant Director), Disaster Management Bureau and Mr. Sujit Debsharma (In charge, Storm Warning Centre, Bangladesh Meteorological Department) helped me with crucial inputs in terms of scientific and technical knowledge as also the rarely available data on issues of relevance. This significantly helped me understand the way the governmental machinery works to manage a disaster and the tremendous technological advancements Bangladesh has made in this arena through long-term foreign collaboration with countries such as Japan and international organizations such as United Nations, Asian Development Bank and World Bank. I would also like to thank Mr. A. Khan, Chief Engineer, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Mr. Mohammed Moatter (Director, Public Relations) Bangladesh Water Development Board and Mr. S. Karmakar, (Deputy Director, Storm Warning Centre) and last but not the least Mr. Syed Ashraf (Communication Media Specialist, DMB) for their valuable advice and help.

A special note of thanks, to express, which I really have no words, to Swami Prabhanadaji, Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Kolkata, Swami Aksharanandaji and Mintu Maharaj, Ramkrishna Mission, Dhaka and all other Maharaj of Ramkrishna Mission, Dhaka, whose blessings, valued help, constant support, guidance and above all the warmth and hospitality extended during our stay in Dhaka that made me and my family’s stay in Dhaka a very memorable and fruitful experience.

Special words of thanks to Mrs. Aroma Datta (Director) for valuable help and care extended by PRIP-DPIS. I would also like to thank Mr. A.R.M. Saidul Haq and the disaster management team of PRIP-DPIS for providing me with significant insights as also an insiders view into the role of Non-Governmental organization in disaster management in Bangladesh.
I would also like to thank Abdul Wodud Miah (Assistant Director, CPP and BDRCS), Mr. Benedict Alo D’Rozario (Director, DMD, CARITAS Bangladesh) and Mr. Mohd. Ali Neaz (CARE Bangladesh) for their help with the relevant literature and information regarding their organisations role in disaster management.

Special thanks are also due to Mr. Mahmudur Rahman Bhuyan, (Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Dhaka University) for taking time off his busy teaching schedule. On most occasions during the course of my fieldwork, he accompanied me as also my family, providing us with all the possible support and help.

I would also like to thank Gen. Dipankar Banerjee (ex-Executive Director, Regional Centre for Strategic Studies), Mr. Ramaswamy Iyer, Centre for Policy Research, Mr. Kalyan Biswas (ex-Principal Secretary and Secretary, Environment and Forests, Government of West Bengal) and Mrs. Anuradha Biswas for their help, guidance and moral support.

Last but not the least I would like to express my deep gratitude to Alok without whose immense support and constant encouragement, the completion of this work would have been extremely difficult. I would also like to thank my friends Chinna, Aruna, Subba, Burton, Shilpa, Mohua, Shubhalakshmi, Garima and Sonali for constantly being with me when I needed help and support.

My thanks are also to the various officials and the staff of the libraries of Disaster Management Bureau, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Storm Warning Centre, Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Bangladesh water development Board, Department of Geography and Disaster Management Training Centre, Dhaka University, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Cyclone Preparedness Programme, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, PRIP-DPIS, Association of Development Agencies Bangladesh, CARE Bangladesh, CARITAS Bangladesh, Grameen Bank, Proshika, Gonoshasthya Kendra and the other institutes and libraries I visited during the course of my fieldwork in Bangladesh.

In India, my thanks are to the various officials and also the staff of the libraries of Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), Indian Meteorological Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, Jawaharlal Nehru University, South Asia Foundation, Teen Murti, American Centre Library and British High Commission Library (Delhi and Kolkata) and Bangladesh High Commission, Kolkata. Thanks are also to Lokesh, Ashok and Moti for formatting, Xeroxing and typing the Annexure and Bibliography.

The responsibility of errors remains with me alone.

Saswati Chanda