

Women in Earthquake Hazard Reduction” and a 1997 IIEES report on the same subject. For World Disaster Reduction Day in 1997, the committee’s head spoke to journalists on the role of Iranian women in earthquake prevention. Committee members include government officials, natural and social scientists and NGOs.



Pupils visiting the children's drawing exhibit "How to Prevent Earthquake Hazards" in Tehran, Iran.

A major drawing competition for Asian countries in the region was presented to the public on World Disaster Reduction Day. The IIEES, Ministry of the Interior (National Committee) and Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults organized the Second Biennial Asian Children's Drawing Contest on "How To Prevent Earthquake Hazards". Over 4000 drawings from 10 Asian countries were sent to the IIEES. Participants ranged from 6 to 13 years of age. Drawings were displayed in a major exhibit in Tehran, Iran's capital (12-19 Oct).

Educational specialists analyzed the competition results, noting measurable improvements in how children had absorbed key messages to minimize loss from earthquakes. Most 1996 participants illustrated disaster prevention measures. They drew "duck-cover-hold" positions, proper construction materials,

sound reconstruction, classroom education scenes, etc. Two years before, the children illustrated earthquake scenes as frightening and helpless situations. The 1994 drawings are typical of most children's art related to disasters, which at best mostly focus on the force of nature or heroic relief efforts. Educational specialists in Iran attribute the

difference to an IIEES earthquake preparedness education programme of the IIEES which encourages children to consider an earthquake as a natural phenomenon, and promotes a concept of safety and prevention without panic.

The IIEES produced a Farsi version of "Learning About Natural Disasters, Games and Projects for You and Your Friends" for Iranian children. The booklet features an Iranian example of a "shaking house" on springs to simulate earthquake effects. Many children (in Iran and

other countries) featured shaking houses in their drawings as well as a result of the booklet's wide dissemination.

Italy

The Department of Civil Protection (National Committee) organised a well-attended press conference in late September to highlight the issue of natural disaster prevention. The Secretary of State for Civil Protection, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a representative of the IDNDR Secretariat gave presentations and attended the question and answer session which received nationwide media coverage.

In early October, scientists from an environmental institute connected with the universities of Rome and Perugia, high-level government officials, the head of the "National Commission for Major Risks" and a representative of the IDNDR Secretariat spoke at a meeting for the "First World Day on the Prevention of Risks in Cities" (Perugia, 9 Oct).

City and regional representatives attended from throughout Italy, Perugia's mayor. Fifteen presentations were given on the theme of disaster prevention and cities. National media covered the event extensively.

Jamaica

A major conference on "Natural Hazards and Disasters" (9-12 October) brought together Caribbean and international experts to discuss disaster management issues. It was organized by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (National Committee) and the University of the West Indies.

The former Vice-Chair of the IDNDR Scientific and Technical Committee, a Jamaican, appeared on national tv. A radio station organized a live conference, and newspapers also reported on the conference.

Three local Disaster Community Councils held forums in schools and community centers on disaster preparedness. They also organized fire and earthquake drills for primary school children.

A World Disaster Reduction Campaign exhibit was displayed in the lobby of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management.

Jordan

The Civil Defense (IDNDR Focal Point) organized a meeting on "Cities at Risk". During the opening session, the Director of Jordan Civil Defense presented a special award to a participant of the 1995 International IDNDR Community and Resource Map Contest.

As part of the programme, the Civil Defense organized a youth camp where disaster and civil defense experts explained natural hazards and prevention measures.

The Ministry of Health and Civil Defense jointly issued a poster called "Hand-in-Hand for Natural Disasters."

The Director of Civil Defense announced local World Disaster Reduction Day activities in a special programme on national tv.

Kazakhstan

The State Emergency Committee (National Committee) encouraged major metropolitan and provincial authorities to carry out World Disaster Reduction Day activities in all regions and big cities of the country.

Several months before World Disaster Reduction Day, the State Emergency Committee launched a mass media campaign for World Disaster Reduction Day, including national and private radio and tv stations and newspapers. They prepared 800 radio broadcasts and 430 tv broadcasts featuring the World Disaster Reduction Campaign and protection measures for earthquakes, landslides, mudflows and other hazards. Over 1000 newspaper articles also published safety measures for natural hazards.

