

# Summaries of National, International, Regional Activities for the 1996 World Disaster Reduction Campaign

## Armenia

The Emergency Management Administration took World Disaster Reduction Day as an opportunity to discuss "Natural Disasters Threatening Yerevan City". The event attracted officials from various ministries, the Yerevan city government, universities and UN bodies. Armenian and Russian media covered the event on radio and television. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees official present noted that "Such an event could become a serious tool for the protection of Yerevan from natural disasters". Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, belongs to a region prone to earthquakes, mudflows and floods. In 1988, Spitak, a town close to Yerevan, suffered from an earthquake which killed 25,000 people.

## Argentina

Key Argentinian officials attended a major regional meeting (Chile, April 1996) on cities and disasters, where the 1996 World Disaster Reduction Campaign was launched regionally. (See *Chile report for more information.*) This process catalyzed activities on cities and disasters in Argentina that will continue over several years.

The National Director of Civil Defense, an official of the Security Ministry (now IDNDR Focal Point) and the head of the City of Cordoba's emergency committee attended the Conference on Disaster Reduction for Local Authorities. They then organized the "First National Congress on Civil Defense for Big Cities" in Cordoba (7-11 Nov), in collaboration with the IDNDR Regional Office. National and local officials throughout the country attended. A new Federal Emergency System for Big Cities emerged as a result of the Congress. More cities have created Emergency Committees, which are often directly part of city administrations.

The Executive Committee of the Federal Emergency System of Big Cities met in May 1997 in the province of Buenos Aires. They plan to use the 1997 World Disaster Reduction Campaign to follow up actions on cities at risk to disasters.

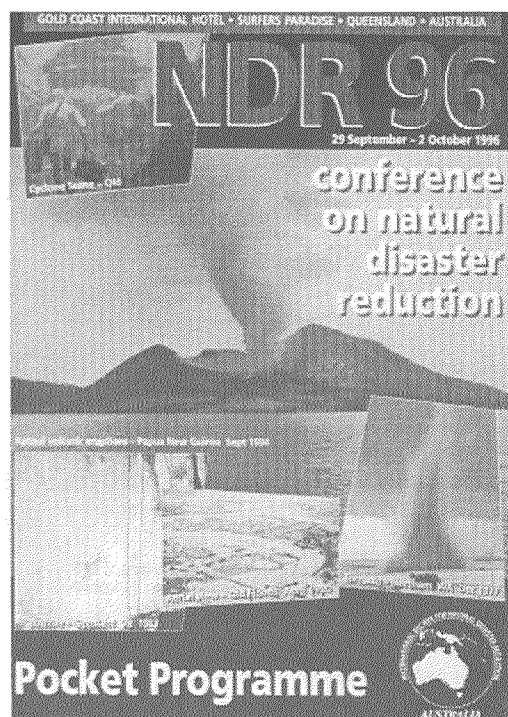
The Emergency System of Cordoba also organized a Citizen Civil Protection Week in October, to coincide with World Disaster Reduction Day. A fire simulation exercise and evacuation drill were carried out by 1000 people. Local press reported on the events and referred to the IDNDR Campaign and Cities at Risk theme.

As a national contribution to the campaign, the Pan-American Health Organization in Argentina reproduced and distributed nationally two regional PAHO-IDNDR publications on women, children and cities (*Bibliodes*), as well as IDNDR publications on children and cities (*Cities at Risk* and *Learning About Natural Disasters*).

## Australia

Natural Disaster Reduction 96 (Queensland, 29 Sept - 1 Oct) was "the largest Australian disaster-related conference of the 90s", bringing together hundreds of government leaders with natural and social scientists.

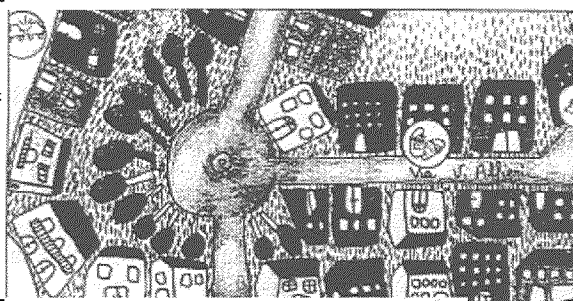
This was considered the leading event among a series of activities organized by Emergency Management Australia (EMA, IDNDR National Committee) throughout October for the World Disaster Reduction campaign. The event was organized by



# SPOTTING DANGER and TAKING ACTION

By making a community map you show what risks exist in your community, and what resources you can use to protect yourself.

