Observance of the

International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction STOP Disasters: Focus on Schools and Hospitals

13 October 1993

The 1993 International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction was observed under the theme STOP Disasters: Focus on Schools and Hospitals. Basic observance guidelines and an information package comprising selected publications solicited and received from UNESCO. PAHO, WHO and Habitat were reproduced and dispatched to National IDNDR Committees. Two posters on the protection of schools and hospitals were also produced in three languages and dispatched to National IDNDR Committees and regional and international organizations.

On the international level, a statement by the United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali was released on the occasion of the Day and two press conferences were held in New York and Geneva Offices of the United Nations. Mr. Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Mr. James Bruce, Chairman of the IDNDR Scientific and Technical Committee, addressed the media in New York while media representatives at the Geneva Office of the United Nations were briefed by Mr. Charles LaMunière, Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and Director, DHA, Geneva Office, Dr. Olavi Elo, Director IDNDR Secretariat and representatives of UNESCO, WMO and WHO.

The following is a summary of reports received from IDNDR National Committees and International and Regional Organizations on the observance of the Day.

Armenia

- Distribution of information papers on disaster prevention to schools and hospitals
- Orientation seminar for 13 school and hospital board representatives on observance programmes to be launched in the regions
- A meeting of emergency management specialists and media representatives
- Presentation on early warning systems accompanied by demonstration of emergency evacuations at several schools and hospitals
- A one hour TV telecast on the Decade and on disaster-related issues with the participation of the State Emergency Management Administration of the Republic of Armenia
- Coverage of Day's Activities on 7 TV programmes, 7 Radio programmes and 15 Newspapers

Australia

- Release on 13 October 1993 of an IDNDR pre-stamped envelope developed in cooperation with the Australian Post Office
- Distribution of a publication entitled Learning to Live Safely in the Australian Environment
- A meeting of IDNDR Co-ordinating Committee

Azerbaijan

- Dissemination of state resolution on observance of the Day by Azertaj and Habar, News Agencies
- Emergency drills and practical lessons on disaster management in schools
- Meeting between Civil Defence experts on ecological situations in cities and on the organization of rescue teams

Bahrain

- An Open Day at the Civil Defence and Fire Service Directory where guidelines on Civil Defence were given along with promotional T-shirts
- Children's Drawing Competition and a board game on the identification of disaster scenes
- A series of lectures by Civil Defence Officers to high school and university students

Byelarus

- Introduction in school curricula of a new course on safety measures against fire and radiation accidents
- Emergency drills in hospitals organized by Civil Defence Authorities
- Introduction of structural measures to ensure the safety of hospitals during disasters

Belgium

- An Information Day on 8 October 1993 at the Brussels Planetarium. Those who addressed participants included Prof. M. Lechat, STC Member and Prof. J. Symoens, Permanent Executive Secretary of the Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences and Secretary of the Scientific Group of the Belgium National Committee for IDNDR.
- A Scientific Poster Exhibition by 17 presenters highlighting different fields of disaster reduction. The exhibition was open to the public for one month.

Bermuda

- Signing of an agreement between the Emergency Measures Organization and the Seventh Day Adventist Church on co-operation in disaster management
- A photographic exhibition of disasters in Bermuda at the Bermuda Post Office
- Distribution of information material on disaster preparedness to schools located throughout the Island

Bolivia

- Conference organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs highlighting the objectives of the IDNDR
- Special TV programme and wide coverage in newspapers of Day's theme
- Agreement with a leading newspaper on the publication of newspaper supplement on disaster preparedness for school children
- Technical symposium on disaster prevention organized by the College of Architects and the Ministry of Health
- Public gathering organized by the Civil Defence authorities in major cities throughout the country

Botswana

- An IDNDR Day speech by the Minister of Presidential Affairs broadcast over Radio Botswana
- Fire emergency drills
- Panel discussions between representatives of the Police, Botswana Defence Force and hospital administrators on their roles during a disaster
- Presentation of short stories and poetry recitals at a programme organized by the Botswana Red Cross on the occasion of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction

British Virgin Islands

• IDNDR addresses by the Governor and a number of Senior Ministers from the Health and Education Sectors pledging BVI's support for the Decade

- Seminar on mass casualty management organized by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and the Peebles Hospital
- Earthquake drills and awareness programmes at two hospitals and schools
- Video presentation on disaster prevention on BVI Cable TV
- An open house at the Emergency Operations Centre for 270 students drawn from eighteen regions
- Radio quiz on disaster preparedness which attracted wide public participation. Prizes included emergency equipment such as sleeping bags, lanterns, first-aid kits, etc.

