

They also used World Disaster Reduction Day to promote "Education for Civil Protection", a new student handbook. It contains basic scientific facts and prevention measures for several hazards, as well as community extracurricular projects. 3000 copies were distributed to Portuguese schools for students (between 11-18 years of age).

Portugal's most notorious disaster is the 1755 Lisbon earthquake, the world's largest (9.0 on the Richter Scale). Its tremors reached northern Africa, northern and southern Europe and even the Brazilian coast and the Caribbean. In Lisbon, the earthquake killed 10% of the population.

Portugal also faces risks from windstorms, landslides and technological disasters. Its most frequent threat is from floods. In a recent example, on Christmas 1996, floods and windstorms swept one of the Azores islands, causing 3.6m damage, some of which could have been avoided by integrating risk assessments in zoning and construction projects.

Romania

To highlight the Cities at Risk theme, the Ministry of Public Works and Territory Planning (National Committee) organised a "Towns and Risk" meeting (9 Oct) with government officials from other concerned ministries, the Civil Defense Headquarters, the Fire Brigade Headquarters and the press.

The event focused on earthquake protection and risk mitigation in urban settlements, as 65% of Romanian territory is prone to earthquakes.

IDNDR, participants noted, coincides with new trends in natural disaster prevention in the 1990s in Romania. Many new laws have been passed during the 90s to strengthen seismic building codes and private sector activities, but there are still problems, such as lack of funds for large-scale retrofitting of pre-1940 buildings. Participants stressed the need for an integrated cross-sectoral approach for disaster mitigation funding.

For the remainder of the Decade, the Ministry of Public Works and Territory Planning is looking towards increased awareness-building in the public and private sectors in order to obtain more financial, material and human resources for natural disaster reduction.

Russian Federation

The Cities at Risk campaign theme was integrated in conferences and publications throughout the year, reported the Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM, National Committee). Campaign publicity and related publications was carried out by EMERCOM and Global Eco Reform, a Russian environmental NGO that works with EMERCOM and leading environmental NGOs around the world. Linking environmental and natural disaster reduction issues has been a strong undercurrent in Russian approaches to IDNDR disaster reduction campaigns.

Catalyzed by the IDNDR Cities at Risk report, a group of municipal authorities, EMERCOM officials, university experts and NGOs developed a Russian "Cities at Risk" book and poster. Targeted towards municipal authorities in Russia as well as concerned professionals from all sectors dealing with urban issues, the manual is being produced in Russian and English by Global Eco Reform with the support of a wide range of organizations. Global Eco Reform also issued a Russian World Disaster Reduction Day leaflet to advertise the campaign.

The campaign was used as an opportunity to set up "green patrols" in urban areas by EMERCOM and the Ministry of Interior (Forestry Service and Fire Protection Department) to encourage citizens to become involved in improving their urban environment, particularly parks and green areas. Big cities with forest park areas were targeted with fire-prevention public information announcements, with more than 5000 radio spots, newspaper and magazine articles, and television documentaries broadcast in the summer, which is "fire-risk season."

A Russian meeting with the Council of Europe on 14 October emphasized risk management for large cities, with an emphasis on risk education programmes.

Contests and seminars for children continued as a followup to the 1995 campaign publication "Learning About Natural Disasters," which was translated and distributed widely in Russia (over 100,000 copies).

Scientists associated with the National Committee emphasized urban aspects of disasters in conference presentations throughout the year, focusing on subjects such as urban disaster vulnerability assessment and "biopositive" cities that contribute to natural disaster reduction, drawing from the IDNDR Internet Conference, and Cities at Risk publication to complement their own national expertise.

Information kits and papers provided by the IDNDR Secretariat "helped us much in the celebration of World Disaster Reduction Day in Russia", concluded the head of the Russian National Committee.

Sri Lanka

The Sri Lankan Red Cross Society used World Disaster Reduction Day to promote cross-sectoral training programmes on first aid, targeting 25% of NGOs, private companies and government institutions in Colombo, the capital. They are interested in information about disaster reduction related seminars that can help them design more widespread, concrete and practical disaster reduction nationally. The Red Cross foresees an increasing number and scope of activities related to future World Disaster Reduction campaigns.

St. Lucia

On 9 October, a local Disaster Committee organized a roundtable discussion on "Cities at Risk", broadcast live on tv. Participants from different professional sectors discussed the vulnerability of St. Lucia's cities to floods and cyclones and natural disaster prevention measures.

The Office of Disaster Preparedness published a feature about "Cities at Risk" and announcements about the IDNDR Internet Conference "Solutions for Cities at Risk" based on information from the IDNDR Secretariat.

