

Burkina Faso

The National Committee for Emergency Response (CONASUR, IDNDR Focal Point) organized several activities to commemorate World Disaster Reduction Day. Burkina Faso is prone to drought and wildfires which endanger both urban and rural areas throughout the country. Water shortages cause people to move from rural areas to cities which are close to the Niger river. Squatter settlements next to the river have developed as a result, putting communities at high risk to seasonal floods.

World Disaster Reduction Day events started off with an opening ceremony, where national and international high-level officials discussed "Cities at Risk" and launched a national handbook on disaster management in Burkina Faso. (The publication was sponsored by the UN Institute for Training and Research.)

Two local NGOs and CONASUR organized a municipal disaster prevention training seminar (9-11 Oct) for 40 Ouagadougou city officials. Cities in Burkina Faso are part of a decentralized political structure which gives municipal decision-makers primary responsibility for the security of their cities.

Tv and radio stations featured broadcasts by the head of CONASUR, announcing World Disaster Reduction Day. Two daily newspapers (*Le Pays*, *le Sidwaya*) published articles on World Disaster Reduction Day about prevention measures for cities at risk.

CONASUR produced "Cities at Risk" T-shirts with IDNDR and CONASUR logos for the general public. To close World Disaster Reduction Day celebrations, CONASUR organized a volley-ball match between teams of the national radio and television channel and the National Department of Finance.

Cameroon

The Ministry of Territorial Administration (National Committee) organized a wide range of public awareness activities for two days in Yaoundé, Cameroon's capital. National tv and

radio broadcast a roundtable on "Civil Protection and Development: Our Cities at Risk" (7 Oct) featuring the head of the Civil Protection, the president of the Union of Architects and an expert on disaster-development links from the University of Yaoundé. They highlighted urban development projects at risk to natural disasters and links between civil protection programmes and sustainable development.

Part of the media coverage included an official commemorative visit at a dumping ground, where a squatter family and their home perished a few years ago, buried beneath a landslide. The Secretary of State of the Ministry of Territorial Administration formally requested the local mayor and the Civil Protection to work jointly to assist remaining squatters to relocate.

Women from the ministry and national NGOs, wearing T-shirts donated by UNICEF, took part in a parade. The Red Cross, municipal



National tv covered events for several days, including the roundtable and commemorative visit, opening and the closing ceremonies and the parade. Evening television also featured a documentary on natural disasters and a special report on disasters. National radio also broadcast interviews with government and university officials.

Canada

Canada's National Committee took advantage of World Disaster Reduction Day to organize a political breakfast meeting with members of Parliament and leaders of Canada's emergency preparedness community to discuss "the explosive increase in losses from natural disasters". They highlighted a 1996 flood in the region of Quebec described as "the largest natural disaster in Canada" with losses at \$1 billion, in which 12,000 people were evacuated. Two Parliament members drew attention to World Disaster Reduction Day in House of Commons debates later in the day.

The breakfast meeting also featured a presentation of the Canadian IDNDR National Committee's strategic plan for natural disaster reduction. The plan emphasizes six areas: socioeconomic aspects of prevention and mitigation; risk assessment, hazards, vulnerabilities and mitigation planning; international cooperation, disaster communications (all phases of disasters); awareness and education; and coordination and administrative support.

On the same day, the National Committee and Black and White Communications, a Canadian firm launched a major educational initiative on "Risk and Society. A Schools Project". This project dealing with risk assessment, awareness, education and communication will be carried out across Canada over the next few years. They are surveying risk perceptions of Canadian youth (natural, environmental or social

ACTION

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ON NATIONAL COMMITTEE

 The Canadian Academy of Engineering

IDNDR

WINTER 1966

The Floral Society of Canada

Safety Begins with Prevention

The International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction 1990

James E. Gibson

4. What is the main purpose of the passage?

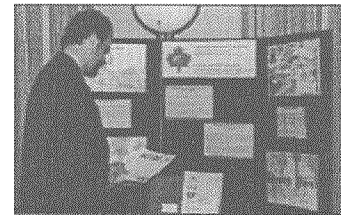
— J. NEUBAUER, 1924

the day after the trial, the judge pronounced the death sentence on the two men. The judge said that the two men were the only ones in the world who had been convicted of the same crime. The judge said that the two men were the only ones in the world who had been convicted of the same crime.

The International Day of the Girl Child 1999 was observed in various schools throughout the country. In October, it is an opportunity to promote gender equality and progress in countries around the world. In view of regarding cultural development as our priority, the 1999 award was given to the United Nations, which had been several members of the United Nations Conference of the World for the Sustainable Development of the National Development (1999). The main message in the meeting was that safety should be the main priority in the safety field with cooperation.

CN's emphasized that despite low social skills, our study had no effect on treatment uptake, suggesting the need for more and/or better social skills training in individuals with serious mental illness. CN also said the group was not able to take on the challenge of the Canadian Red Cross Society, OXAM Canada and European Psychiatric Canada. Finally, we performed a usability

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 CSM thought emphasizes the long-term effects
 of disasters on people's lives and work,
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 ised to be a global, non-profit committee and
 the need to mitigate the effects of disaster-
 specific hazards. Dr. Anne Hestmark, FRSC,
 Chair of the CSM, Laupold Nelson, Presi-
 dent of the Canadian Society of Emergency
 Medicine, Dr. Norman M. Klein, FRSC, ALM
 Secretary, President of the American
 Society of Disaster Medicine and Public
 Health, Dr. James Hodge, past Chair
 of the LINDH Scientific and Research Com-
 mittee, Hans Hall, President, BSI, and Dr. Walter
 A. Hoffmann, FRSC, Dr. Robert L. Thompson
 as President, American International Ltd., and
 Eugene Wenzel, Chair, Medical Sciences
 Board, The University of British Columbia
 President of the FRP, presented a new vision
 of disaster medicine and a new structure
 through the appointment of the secret of the



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Subsequent to the meeting, Hon. James M. Smith of Michigan called on the Hon. Charles C. Smith of Maryland and Hon. James M. Smith of Michigan and Hon. James M. Smith of Michigan.

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hazards), and organizing public debates and forums so that their voices are heard.

Tied to the breakfast meeting was an exhibit organized by the Red Cross, Oxfam, Emergency Preparedness Canada, CARE and UNICEF. Health Canada performed a casualty simulation.

The Ontario Science Centre in Toronto conducted "Cities at Risk" radio spots on Canadian Broadcasting Corporation radio programs, and several newspapers covered the breakfast meeting and the launch of the "Risk and Society" educational project.

The Canadian National Committee is coordinated by the Royal Society of Canada, and contains government officials dealing with forests, transport, foreign affairs, trade, defence, international development and emergency services; the first head of the IDNDR