

such as "Flood – Inundation", "Earthquakes", "Loss Adjustment after Natural Disasters", "Volcanic Eruption – Causes and Risks", "Hailstorm", "Windstorm", "Flooding and Insurance" deal with the fundamentals of the topics and illustrate them by using up-to-date cases of loss events.

Published for the first time in 1978, the "World Map of Natural Hazards" has, from the outset, always occupied a special position within our series of studies on natural hazards. With the aim of objectively illustrating the worldwide distribution of exposure to the most significant natural hazards, we have created a map of the world that summarizes much of our previous work and the most recent results in the scientific literature.

Our World Map has been received with interest and acclaimed all over the world, both by our "target group" of insurance specialists and underwriters and by scientists, teachers, engineers and planners. The map has been reprinted several times and on every occasion we have included the latest information and made improvements. Twenty years after the map first appeared and ten years after the second edition, we thought the time was right to produce a completely revised and considerably expanded version of the map. In particular, we present a considerable amount of exposure and background information in four auxiliary maps and also chance a look into the future. Under the heading "El Niño, climate change", one of these maps shows the natural hazards associated with fluctuations and changes in the climate caused by nature or man.

Now as before, our new World Map is primarily intended to be a decision aid for the insurance specialist in the course of his daily work. It can also be used by engineers involved in planning or writing reports and by anyone interested in the problems of natural hazards either professionally or privately. In other words, this is an ideal publication for the interested layman because clarity of exposition and ease of understanding take precedence over presenting a mass of scientific details. The new map has been produced in three versions (and in a number of languages) to ensure the same ease of use and geographical distribution. There is a folded map for this brochure, a large flat-card version that can be attached to a backing and hung on the wall (with complete brochure) and the "Globe of Natural Hazards" which presents the same information in an even more compact and attractive format but without any projection distortions (also with complete brochure).