Bulgaria

- Scientific Conference on population protection against disasters organized by the Scientific Co-ordination Council of the Permanent Government Commission for Population Protection against Disasters and Accidents. More than 160 participants attended the Conference.
- National Conference on Structural Safety and Reliability of Buildings and Civil Works in the event of natural and technological disasters, organized by the Union of Structural Engineers in Bulgaria. At the Conference, proposals for the remaining part of IDNDR, an appeal and a set of recommendations to governments of the World and a separate appeal to the Government and public of Bulgaria were made.

Chile

- A one month observance programme organized in conjunction with the National Civil Protection Day
- Distribution of information material to schools by the Organization of School Security and Evacuation (DEYSE)
- A disaster simulation exercise in the capital jointly organized by the Ministry of Health, the Red Cross, the Police Force and the Civil Defence

China

 A large scale modern dancing drama entitled the "Big Earthquake" presented to the public in Beijing. More than 20 institutions including the State Seismological Bureau of China and the IASPEI IDNDR Secretariat co-sponsored the event.

Colombia

- Posters on the protection of schools and hospitals
- Video on theme of the Day which was screened on several TV channels
- A special TV programme on lessons learnt from disasters
- National seminar on disaster prevention and the role of the media organized by the National Disaster Prevention Direction, INGEOMINAS and the Javeriana University
- Vulnerability analysis of hospital and school structures
- Evacuation drills in schools and hospitals

Costa Rica

- Message by the Radio Amateurs of the National Emergency Commission (IDNDR Committee) to 44 countries creating a communication network on the Day's theme
- A two day Conference on disaster preparedness which culminated with a major emergency drill at a hospital located in a metropolitan area
- Magazine articles on hazards targeted at children

Dominica

- An exhibition and video presentation organized by the Dominican Red Cross on the Day
- Screening of a video on theme of the Day at the OPDs of Princess Margaret Hospital
- Review of the hospital's emergency plans in which the Ambulance, Fire Services
 Department and the Red Cross participated. Part of the assessment activity included
 a simulated response to a major road accident.

Ecuador

- An emergency simulation exercise in Quito in which 1,000 school children participated (organized by the Ministries of Education and Health)
- Wide media coverage of the Day's theme and the emergency drills undertaken in connection with the Day

Egypt

- Seminar on the theme of the Day attended by 150 participants representing ministries, universities, research institutions and 50 governorates
- An International Conference on Disaster Mitigation, Preparedness and Planning organized by the Egyptian Civil Defence in co-operation with a number of UN and other international organizations. The Conference which was attended by representatives from 13 Middle Eastern Countries was addressed by H.E. Mrs. Mubarak, IDNDR SHLC Member.
- Issuance of commemorative stamps

Ethiopia

- Press briefing given by the Secretary of the National Committee for Disaster Reduction and Preparedness on the objectives of the observance, the Decade and the responsibilities of the Committee established within the Prime Minister's Office
- Press release on the Day by the Committee and coverage of Day's theme in major dailies

El Salvador

- Wide coverage of the Day's theme in national newspapers during the whole Observance Week (7-14 October 1993) in the form of editorials, coverage of observance activities in the regions, scientific results on seismic research, etc. The 1986 earthquake in El Salvador was used as an example and analyzed in detail.
- Poster competitions in schools in San Salvador with award ceremonies which were held on 13 October
- Emergency drills in schools which were affected by the 1986 earthquake
- A one day Disaster Prevention Conference which was attended by 60 participants from the health and education sectors
- A one day Information Seminar for representatives of municipalities and NGOs which highlighted the importance of incorporating disaster reduction planning in development projects

Germany

A Press Conference where the activities and future plans of the German IDNDR Committee was presented to media representatives. The German IDNDR Committee, in co-operation with eight humanitarian organizations has submitted a set of recommendations to the government calling for an integration of disaster prevention components in all development co-operation programmes/projects.