Tajikistan

A "Committee for Extreme Situations" has just been formed and is carrying out training and awareness activities. They plan to participate in future campaigns and seek more information about experiences of other countries.

Togo

On World Disaster Reduction Day, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry organized a roundtable discussion among government officials to discuss emergency management planning and coordination in Togo. This first commemoration of World Disaster Reduction Day in Togo was successful at a political level in raising awareness of the "capital importance of disaster prevention and emergency preparedness planning." Togo is interested in information exchange with IDNDR partner organizations on disaster reduction issues.

Tonga

The Ministry of Works and Disaster Relief has set up three working groups – on Planning, Mitigation and Education/Public Awareness – to review plans, and coordinate a pilot study on community vulnerability to floods. "Cities at Risk" is a theme that will continue to be of relevance: Nuku'Alofa (Tonga's capital) and Tongatapu (the main island) are experiencing what they call "urban drift" – migration causing fast population growth which raises concerns about sustainable development. Nuku'Alofa hosted the regional IDNDR meeting for Pan-Pacific islands in September 1996.

Trinidad and Tobago

World Disaster Reduction Day was marked by a three-day conference on "Engineering Design to Cope with Risk and Uncertainty" (14-16 Oct). The National Emergency Management Agency (IDNDR National Committee) and the National Association of Professional Engineers organized the event. The University of West Indies, Chamber of Commerce, and Caribbean Disaster Management Agency were among the key speakers.

"Engineers need to take on a greater responsibility to raise public awareness and to guide social, economic and government policy to allow for more efficient preparation for natural and man-made hazards", noted the Chairman of the country's Board of Engineering.

Vulnerability analysis and mitigation planning in the Caribbean were discussed, along with chemical plant risks, the role of forests in disaster management, possibilities of dam breaks, landslide hazard mitigation, retrofitting, construction of transportable shelters and bridges as a contingency system, the adoption of Caribbean-wide construction codes, and cyclone-resistant design for low-income housing.

"All new engineering projects should recognize the natural environment's processes and limitations," noted one of the speakers, summing up a common theme running through the conference. The engineering association, the government, the university and the chamber of commerce agreed to work jointly to improve national disaster preparedness.

Tunisia

The Ministry of the Interior (IDNDR National Committee) organized a conference for officials from the ministries for housing, agriculture, environment and land use planning, public health and civil protection on "Disaster Prevention in Urban Areas".

The event focused on floods, bringing together a cross-section of presentations from all involved ministries. Tunisia is exposed to seasonal heavy rains as well as drought. These droughts reduce the soil's capacity to absorb water, and then the country suffers from flash floods. Floods have affected around 50,000 people in recent years, especially those living in squatter settlements in flood-prone areas.

Conference recommendations focused on improved cooperation and information exchange between ministries. Participants agreed to establish common databases and public awareness programmes on disaster risks with a focus on women and children, as well as special flood prevention programmes for high-risk areas.

Turkey

At Habitat II (UN conference on cities, June 1996), the Ministry of Public Works and Settlement (National Committee), European Natural Disaster Training Centre and Kandilli Observatory of Istanbul joined with the IDNDR Secretariat to mount an exhibit. For the two-week duration of the conference, representatives were on hand to discuss local, national and international initiatives related to disaster threats facing cities. (Kandilli Observatory, part of Bogazici University, has produced risk maps for all lifeline services in Istanbul. The head of the Observatory is part of the IDNDR Scientific and Technical Committee.)

Following planning sessions at Habitat II, Bogazici University organized the first World Disaster Reduction Day events in Istanbul, capitalizing both on the Cities at Risk theme and the IDNDR booklet for children produced in 1995. They organized a major meeting of 400 elementary school officials around Istanbul, focusing on earthquake preparedness measures. Participating school officials were given packages containing brochures, posters and videos for classroom use from the IDNDR Secretariat, the European Natural Disaster Training Centre, the Ministries

of Education and Public Works, and Kandilli Observatory. Media coverage in Istanbul was strong, including a radio talk show featuring the university. Several television stations covered the Istanbul meeting of education officials.

In a related initiative, earthquake experts from the the Kandilli Observatory toured local classrooms in Istanbul throughout the week, showing them how to improve safety in the classroom.

In parallel, the Ankara-based European Natural Disaster Training Center organized a seminar on "Urbanization and Disasters" for Turkish municipality officials, European and Central Asian government officials and university experts.

The Ministry for Education supported these initiatives by declaring the second week of October to become "Earthquake Awareness Week".

