

# National Campaigns

*Highlights of national campaigns are summarized below, grouped by categories for easy reference (see box below). For more information, contact organizers directly by using the list at the end of this report.*

## Algeria

### **Children's Booklet**

- The Civil Protection Directorate (part of the Algerian National Committee), with the Algerian Red Cross, distributed the children's booklet to selected communities throughout the country. The Civil Protection Directorate and the Red Cross strongly felt the booklet encourages children to protect their community and would like to follow up by distributing more copies in Arabic and French.

## Andorra

### **Children's Booklet**

- The Spanish version of the booklet was tested in schools. The Government is planning to reproduce it in Catalan.

## Argentina

### **Contest**

- The Ministry of Defense distributed a quiz to 300 children, adolescents and young adults to test their knowledge about natural disasters.

### **Gatherings**

- The National Programme for Emergency and Disaster Preparedness and the NGO

"Programme for the Prevention of Accidents and Disasters" organized an event for primary and secondary school children. They received basic information about disasters and participated in a simulation exercise organized by the Fire Service. The pupils played games and drew pictures to show what they had learned during the presentation.

## Australia

The celebrations for IDNDR Day took place on 12 - 13 September and on 11 - 12 October throughout the country. As Trevor Hatchard, Manager of the National Committee said, "The big positive about this year's activities has been the spontaneous action by various states". This shows how IDNDR Day has become an important component of local hazard awareness policy. Most of the activities focused on cyclones, Australia's major disaster threat.

### **Media**

- Seven media releases, issued by the Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Defense, the Tasmanian State Emergency Service, the Bureau of Meteorology and the Queensland State Emergency Service (QES) resulted in 38 articles in 24 Tasmanian, Queensland and Northern Territory newspapers.

## National Activities by Category

**Media** (radio, tv, papers, releases, press conferences)

**Contests** (children, professionals)

**Exhibits** (open house, photos, paintings, projects)

**New Publications** (books, outstanding promotional material)

**Distribution of materials** (stickers, brochures)

**Children's Booklet** (testing, promotion, distribution of Learning About Natural Disasters)

**Lectures and speeches**

**Gatherings** (roundtables, seminars and conferences)

**Simulation exercises**, training courses

**Special initiatives**

- Eleven radio stations transmitted announcements and interviews about Australian IDNDR Day activities during their news broadcasts.

### **Exhibits**

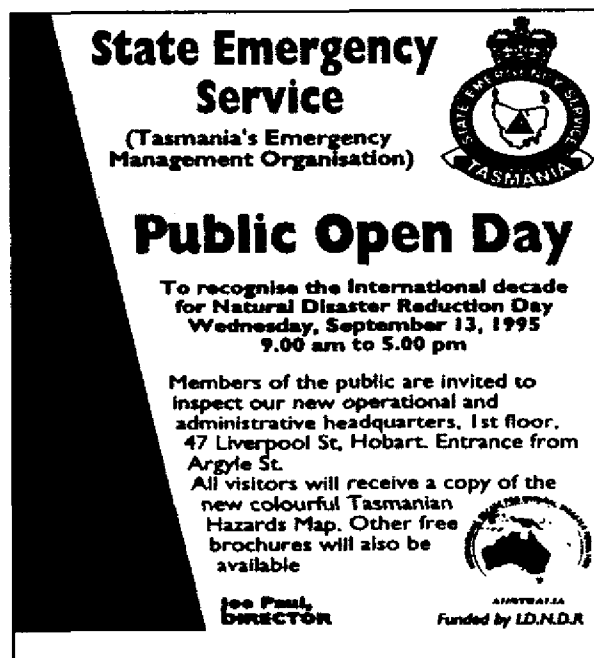
- The Tasmanian State Emergency Service held its annual Public Open House Day. Hazard Awareness posters, brochures and stickers were given to the visitors; posters and the Hazard-Wise book were distributed to Tasmanian schools.