Ask your people about the biggest dangers they face! Ask them:  
• Do you remember what happened in this area? When did it happen?



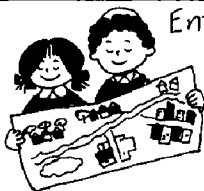
## Collective risks

- Carriage
- Rob
- Dangerous crossroads - cars speed too much
- Unsafe buildings

## Individual risks

- These houses lack water
- She is pregnant
- Here is an old person to help
- Here is a handicapped person

## Enter the Community Map Contest!



Draw a map of your community - any size - include houses, school, library, shopping and entertainment areas, medical centre, etc whatever is in your community - and the risks (see p.1) - in case of a disaster

or  
Write about your community. Include the above information and how to overcome the risks. Write as much (or as little) as necessary

You may work alone or with others in your age group. If you win, you will split the \$50 prize with your partner or partners.

Ages: 5-6  
7-8  
9-10  
11-12  
13

There will be a \$50 prize for the best map and a \$50 prize for the best writing.



\$50 Total in prizes

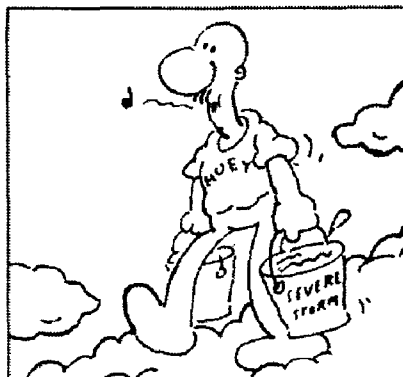


Deadline: Dec 15, 1996  
Send your entries to:  
The Australian IDNDR Secretariat,  
Emergency Management  
Australia  
PO Box 1020  
Dickson, ACT 2602

It's a great way to learn more about your community, and how to help in case of a natural disaster - and also earn some Chanukah gelt!

Your entries must be 1 page long. You have nothing to lose! So talk it over with a friend.

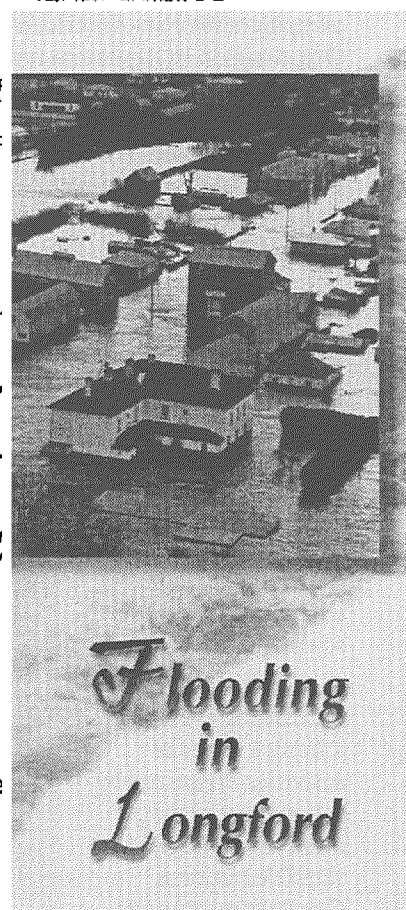
The Australian Jewish News, Sydney Edition - Friday October 18, 1996



## Severe Storms. Don't be scared, be prepared.

Every year, severe storms do millions of dollars worth of damage to property. And they can kill people. For information about how to deal with severe storms, please call your State or Territory Emergency Service.

Produced by Emergency Management Australia and the Bureau of Meteorology as an International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction initiative.



## Flooding in Longford

## SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



## DISASTER MANAGEMENT SEMINAR 7th - 8th October 1996

PROTECTING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES  
Framework for Managing Disaster Risks

A joint initiative with  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA  
for the

INTERNATIONAL DECADE  
OF NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION



Visit our Internet site:  
<http://www.swin.edu.au/afe/index/seminar.htm>