United Kingdom

Cities at Risk was a theme "very much appreciated" by the UK National Committee, since a two-volume report on megacities and disaster mitigation had just been issued by the UK Institution of Civil Engineers. Committee members decided that the focus would be on gaining media coverage. They organized "Cities at Risk" events in London, Cardiff, Birmingham and Edinburgh. The London event was at the Natural History Museum, which featured a walk-in exhibit of a furnished room of a house which shook to simulate an earthquake. Cardiff held its event at the National Museum of Wales, Birmingham's event was at Aston University and Edinburgh's event was hosted by the Royal Society. About 100 people attended each event.

They widely circulated fliers and posted announcements in their new IDNDR newsletter to promote the events. At the events, they distributed IDNDR Secretariat posters and books on Cities at Risk, along with information on UK disaster reduction projects and general information about IDNDR.

Organizers felt successful in obtaining good media coverage. National Committee experts, and a representative of the IDNDR Secretariat gave many radio interviews, including to the BBC and World Service (English and French), Radio 5 Live, and regional radio stations. They focused on future disaster scenarios for megacities, and then highlighted risk assessment and prevention measures. Each radio interview reached about one million listeners.

The Guardian newspaper reviewed "hot sites on the web" for volcanoes, and the Observer and various regional papers also carried articles.

In a related event, the NGO Intermediate Technology organized a seminar on community participation (London, 9 Oct). Leading NGOs and institutes involved in disaster mitigation in Britain, India, Sri Lanka, Peru, the UK Overseas Development Administration and the IDNDR Secretariat gave presentations.

The British Geological Survey also participated in one of the scientific meetings held in China for the World Disaster Reduction campaign (Fujian Province Science and Technology Commission, 8-11 November)

The Royal Academy of Engineering coordinates UK National Committee activities. Members include the Overseas Development Administration, and NGOs and universities dealing with social sciences, medicine and specific natural hazards, the British Geological Survey, the Royal Society, the Institute of Civil Engineers, The guardian.

United States

The Natural Hazards Research Center, part of the University of Boulder (Colorado), played a key role in developing the contents and format of the IDNDR Internet Conference "Solutions for Cities at Risk", as well as publicizing the event regularly through electronic announcements, its web page, and newsletter.

Several government offices carried out events at local (county) level. In Racine, Wisconsin, the emergency management coordinator arranges a

Family Preparedness Campaign in conjunction with World Disaster Reduction Day and has launched a "Safety Merit Badge Day" seminar for Boy Scouts, to teach children about safety measures for severe weather, fire and home accidents, bringing together police, fire, scout and local government officials. The programme has received news coverage and has been singled out by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Vietnam

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (National Committee) a meeting on World Disaster Reduction Day in Hanoi, the capital. Attending were all members of the

national committee, UNDP and other international agencies in Hanoi, officials from several national ministries and provinces, and media.

They highlighted both the 1995 and 1996 themes, inviting the Vice-Minister of Construction to speak about cities at risk and leaders of the Vietnamese Women's Federation and Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union to speak about risk reduction issues related to women and children.

For the first time, they reported, over 50 provincial IDNDR officials were invited to Hanoi to participate.

Regional and International Organizations

Council of Europe

"Communications and Hazards: Images and Media" (Paris, 4-6 Oct) was organized by the Council of Europe as a contribution to the World Disaster Reduction Day. Hosted by the National Scientific Research Centre, and opened by the Crown Prince of Belgium (as head of the Royal Institute for sustainable management of natural resources and clean technologies), the conference examined communications issues before, during and after disasters. It featured speakers from Eastern Europe and CIS countries, Western Europe and international organizations. A representative from the IDNDR Secretariat attended the meeting.

Cities at Risk materials were integrated in the conference exhibit, and the IDNDR Internet Conference was presented on a large screen to participants. A film contest on disasters, associated with the conference was part of "Image and Science", a well-known scientific film festival.

The Council of Europe also integrated the cities at risk theme in a conference it organized with EMERCOM (Moscow, 14 Oct, see Russian Federation report).

Environment Resource Centre for Southern Africa

A special report on "Southern Africa: Disasters, Poverty and Violence Place Cities at Risk" was released on World Disaster Reduction Day by the India Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre for Southern Africa. The centre also issued additional articles on disaster management trends in Southern Africa. The centre works in partnership with SARDC and the regional office for Southern Africa of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on disaster reduction information issues.

Global Forum of NGOs for Disaster Reduction

The "First World Assembly of NGOs for Disaster Reduction" was held from 9-12 October 1996 in Kathmandu, Nepal, as a contribution to the World Disaster Reduction Day. Attended by 71 NGOs from four continents and several UN agencies, the event was self-financed by participating NGOs.