In Almaty and urban schools throughout the country, children's drawing, exhibitions focused on protection against dangerous phenomena and emergency actions. Schools also featured training videos about natural disaster protection measures on World Disaster Reduction Day.

Six of the most populated regions with several big cities are prone to earthquakes, mudflows and landslides, while towns next to the Caspian Sea are prone to floods.

Republic of Macedonia

UNICEF Macedonia continued to work throughout 1996 on the followup of the 1995 campaign, involving the Ministry of Education, Civil Protection and the earthquake institute of Sts. Cyril and Methodius University.

They used World Disaster Reduction Day in 1996 to produce and distribute 20,000 copies of *Learning About Natural Disasters* in Macedonian, Albanian, Serbian and Turkish. Pilot-testing of the booklet in schools will continue throughout 1997, and evaluation results will form the basis for a followup booklet specifically oriented to Macedonia. In parallel they have developed educational plans on risk reduction, which are being integrated in the national curricula of the Ministry of Education. They continue to

seek innovative examples and contacts from interested partners on risk reduction and education.

Malaysia

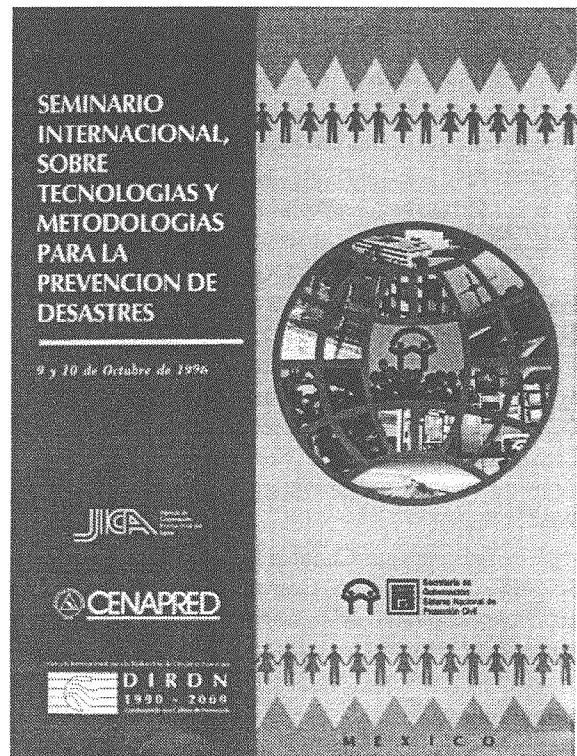
The Federation of Consumer Associations of Malaysia organized a disaster reduction workshop (13 October, Kuala Lumpur), using IDNDR campaign materials. Attended by 30 NGOs, the meeting attracted strong newspaper and television coverage, and was followed up by a national radio programme on disaster mitigation. The federation has launched two awards for \$5000 for disaster mitigation work done by NGOs in South Asia or Southeast Asia.

Mauritius

The Police Commissioner of Mauritius took advantage of World Disaster Reduction Day to meet with Police and Civil Defense high-level officers and discuss preparedness and safety measures. They agreed on measures for improved contingency planning between authorities for construction, roads, medical services, electricity, communications and transport, as well as construction of cyclone shelters and refugee centers for disaster victims. These plans will address a range of disasters, as Mauritius is prone to cyclones, landslides, tidal waves and wildfires.

Mexico

The Civil Protection Bureau (IDNDR National Committee), the National Center for Disaster Prevention and the Japan International Cooperation Agency organized an "International Seminar on Technologies and Methodologies for Disaster Prevention" (9-10 Oct) in Mexico City for World Disaster Reduction Day. The Pan-American Health Organization (WHO) national representative spoke on behalf of the IDNDR Secretariat as well as PAHO.



250 government, municipal, UN and NGO officials and business leaders from Central America and the Caribbean discussed use of technological resources and international technology transfer for disaster prevention in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. They also viewed an exhibit at the site of volcano Popocateptl, which is still active and close to Mexico City.

Major tv and radio stations, and several newspapers covered the event.

Mexico City, the world's largest city (16-18 million, plus many unregistered people living in squatter settlements), suffered a major earthquake in 1985 which killed 10,000 people and left tens of thousands homeless.

Nepal

Cities across Nepal organized meetings on World Disaster Reduction Day. These meetings were coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior (IDNDR National Committee). Floods and mudflows in Nepal have affected 400,000 people in recent years, causing heavy damage to city infrastructure.