Ghana

- Radio and TV Commentaries on the theme of the Day
- Distribution of an IDNDR Day message to schools in urban and rural regions
- Presentation of a film and discussion on IDNDR organized by the Geology Department of the University of Ghana and the Industrial Research Institute of Ghana in collaboration with Mrs. Alexandrea Amoako-Mensah, IDNDR STC Member

Guadeloupe

Emergency evacuation drills in schools and hospitals

Haiti

- Declaration by a group of school directors and hospital managers in Port-au-Prince on the risks posed by natural disasters in Haiti and on the vulnerability of schools and hospitals in particular.
- Planning guide entitled *Prepare our Hospitals* organized by the National IDNDR Committee

Holy See

• A statement by the Pontficial Council on the theme of the Day which was issued in the L'Osservatorio Romano of the City of Vatican

Honduras

- Statement by the Municipality forbidding construction in high risk areas
- Press Conference where the plans on the publication of school texts on hazards and the inclusion of courses in disaster mitigation at Universities were announced
- Panel discussion on legislation related to disaster prevention attended by civil servants,
 students, teachers, community leaders and representatives of international organizations
- Emergency fire drills for school children

Hungary

• Publication and distribution of an information brief on the Decade, on meteorological extremes in Hungary and other disaster-related facts and figures.

India

- A one-day seminar on cyclone and drought mitigation jointly organized by the Governorate of Tamil Nadu and the Indian Institute of Technology
- Distribution of IDNDR Day Poster organized by the Ministry of Agriculture

Iraq

Preparedness programmes organized by the Ministry of Education for school children

Jamaica

- Earthquake emergency drills for high school students
- Disaster simulation exercises at a children's hospital which enabled the hospital to amend its emergency plans
- Quiz for geography students on natural disasters
- Exhibition mounted by students using material sent by IDNDR Secretariat
- Newspaper and TV coverages on preparedness plans for earthquakes
- Participation by National Committee members in IDNDR Conferences organized in Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom on the occasion of the 1993 International Day for Disaster Reduction

Japan

 Exhibit at Shinjuku Railway Station organized by the Hokuriku Regional Construction Bureau

- Display of posters organized by the National Land Agency and the IDNDR National Committee of Japan
- Distribution of pamphlets on disaster preparedness to offices related in construction work
- Disaster prevention exercises in hospitals and schools organized by the Japan Red Cross Society and the Federation of Japan Pharmaceutical Wholesalers Association

Jordan

- TV Address by Director of Jordanian Civil Defence
- Presentations and distributions of publications to school students on earthquakes, radiation accidents and forest fires
- Press coverage on the vulnerability of Jordan to earthquakes

Kyrghyzstan

 Media coverage of the theme of the Day, a review of recent damages wrought by disasters in Kyrghyzstan and the financial input required to rehabilitate the economy

Malaysia

- Joint statement on behalf of all ASEAN member countries supporting the United Nations effort in disaster reduction and highlighting the spirit of solidarity and cooperation among ASEAN member states in disaster prevention and preparedness
- Presentation on first-aid and preparedness for flood disasters to school children
- Exhibition by Government Agencies and Voluntary Organizations on the subject of natural disasters
- On-site training on life-saving techniques and distribution of pamphlets on preparedness in areas prone to floods
- Radio and TV programmes in the second week of October aimed at raising public awareness of natural disaster reduction measures

Mauritius

• Distribution of a circular to schools and hospitals aimed at sensitizing the public on the theme of the Day and on the need for disaster prevention programmes

Mexico

- Release of a stamp collection by the Mexican Postal Service
- Scientific Congress organized by the Mexican Society of Emergency and Disaster Medicine
- A meeting organized by the Mexican Civil Protection System which was also attended by participants of a regional training programme on disaster management organized by CENAPRED (National Disaster Prevention Centre) and the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs

Moldova

- Lectures on disaster preparedness in schools and hospitals by a team of experts drawn from the Department of Civil Defence, the Ministries of Education and Architecture and the Media
- Educational films on TV