The Joint Assistance Center (JAC) of India was the key organizer of the event, along with two press conferences that brought wide coverage of the event in the media of Nepal. JAC serves as the Secretariat of the Global Forum of NGOs for Disaster Reduction (GFNDR).

For the conference, GFNDR released a publication with summaries of campaign activities and six papers from the IDNDR "Solutions to Cities at Risk" Internet Conference.

NGOs present expressed their "strong desire to collectively and singly work towards minimizing the impact of hazards and building up local capabilities to work with disasters". Among their specific recommendations:

1. Organise regional, multi-country networks for sustained public awareness campaigns.
2. Organise a followup conference in Phoenix, Arizona, at the invitation of one of the US-based NGOs at the conference.
3. Work on enlarging membership in the World Assembly of NGOs for Disaster Reduction.
4. Start up a Register for Disaster Resources that matches individuals and agencies for disaster-related activities.
5. Encourage adoption of the NGO "Code of Conduct" developed by the Red Cross.

The Global Forum of NGOs for Disaster Reduction aims to promote the IDNDR objective of "building a culture of prevention" to move towards "A Safer

World for the 21st Century", (the theme of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama, Japan, 1994).

HABITAT

Habitat and the IDNDR Secretariat collaborated in order to introduce disaster mitigation concepts in the Habitat action plan (should annex to this campaign report).

UNESCO

UNESCO's contribution to the campaign was part of UNESCO's overall contribution to Habitat II (Istanbul, June 1996). UNESCO programmes on "Man and Biosphere" and "Management of Social Transformations" joined forces to launch a programme on "Cities: management of social transformation and the environment". This new programme incorporates natural disaster reduction concepts and measures.

UNESCO dedicated an issue of its quarterly journal "Nature and Resources" (Dec 96, vol.32) to cities, and included articles on disaster reduction in urban areas. An earthquake risk seminar jointly organized by UNESCO and the US Geological Survey (Cyprus, Dec 96) included risk in cities of the Middle East. Among followup activities planned in 1997 is work on a cities and disasters conference in Spain and work on earthquakes and megacities with Germany.

Housing and Hazards Group

This international network of engineers and geoscientists organized a seminar entitled "Implementing Hazard-Resistant Housing" (Dhaka, Dec). They distributed campaign materials and used them in their conference planning.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Latin America/Caribbean

The regional delegation of the Red Cross, a strong force behind the Latin American Conference for Local Authorities and Disaster Reduction (Chile, April 1996) worked closely with the IDNDR Regional Office to promote the Cities at Risk campaign among key local authorities.

They have worked closely with the IDNDR Regional Office since the 1994 campaign on vulnerable groups, supporting the work of national societies on IDNDR campaigns, with a focus on community-level activities.

PAHO/WHO

The Pan American Health Organization, the regional office of the World Health Organization for the Americas, contributed to the campaign through regular promotion of the Cities at Risk Campaign in their newsletter "Disaster Mitigation in the Americas", and through an electronic discussion list for disaster managers in Central America. Several PAHO staff provided technical and substantive advice for the IDNDR "Solutions to Cities at Risk" Internet Conference.

The Regional Disaster Documentation Center (PAHO-IDNDR) produced a Special Edition of BIBLIODES with bibliographic references on the theme "Cities at Risk".

UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP organized an exhibit jointly with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre at the United Nations building in Bangkok, Thailand. ESCAP worked through its Water Resources Section (Environment and Natural Resources Management Division), which has a number of projects and publications on natural disaster reduction.

The Water Resources Section also published its own brochure about World Disaster Reduction Day, adapting material from the Secretariat and adding information on Asia and the Pacific, including case studies on regional water-related disasters.

UNICEF

UNICEF distributed campaign material to its national offices and linked the IDNDR Internet Conference to its home page. UNICEF national offices in Asia and Africa participated in the internet conference

World Meteorological Organization

The World Meteorological Organization exhibit at the Habitat II conference (Istanbul, June 96) underlined the link between sustainable city development

and disaster reduction. WMO distributed campaign information to all its meteorological offices, and linked the IDNDR Internet Conference to its home page. Many national offices participated in the internet conference. A press release on cities at risk was issued which was published by various wire services.

World Health Organization

The World Health Organization distributed campaign materials and information about the IDNDR Internet Conference to its regional offices and collaborating centres for emergency preparedness, which catalyzed participation from several WHO offices worldwide in the campaign, particularly the internet conference.