EMA, the Australian Joint Academies, the Institutes of Engineers, Geographers and Architects, the Bureau of Meteorology, and the Queensland Emergency Services.

Cities at Risk topics were a feature of the conference, such as the Tasmanian Engineering Lifelines Project, community-based flood-Awareness programmes, lessons for communities from the Newcastle Earthquake Database, earthquake mapping of Urban Areas and community vulnerability to cyclone storm surges.

Swinburne University and EMA organized a meeting on "Protecting Vulnerable Communities" in Victoria (7 – 8 October). It brought together leaders from Australia and New Zealand with university experts to review priorities in disaster management for municipal authorities.



Don't be ocared; be prepared!

In October, 300,000 households received the EMA pamphlet "Prepare Your Home against Severe Storms". It was distributed through 40 Australian city councils. EMA also distributed information to citizens in Tasmanian and Western Australian cities, focusing on preparedness measures for floods.

EMA sponsored a four-page as part of the World Disaster Reduction strategy newspaper supplement for children in the Australian Jewish News The newspaper reaches a Jewish community of 100,000 throughout Australia The newspaper editor worked with EMA to develop the supplement It contains parts of the IDNDR booklet Learning About Natural Disasters including a national



community mapping contest. It also featured humorous drawings of preparedness messages for natural hazards, based on IDNDR posters developed by a communications firm for EMA. (These Australian posters have been used in textbooks and issued as phone cards for past campaigns.)

Bangladesh

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (IDNDR National Committee), through its Disaster Management Bureau, concentrated its efforts on the megacity of Dhaka, (pop. 8 million) and on the island of Hatiya. They organized a meeting featuring the Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster



Hatıya, Bangladesh. Cyclone demonstration programme for evaluation of vulnerable people



Hatiya, Bangladesh. School debate competition

Management and Relief, university and local government experts to discuss the vulnerability of Bangladesh cities to earthquakes, metropolitan management issues for floods in Dhaka, and relations between natural hazards and urban development

"The Cities at Risk theme is very significant for Dhaka," notes the Disaster Management Bureau in a newsletter article about World Disaster Reduction Day. "Dhaka .. is very much vulnerable to natural disasters with its poor housing and infrastructure, little land use planning and poorly coordinated urban management."

On the island of Hatiya, the Disaster Management Bureau organized a parade with university students, teachers, government officials, NGOs and community leaders. The celebrations of World Disaster Reduction Day also

and evacuation drill.

An NGO in Hatiya organized a meeting on "The Role of Female Participation in Disaster Management".

included a cyclone simulation exercise

Children and university students of Hatiya also participated in drawing contests, essay contests, and debates on the importance of disaster awareness

Bulgaria

The Director and Deputy Director of Civil Protection (National Committee) were featured in televison interviews on World Disaster Reduction Day. They used it as an opportunity to promote national followup of the Yokohama