Nepal

- Seminar entitled Geoscience in Mountain Environment and Infrastructure Development inaugurated by the Minister of Water Resources
- An IDNDR Rally by Nepal Scouts
- Poster competition among high school students organized by the Godavari Alumni Association

New Zealand

- STEPS (Schools Total Enhancement Plans for Security), a disaster preparedness programme launched at the New Zealand Police College and 500 schools throughout the country involving a total number of 150,000 students
- Address by the Minister of Interior at evacuation and rescue exercises carried out at three high schools and a college which were attended by over 1,000 people
- Extensive media campaign over several weeks using public service announcements, commercials and interviews which highlighted the Decade and provided practical information on disaster preparedness
- Distribution of 200,000 booklets on disaster survival tips organized by the Ministry of Interior
- A total of 28 papers gave press coverage to events carried out on the Day and the weeks leading to the Day

Nicaragua

- A three minute TV spot on disaster preparedness which was screened on all TV channels during the observance week
- Distribution of 10,000 posters throughout the country
- Seminar on Disaster Prevention in Managua with the participation of school brigades assigned within the disaster preparedness programme
- Press Conference by the Ministry of Education on the Day
- An emergency drill at a University Hospital in Leon which had recently experienced a volcanic eruption and a tsunami along its coastline

Panama

- Designation of the whole month of October as Civil Protection Month
- Emergency drill at Panama Canal simulating a flood disaster
- A one week conference on disaster management organized by the University of Technology
- An IDNDR meeting with school directors who along with directors of hospitals set up public information boards
- A number of seminars in the provinces which dwelt on disaster management and preparedness within the health sector, and an evacuation drill at one hospital
- A wide coverage of Day Activities in all regions which stimulated public support for the voluntary civil protection system

Peru

- A course on *Disaster Security Planning* which culminated on 13 October with an earthquake and fire emergency drills involving the participation of 1,500 people
- A series of seminars and evacuation exercises organized by the Ministry of Health in different parts of the country
- A one month course on Low-Cost Building in Seismic Areas, organized by the Peruvian-Japanese Centre for Seismic Research and Disaster Mitigation (CCISMID) which ended with a special and widely publicized public ceremony on IDNDR Day

Portugal

- A nation-wide and widely publicized drill on safety measures against disasters organized by the National Service for Civil Protection (65% of the country's municipalities and other civil protection agencies participated co-ordinating 9,000 high schools and 265,000 students and teachers)
- Distribution of 1.2 million leaflets (for adults) 1.2 million book markers (for high school students) and 350,000 colour booklets (for elementary school students) which highlighted preparedness for earthquakes

Puerto Rico

- Information on the Day by news reporters and weather forecasters
- Screening of video produced by PAHO on the Day in reception halls of banks among other centres and channels

Russia

A series of TV and newspaper coverages of mitigation issues involving the
participation of representatives of the Central and Local Branches of EMERCOM of
Russia, the State Committee for Sanitary and Epideomological Surveillance of Russia,
the Ministries of Education and Natural Resources and Environment Protection, the

Russian Academies of Science and Medicine, the Russia Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environment Monitoring, the All Russian Scientific and Practical Centere on Disaster Medicine, the Red Cross and ITAR-TAS News Agency.

- Emergency drills and presentations on disaster preparedness in schools
- Introduction of a new course entitled *Principles of Secure Vital Activity* in the curricula of schools
- Inspection of 1500 buildings and reconstruction projects, hospitals, and dispensaries
- Emergency drills in hospitals located in seismic risk areas
- Fire emergency drills in schools and hospitals on 13 October

St. Lucia

- Addresses by the Ministers of Health and Education broadcast over the media
- Launching of a national disaster fund which would be used for disaster reduction activities
- A joint display by the Ministries of Education and Health on disaster prevention and preparedness at an exhibition organized on UN Day

St. Maarten

• Emergency evacuation drills in schools and hospitals

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

- An Award Ceremony on IDNDR Day for winners of a poster competition organized among schools
- Messages and addresses on TV and Radio by Government Ministers
- Review of hospital emergency plans and an exhibit at one general hospital
- Feature stories and films on disaster prevention in weekly newspapers and on TV

