

more to the area of natural hazards, where there are many possibilities for loss prevention which hitherto have scarcely been tapped.

■ Opportunities for joint action

As already pointed out, the insurance industry must seize every opportunity to stop or even reverse the ominous rising trend in the loss burdens from natural disasters. Decisive results can be expected only from worldwide cooperation of the insurance industry and other sectors like governmental, non-governmental and scientific institutions, industry and the media.

In the insurance industry, therefore, IDNDR has a natural partner and ally. The insurance industry has at its disposal a wealth of worldwide experience that covers many decades, and which can draw upon far-reaching international connections. There are many possible fields of cooperation with other parts of society involved in emergency management. The list (see box p. 60) is illustrative and by no means exhaustive.

The significance of natural disasters to the insurance industry, which has increased dramatically in recent decades, makes all activities in the context of IDNDR a matter of keen interest. The insurance industry, with its many years of vast loss experience, can draw upon extensive know-how which can be of great service in the development and implementation of the IDNDR programme.

Furthermore, the wording of insurance conditions strongly influences the attitudes of people and industry as regards preparedness. Insurance conditions should therefore be used to fuel motivation efforts.

In short, there is a broad range of opportunities for joint action by the insurance industry and all other sectors in support of IDNDR. If the available capacities are utilized to the full, this can do a great deal to halt the ominous trend of increasing disasters and thus ensure that the success of IDNDR endures far beyond the decade. ■



1964 earthquake, Niigata, Japan

Photo NOAA/EDIS

References

- Berz, G. "The Insurance Industry and IDNDR: Common Interests and Tasks," *Stop Disasters*, No. 15, pp. 8-10, 1993
- "World Map of Natural Hazards," Munich Reinsurance Company, Munich, 1988
- "Expectations and Realities: The Insurance Industry and the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction," National Committee on Property Insurance, Boston 1990.

Recommendations / Private Sector

Areas for Cooperation Between the Insurance Industry and

► Local and national authorities

- Hazard mapping (tariff zones)
- Land use regulations (grading of municipalities, premium loading, exclusion)
- Building regulations (premium loading, tariff classification, certificates)
- Warning services (subscription, transmission to clients)
- Disaster preparedness (catastrophe reserves, tax reductions)
- Education, information (brochures, films)
- Disaster analysis (loss statistics, recommendations)

► NGOs

- Preparedness and mitigation activities (information material)
- Disaster research (information exchange)
- Disaster relief (information exchange, financial aid, relief goods, repair material, temporary housing, shelter, loss adjustment)

► Scientific institutions

- Risk analysis (tariff zones/classification)
- Catastrophe scenarios (historic evaluation, model calculation)
- Mitigation research (information exchange)
- Listing of competent institutions and experts

► Industry

- Risk analysis (design requirements, certificates, exclusions)
- Loss evaluation (information, statistics)
- Preparedness (education, premium incentives)
- Warning service (subscription, information)
- Disaster relief (financial aid, loss of profit cover, relief goods/repair material, loss adjustment)

► Media

- Education, preparedness (brochures, films)
- Warning service (dissemination)
- Disaster relief (information, coordination)
- Advertisement (disaster relief service, product information)