### **New publications**

- Throughout the year, the "Hazard-Wise" book has been distributed nationwide. The publication, created by an Australian teacher for teenage schoolchildren, is an Australian Disaster Awareness Project for IDNDR.
- The Bureau of Meteorology (Victoria) issued "The Storm Spotters' Handbook" on 11 October. The booklet provides information about thunderstorms and how to spot them.

### **Distribution of materials**

On 12 October, the QES also published a brochure for local authorities which features six steps how communities can contribute to disaster management.



**State Emergency Service**  
(Tasmania's Emergency Management Organisation)

**Public Open Day**

To recognise the International decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Day  
Wednesday, September 13, 1995  
9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Members of the public are invited to inspect our new operational and administrative headquarters, 1st floor, 47 Liverpool St, Hobart. Entrance from Argyle St.

All visitors will receive a copy of the new colourfull Tasmanian Hazards Map. Other free brochures will also be available

Joe Paul,  
DIRECTOR

Funded by IDNDR

Announcement of an "Open House" day on 13 September, one of the two official dates for Australian IDNDR Day celebrations.

- Hazard Awareness posters were launched on 13 September in Tasmania and on 12 October in the Australian Capital Territory.

### **Gatherings**

- On 12 September, Emergency Management Australia, the State Disaster Committee and the Australian National University organized a seminar on "Hazard-Wise Saves Lives" in South Australia. The event focused on disaster reduction in Australia and featured the book, the work of the National Committee and the Bureau of Meteorology. (see *Meetings*)
- A "Seminar on Tropical Cyclones and Floods" took place in Mackay, Queensland. The keynote speakers of the event comprised senior disaster managers, meteorologists, engineers and academics from around Australia. 200 delegates attended the seminar, which was organized by the QES and the National Committee. (see *Meetings*)

### **Special initiatives**

- The QES and Telstra launched a limited phonecard series on 13 September. The three phonecards feature cartoon messages relating to cyclones, bushfires and floods. The images were adapted from posters which have been produced for IDNDR Day in 1993. Organizers called the series "a raging success" - the cards were nearly sold out within a few months.

## **Austria**

### **Media**

- The Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) transmitted on its radio stations an interview with the chairman of the National Committee regarding the role of IDNDR. The international significance of the Decade was highlighted during a discussion on natural disasters on the ORF English language radio station *Radio Blue Danube*.

### **Gatherings**

- The National Committee organized an information event in Vienna on 11 October. The meeting, designed to interest the general public about IDNDR, comprised presentations of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior and the office of the Federal Chancellor. There was also a demonstration of Austrian research activities on earthquake prediction in the Adriatic microplate. The presentations focused on the significance of IDNDR and the contributions of the respective ministries to natural disaster reduction. The information event ended with a panel discussion between the members of the National Committee, the presenters and the audience. (see *Meetings*)

## British Virgin Islands (BVI)

### Media

- The Government Information Service held a press conference with representatives from the Governor's Office, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency and the Office of Disaster Preparedness (ODP).
- The Governor gave a radio address which was reprinted in *The Island Sun* newspaper.
- *The Island Sun* and *The BVI Beacon* published IDNDR newspaper supplements.
- The local TV station broadcast disaster preparedness videos through the entire hurricane season between 1 June to 30 November.

### Contest

- A Disaster Preparedness Radio Quiz attracted widespread public participation. The prizes included emergency equipment such as flashlights, first-aid kits, portable radios and T-shirts.

### Exhibits

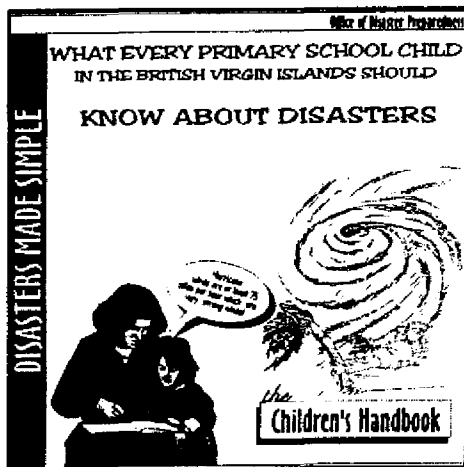
- The Office of Disaster Preparedness organized an Emergency Operations Center Open House inviting the public and especially school children to observe the day to day operations.