Switzerland

- A one day workshop on Natural Disasters and Hazard Assessment which was organized by the Swiss IDNDR Committee and attended by more than 60 participants from national and international organizations. Papers on risk and safety of technological systems, regionalization of flood data and sediment transportation assessment, avalanche hazard mapping, landslide hazard assessment and other related topics were considered by the workshop participants.
- Press coverage of Day's Activities

Trinidad and Tobago

 A one week Caribbean Conference on Natural Disasters organized by the Seismic Research Unit of the University of West Indies. Among those who addressed the meeting included Prof. A Giescke, IDNDR STC Member and the IDNDR Regional Officer.

- Two parallel seminars on mitigation within the health and education sectors organized by PAHO and OAS respectively
- An IDNDR Day Session organized by CDERA on 13 October 1993

Tunisia

- A National Public Education Programme on 13 October presided by the Minister of Interior and focusing on safety measures against earthquakes and civic responsibility in the educational system of Tunisia
- Media transmissions on safety measures against disasters
- Open House days at regional Civil Protection Centres and sessions on preparedness and the protection of schools and hospitals against disasters

Turkmenistan

• Lectures and round table discussions on emergency response to earthquakes and technological disasters for staff of schools and hospitals

Turks and Caicos Islands, West Indies

- Simulation exercises of emergency operations at the island's two international airports involving 400 participants which included school children
- Presentation on the subject of disaster medicine to medical staff of the Grand Turk Hospital

United Kingdom

An international conference under the title *Protecting Vulnerable Communities*. 50 papers from 17 countries were presented with parallel poster sessions. The conference was sponsored by the British Nuclear Fuels PIC, the British Geological Survey, the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Engineers, the Institution of Civil Engineers and Overseas Development Assistance. Baroness Chalker delivered an IDNDR Day Message at the opening of the conference.

United States of America

- Production of a video film for school children entitled *The Adventures of the Disaster Dudes*. The video, a joint production of the American Red Cross and FEMA, which were members of the organizing committee on the Day, was broadcast via satellite and was recorded by schools. TV reporters and public broadcasting companies. The Weather Channel also broadcast *Adventures of the Disaster Dudes* to 10 million cable TV subscribers.
- Distribution of natural hazard posters to 2,000 school teachers for classroom presentations on disaster preparedness

- Two exhibits at the Department of Interior Museum in Washington D.C. and the USGS National Centre in Reston, Virginia
- Presentations on disaster preparedness by the National Science Foundation at several schools in the D.C. area

Vanuatu

- A static and video display in the centre of town which attracted an approximate number of 1,000 people
- Distribution of information materiel on disaster preparedness for the next cyclone season
- Video presentation for primary school children
- Inspection of schools and hospitals by engineers, architects and disaster management officials to identify problem areas and to advise on prevention/preparedness measures

Venezuela

- Poster contests and exhibitions on the theme of the Day which were supported by the Ministry of Education, the Civil Defence and local governments
- An evacuation exercise in a major hospital in Caracas
- A one day seminar on Disaster Mitigation organized by the Civil Engineering College where a proposal for a reformulation of the Civil Defence System was tabled
- Guideline on disaster preparedness organized by the Civil Defence and the Civil Engineering College (for the general public)

Viet Nam

• A High Level Observance Conference attended by Government Officials, members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations. The conclusions of a five day workshop on disaster management held in the first week of October were presented at the observance conference.

Regional and International Organizations

ADPC

- Organized an Exhibition on the theme of the Day at the Asian Institute of Technology
- Provided wide coverage of the Day's theme in its Newsletter

CDERA

- An IDNDR Day Meeting on 13 October which focussed on the theme of the Day and the status of emergency response and preparedness programmes in the Caribbean
- Radio programme on the theme of the Day broadcast on 20 radio stations in the region in co-operation with CANA (the Caribbean News Agency)

CEPREDENAC

• Provision of financial support (\$3,000 each) to five Central American Countries for the organization of promotional materials on the Day

ECLAC

• Publication of the UN Secretary-General's Statement on the Day in the weekly summary *Micronoticias* which is distributed to media, government offices and educational institutions

ESCAP

Organization in Bangkok a poster exhibition on the theme of the Year. UNESCO, UNEP, ADPC, the National Research Council of Thailand, Thai Red Cross, the Asian National Remote Sensing Centre, and the Space Research Remote Sensing Centre of India contributed to the exhibition by providing publications, posters and satellite pictures of disaster areas. Video tapes on disaster prevention measures in Japan were also presented.

