

The G7 Information Society was conceived at the Naples Economic Summit in 1994 to "encourage and promote innovation and spread of new technologies including...development of an open, competitive and integrated worldwide information infrastructure." The G7 Industry Ministers meeting in Brussels in 1995 established 11 themes and pilot projects to demonstrate tangible and understandable social, economic and cultural benefits. The Information Society was approved by the G7 heads of state at the June 1995 Halifax (Canada) Summit.

The GEMINI Project

The mission of GEMINI (Glocal Emergency Management Information Network Initiative) is to develop global emergency management information network providing electronic access to all emergency management knowledge and experience.

Its goals are:

- fostering national networks and systems to exchange all types of emergency information
- focusing on developing an all-hazard global network of national systems
- identifying and promoting global standards for information authority, quality, adequacy, and reliability, as well as principles for information access, security and minimizing abuse.
- exchanging information among the three GEMINI levels and the world

Principles

Several principles have been adopted that

define the project's perspective on emergency management. These are adopted from the G7 Information Society objectives and principles for the emergency management field. GEMINI should:

- recognize that emergencies are local but that support can be global
- incorporate perspectives of both developed and developing nations
- build upon and add value to existing emergency management information activities
- evaluate and adapt new technologies to support emergency information exchanges
- promote international standards that support emergency information exchanges
- encourage participation by all emergency organizations around the world
- adapt emergency management information to diverse stakeholders and cultures

Organization

GEMINI has a simple organizational structure comprising five components:

1. Steering Committee (G7 country contacts) implements the action plan, coordinates activities, and interacts with outside interests and G7 national coordinators.
2. Management Committee (all sub-project leaders) establishes project goals and objectives, tasks, priorities, and an action plan.
3. Sub-projects (organizational representatives) have the authority and resources to develop and implement national emergency information networks.
4. Task groups (selected sub-project leaders)

Using Global Communications Technology for International Cooperation

Excerpted and revised from a paper presented by Albert J. Simard at the International Emergency Management and Engineering Conference held in Montreal, Canada, 28-31 May 1996.

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and implementation of the **Emergency Preparedness Information Exchange (EPIX)**, an Internet emergency management information system (see Stop Disasters N.22).

Its primary focus is to facilitate the regular exchange of ideas and information about the

prevention of, preparation for, recovery from, and/or mitigation of risk associated with natural and technological hazards.

VEMIS participants

- Peter Anderson, EPIX project, Simon Fraser University
- Nigel Bell, Industry Canada

- Terry Spurgeon, Transport Canada - Aviation
- Richard Chycoski, Simon Fraser University Computing Services
- Dennis Rosenauer and Bob Ganton, Microwave, Inc.
- Kevin McQuiggin, City of Vancouver Police

- Bc Hydro
- Emergency Preparedness Canada



EMERGENCY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE EXCHANGED VIA THE WORLD WIDE WEB:

PRE-EVENT

- LAWS AND REGULATIONS
- POLICIES AND STRATEGIC PLANS
- RISK MANAGEMENT METHODS
- ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
- RESOURCE DIRECTORIES
- PREPAREDNESS PLANS
- OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES
- EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- MONITORING DATA

EVENT, POST-EVENT

- WARNINGS AND ALERTS
- RESPONSE CALLS
- REFERENCE DATA
- INCIDENT MANAGEMENT
- PRESS RELEASES
- SITUATION REPORTS
- MITIGATION TECHNOLOGIES
- RESTORATION ACTIVITIES

LIST OF POTENTIAL AUDIENCES AND PROVIDERS OF EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| •POLITICIANS | GOVERNMENTS |
| •EXECUTIVES | AGENCIES |
| •ADMINISTRATORS | INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS |
| •EMERGENCY OFFICIALS | EMERGENCY ORGANIZATIONS |
| •SCIENTISTS | UNIVERSITIES |
| •EDUCATORS | SCHOOLS |
| •REPORTERS | MEDIA |
| •GENERAL PUBLIC | INTEREST GROUPS |

address project objectives: stakeholder interaction, information organization, and architecture and technology.

5. Committees (selected sub-project leaders) address project functions: coordination, promotion, private sector involvement, project technology.

Participants

Many governments, agencies, organizations, universities, companies, and individuals around the world are developing and implementing a broad range of emergency management information systems and networks. GEMINI participants are drawn from this dispersed activity. Some of the benefits of participating in GEMINI include:

- supporting a universally recognized humanitarian mission
- providing enabling technology to developing nations
- enhancing the global visibility of organizational programs
- having a voice in developing international

standards

- developing international agreements and partnerships
- creating synergy from different experiences and perspectives
- exchanging information with other organizations
- increasing potential funding opportunities

Participants in GEMINI are expected to:

- have an e-mail address
- fund the cost of their participation
- accomplish what they promise
- interface between their systems and global standards
- share their information, knowledge, and experience

Although virtually all information can be shared via the World Wide Web, GEMINI will address the appropriate role of the web relative to other media for disseminating emergency information.

Listed in the side chart are potential audiences and suppliers of the information that would be available through a Global Network. As the Information Society develops and expands, we expect that virtually no segment of society will remain unaffected. Yet, we must recognize that each audience has particular needs and that messages and information must be tailored accordingly. Similarly, each supplier has particular interests and capabilities which will determine the nature of the available information. All of this is complicated by differing cultures, technologies, languages, functions and hazards.

Communication connects tens of thousands of individual information users and providers into a global network. For GEMINI, that purpose will be improved emergency management on a global scale through international cooperation and information exchanges.