

Peru

All major cities participated in the second National Earthquake Simulation Exercise on World Disaster Reduction Day. Organized months in advance by the Civil Defense (INDECI, National Committee), the simulation trains Peruvians how to behave to reduce damage caused by a potential large earthquake.

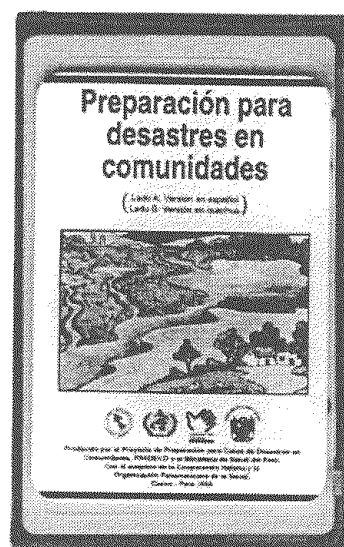
"As Peru is in a geographic area with high seismic vulnerability, Peruvians have to keep in mind this reality and be prepared to cope with natural disasters with a minimum number of deaths" said INDECI in a press release connected with the campaign. They also released information materials from the IDNDR Secretariat.

INDECI plans to continue an annual, major simulation exercises in connection

with World Disaster Reduction Campaigns, and evaluate the emergency response capacity of the Peruvian population and organizations belonging to the Peruvian Civil Defense System.

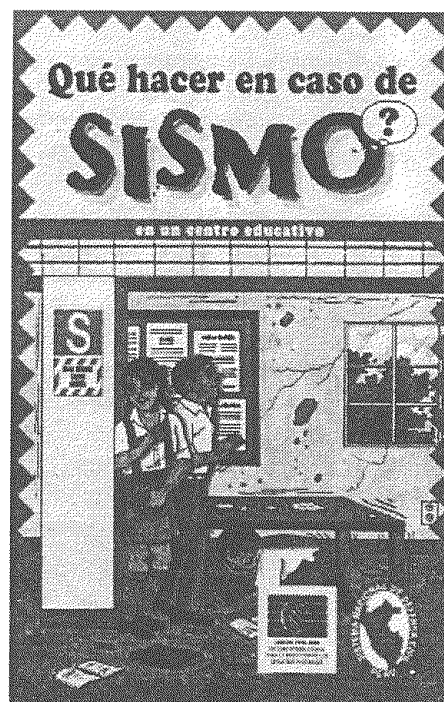
The simulation exercise started on 9 October at 11:00 am with sirens and alarm bells. Within a minute, people moved to security zones inside the buildings. After the minute, people left buildings, homes,

working places, study centers, commercial business or other places to go to the parks, wide avenues, and other places designated as security zones. After 10 minutes, the duration of the simulation exercise, most people went back to normal activities.



The first simulation exercise in 1995 was connected to a major regional IDNDR Conference, hosted by Peru. It was the 25th anniversary of an earthquake in Huaraz, Peru, where more than 67,000 persons died.

Another Peruvian campaign contribution was "virtual". The NGO Quipunet, staffed by Peruvians around the globe, joined forces with the IDNDR Secretariat to organize a conference on email and on the Internet about "Solutions to Cities at Risk". Volunteers provided technical, managerial, substan-



tive and translation support for the two-month conference (Sept-Oct). In March, Quipunet organized another virtual conference on cities and disasters, focusing on the impact of the Kobe earthquake.

Philippines

The Citizens Disaster Response Center their own national poster contest for children, sending the winning results to the IDNDR Secretariat for participation in the IDNDR International Poster Contest on cities at risk. They displayed entries at shopping centres, made posters and a calendar from the entries and distributed them to other NGOs. They also widely distributed IDNDR materials on cities at risk.

The Citizens Disaster Response Center was the first head of the Global Forum of NGOs created at the Yokohama World Conference on Disaster Reduction.

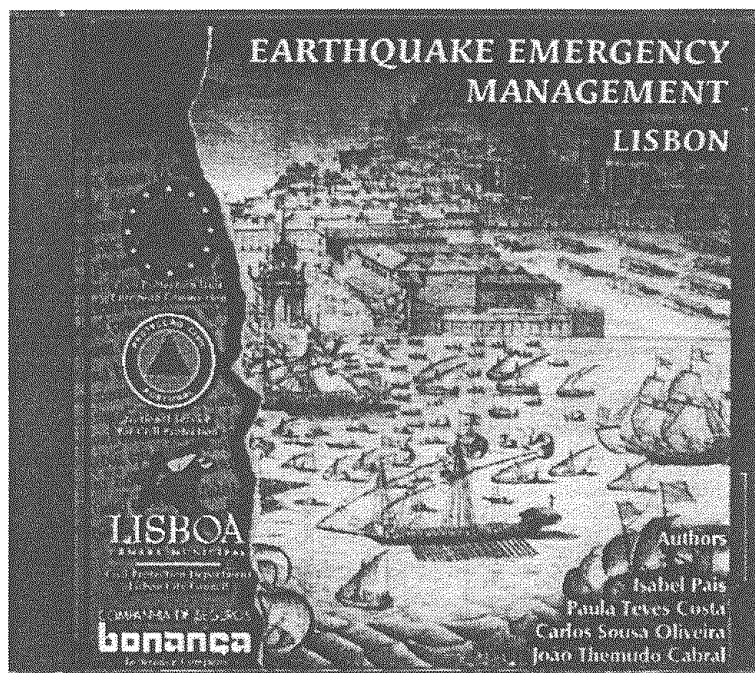
Portugal

The National Service for Civil Protection (IDNDR focal point) organized several campaign activities. The highlight was a major conference on "Cities at Risk" (Lisbon, 9 Oct). The heads of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of the Environment and Civil Protection opened the event.

200 government officials and scientists discussed growing social, environmental and natural vulnerability of Portuguese cities to disasters. Urban zones are expanding rapidly, putting industrial areas and concentrations of population near flood or earthquake areas. Participants felt that the keys to reducing risk were three: scientific assessment and monitoring information as a basis for government planning, public education campaigns to improve general awareness of prevention and preparedness measures, and integration of risk assessments in development projects. "Protection from risks needs to be part of all development projects, in order to reduce vulnerability of people and the environment," noted the head of

the Ministry of Environment at the conference. "This task needs to be carried out by a wide range of government agencies."

Among new solutions presented at the the conference, the National Water Institute flood monitoring system, installed following major 1995 floods, is providing useful information to government authorities. Information collected from high-risk rivers is catalogued in a



database and used in maps, and simulations of floods, dam breaks and leakages of dikes.

National newspapers and professional journals reported the conference extensively.

As part of the campaign, Portugal also launched a new CD-ROM "Earthquake Emergency Management - Application to the City of Lisbon". Available in English and Portuguese, 1000 copies were distributed to schools. It was sponsored by the National Service for Civil Protection, the Municipal Service for Civil Protection, the Bonança Insurance Company and the European Union. The CD-ROM combines scientific facts about earthquakes and civil protection measures with a case study of the 1755 Lisbon earthquake.