HABITAT

 Provision of a set of documents to the IDNDR Secretariat for distribution to National Committees

OAS

- Organization of a workshop on the preparation of a natural hazard reduction programme for the education sector at the Inter-American Centre for Educational Planning, Caracas, Venezuela
- · Publication of papers and articles on policies and experiences in the reduction of

- vulnerability to natural disasters
- Organization, in co-operation with PAHO and the Regional IDNDR Officer of a press
 package which included a video, posters and special supplements (for publication in
 national newspapers) which was distributed in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Organization of a Workshop on Vulnerability Reduction in Schools, Trinidad and Tobago
- Organization of an observance planning meeting in co-operation with PAHO which was attended by 30 Latin American Experts

PAHO

- Organization of a Regional Planning Meeting on the observance of the Day in cooperation with OAS and the Mexican Civil Protection System. The closing session of this meeting was presided by H.E. Mr. Miguel de la Madrid, Chairman, Special High Level Council of the IDNDR
- Organization of a press package in co-operation with OAS and the Regional IDNDR Officer for distribution in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Provision of a set of documents to IDNDR Secretariat on the protection of health facilities against disasters

Red Cross

Actively participated in observance programmes at national levels

UNDP Resident Representatives' Bureaus

Provided support to observance programmes at national levels

UNESCO

- Exhibition at UNESCO Headquarters organized by the education sector to mark the Day
- Provision of a set of documents to the IDNDR Secretariat on the protection of schools against disasters
- Participation at a Press Conference organized by the IDNDR Secretariat in Geneva

WFP

Circular to all WFP Country Offices requesting their provision to National IDNDR
Committees and government authorities, information on WFP's involvement in disaster
preparedness and prevention

WHO

Provision of a set of documents to the IDNDR Secretariat on the protection of health

- facilities against disasters
- Participation in a Press Conference organized by the IDNDR Secretariat in Geneva on the occasion of the Day
- Issuance of a press release on the occasion of the Day

WMO

- An IDNDR Day Message by the Secretary General of the WMO
- A circular from the Executive Secretary to Permanent Representatives/Directors of Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services of Members of the WMO calling on their active participation in Day's observance programmes

WHO Regional Office for Africa

Distribution of information kits provided by the Secretariat

CORRIGENDUM

ENGLISH

Page 7: The current title of Mr. Jan Eliasson is Former UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian

Affairs.

Page 13: The title of Professor Michel Lechat is Chairman,

STC Preparatory Group, STC Member.

ESPAÑOL

Pagina 5: Su Excelencia el Sr. Morihiro Hosokawa

Pagina 7: El Sr. Jan Eliasson es ex-Subsecretario General

para Asuntos Humanitarios.

Pagina 13: El Profesor Michel Lechat preside el Grupo

Preparatario de la Conferencia Mundial sobre la Reducción de los Desastres Naturales establecido por el Comité Científico y Técnico del Decenio Internacional para la Reducción de los Desastres

Naturales y miembro de dicho consejo.

FRANCAIS

Page 5: Son Excellence Morihiro Hosokawa

Page 7: Le titre de Monsieur Jan Eliasson est: Ancien

Secrétaire Général adjoint de l' ONU aux Affaires

Humanitaires.

Page 13: Le titre du Professeur Michel Lechat est:

Président, Groupe préparatoire du

scientifique et technique (CST), Membre du CST.

ITALIANO

Pag 5: Sua Eccellenza Morihiro Hosokawa

Pag 7: Mr. Jan Eliasson è l'ex-Sottosegretario Generale

ONU per gli Affari Umanitari.

Pag 13: Il Professor Michel Lechat è Presidente del Group

Preparatorio del Comitato Scientifico e Tecnico

(CST) dell' IDNDR ed è membro del CST.