### New publications

- The ODP announced the publication of a children's handbook entitled "Disasters Made Simple: What Every School Child in the BVI Should Know About Disasters" and of a local awareness video trying to inform and to educate the public on disaster preparedness.

### Lectures, Speeches

- The National Disaster Coordinator conducted school lectures on hurricanes in the BVI. Flyers and posters with hurricane tips were distributed to the audience during the event.



New children's booklet produced by the British Virgin Islands

### Simulation exercises

- BVI's National Disaster Plan was tested through an earthquake simulation exercise which involved the entire territory.

## Burkina Faso

### Media

- The National Committee for Emergency Response (CONASUR) organized radio and TV broadcasts including a radio transmission on natural disasters and a TV report featuring CONASUR as well as organizations dealing with disaster management in Burkina Faso.
- Four daily newspapers (*Sidwaya*, *l'Observateur*, *Le Journal du Soir*, *Le Pays*) published articles on IDNDR Day, focusing especially on women and disaster reduction in Burkina Faso. The *Sidwaya* newspaper also issued a message on IDNDR Day by the Minister of Social and Family Affairs. The same message was also broadcast in radio and TV.

### Contest

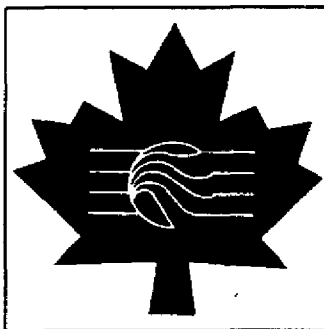
- CONASUR organized a radio quiz on natural disasters. The prizes comprised soap bars, torches, matches and T-shirts which were designed for the day.

### Special initiatives

- Posters, banners and T-shirts were produced and distributed among the public. They feature the IDNDR and the CONASUR logo as well as general information about the commemoration of the day through CONASUR.

## Canada

As part of the IDNDR Day strategy, the National Committee focused its activities on displays in places which were expected to be highly frequented by groups they wish to influence. During the three events, materials from the IDNDR Secretariat such as the Yokohama Strategy and the Children's Booklet were distributed along with Canadian preparedness brochures about storms, fires etc. and a brochure about the links between disasters and development.



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Canadian adaptation of the IDNDR logo

*Organizers said, the materials raised the interest of the public and disappeared quickly.*

### Media

- The National Committee published a press release on IDNDR.
- The *Citizen* and *Le Devoir* newspaper published articles on the event in the Ottawa Carleton (mentioned below).

### Exhibits

- An exhibit of children's drawings and a publication display table was set up in the lobby of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Trade on 11 October. The event attracted considerable attention and generated contacts between the National Committee and Industry Canada.
- Another exhibition of children's drawings in the Ottawa Public Library raised public interest in the IDNDR children's booklet and disaster-related library books. UNICEF Canada joined the activity through the distribution of a brochure and a flyer with general information on disasters.
- The National Committee set up an IDNDR information display on 23 October in the lobby of the Regional Municipality of the Ottawa Carleton. The Canadian Red Cross (part of the National Committee) performed an emergency simulation to demonstrate how to react during a disaster situation.

### Children's Booklet

- The National Committee issued a nationwide call to enter the Community Risk Mapping Contest in the IDNDR children's booklet by producing and distributing a flyer.

## Chile

*The whole month of October was dedicated to the celebration of IDNDR Day.*



Illustration from  
a Chilean  
tsunami pam-  
phlet issued for  
IDNDR Day  
1995

### New publications

- The National Emergency Office (ONEMI) launched a colouring booklet for children of the age of three to seven.
- The Chilean Hydrographical and Oceanographical Marine Service published a brochure on tsunamis providing information how to react in case of a tidal wave. It is called *Como Sobrevivir en la Costa Chilena*.

