

time from the disaster is extremely important. A preliminary action plan was prepared for presentation to the community during the action plan workshop. The objectives of this workshop were:

- ♦ To present to the community the preliminary action plan and receive their comments;
- ♦ To reach a consensus on the activities that should be incorporated into the plan and set up priorities; and
- ♦ To prepare recommendations on the institution to be in charge of implementing the plan and a strategy to ensure its implementation.

The results of the workshop were used to prepare the final version of the action plan that was submitted to city authorities. Summaries of the plan were also prepared for distribution to the community.

## Institutionalization

Besides the main activities of risk assessment (earthquake scenario) and planning (action plan), the RADIUS initiative worked actively to set up conditions for a process of implementation. The project:

- ♦ Involved all sectors of the community through the selection of a representative local advisory committee and the holding of well-attended workshops;
- ♦ Informed the community about the project through the local media on the advances and achievements of the project. (Figure 5 shows examples of full-page articles on the project published in Antofagasta and Guayaquil); and
- ♦ Sought potential funding from potential donors such as local industries, the financial and insurance sectors, and international aid organizations.

## Conclusions

The RADIUS initiative has been successfully implemented in the three Latin American cities of Antofagasta, Guayaquil, and Tijuana. It may be the first important step towards the establishment by the cities of long-term initiatives to prepare for seismic disasters. Significant progress has been made to increase awareness in the three cities, and actions are already being taken to implement the plans prepared by the project. Follow-up projects have been generated and there is consensus on the need to continue the efforts initiated by the project.

The RADIUS initiative proved to be important and effective for several reasons. The initiative (a) produced tangible results such as the earthquake scenarios and action plans for the cities and practical tools based on the experiences of the case studies (b) the project also promoted the collaboration of cities worldwide through interaction and sharing of experiences, identifying common problems and solutions, and forming international partnerships; and (c) most importantly the RADIUS initiative proved to be very effective in incorporating the community in the management of seismic risk. It is expected that the work initiated by the RADIUS initiative will be continued by the three cities and that other cities will benefit from the experiences gained during the project.



Figure 4. Some of the participants in the scenario workshop in Guayaquil.



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Figure 5: Newspaper articles about RADIUS in Antofagasta and Guayaquil.

