

RADIUS was presented publicly at a press conference in November 1999 and is being published in early 2000. It is our hope that the developed tools and experiences of RADIUS will be utilized in as many cities as possible to initiate similar efforts towards earthquake safe cities.

Yet, the RADIUS initiative is just the first step on a long journey. Seismic risk reduction is a long-term undertaking. It will take decades to make cities safe against earthquakes. It is difficult to strengthen existing vulnerable buildings, or change their location in the short-term. Even in the nine case-study cities, unless they take immediate actions, the earthquake risk of the cities will continue to grow. However, the RADIUS approach should help raise public awareness among the communities. It will eventually help fix land-use planning priorities, conform building regulations, retrofit existing structures, and, most importantly, promote preventive management of earthquake damage.

RADIUS does not draw a closed circle but an open circle. I sincerely hope that the circle continues to grow and helps more cities and people in the world to be safe from earthquake disasters.

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Figure 5: Press conference on 26 November 1999 at the United Nations in Geneva