### Gatherings

- ONEMI organized an international seminar on "Disasters, Development and Environment". (see *Meetings*)

### Simulation exercises

- Simulation and evacuation exercises were carried out in disaster prone regions.

### Special initiatives

- The school of journalism of the University of Chile and ONEMI made a presentation on the first post-graduate course on disaster management which will start in March 1996. They also awarded the best student of the "Public Information in Disasters" course which was held for the first time.
- A new security and evacuation plan for adolescents' homes (in conjunction with the National Service for Adolescents) has been implemented.
- The new "Chilean Documentation Centre for Civil Protection" was inaugurated.

## China

### Media

- On 11 October, *China Central Television* (reaching around 125 million people) broadcast a special programme on disaster reduction for children.

### Children's Booklet

- The Chinese National Committee organized the production and nationwide distribution of 12,000 Chinese IDNDR children's booklets to schools, NGOs and researchers.

## Colombia

The celebrations for the 10th anniversary of the volcanic eruption of Nevada del Ruiz, with mud avalanches that killed 25,000 people, were carried out between 11 October and 13 November. Every county contributed to IDNDR Day and to the national commemoration campaign through many different activities.

### **Media**

- Various newspapers from around the country covered the activities with articles and supplements.
- The Colombian Red Cross organized radio broadcasts about the National Civil Protection System.

### **Contest**

- 3000 children participated in a drawing contest organized by the National System for Natural Disaster Reduction (represents the National Committee).

### **New publication**

- The National Committee published a poster on this year's theme and a series of booklets for children, illustrated with cartoons, each representing a different natural hazard.

### **Gatherings**

- Bienestar Familiar (NGO), the Colombian Red Cross and the Civil Defense Ministry organized a roundtable for mothers at community level. It analyzed the women's role in disaster mitigation and endorsed a family disaster prevention plan. (*see Meetings*)
- Another conference for national education representatives led to the launching of a community-level disaster education campaign and a school programme to change fatalistic attitudes towards disasters which are likely to block the development of a culture of prevention. (*see Meetings*)
- 15 regional committees of the Colombian Red Cross contributed to IDNDR Day between 1 October and 13 November. In these regions, several conferences, seminars and workshops have been carried out on the day theme, disaster prevention/management and links to environmental issues.
- The Disaster Prevention Studies Centre at the University of Santander organized a seminar on "Women and Children - Key Priority in Disaster Mitigation". The event was directed to postgraduate students of the university. (*see Meetings*)

### **Simulation exercises**

- The Colombian Red Cross also organized training courses and simulation exercises throughout the whole country.

## **Costa Rica**

*An Organizational Committee, coordinated by the National Emergency Commission (CNE) and with support from the Ministries of Health and Education, was set up to promote IDNDR Day.*

### **Lectures, Speeches**

- The CNE celebrated IDNDR Day officially with speeches held in a school, a drill exercise and the announcement of the winners of a drawing and poem contests.

### **Gatherings**

- The Autonomous University of Central America organized a roundtable on "Community Organization in Disaster Reduction: Emphasis on Women's and Children's Participation". Representatives from the CNE, the Presidency of the Republic, the Ministries for Health and Education, the Regional IDNDR Office and NGO's attended. (*see Meetings*)
- The University of Costa Rica organized a roundtable related to the Day theme with the participation from the CNE, the Regional IDNDR Office, the Red Cross Federation and academics from the university. (*see Meetings*)
- The Costa Rican Petroleum Refinery organized an information event on its emergency plans for the community located next to the plant. This event was also held in the ULACIT University in San José.

## **Czech Republic**

### **Children's Booklet**

- As the result of reviewing the booklet, a Czech user has reported that the Civil Protection authorities plan to extract short chapters to insert in textbooks for primary and secondary schoolchildren.

## **Dominican Republic**

### **Children's Booklet**

- The National Commission for the National Emergency Plan and the Department for Public Education organized the testing of the Children's Booklet in two public and two private schools.

## **Ecuador**

### **Special initiatives**

- The National Department for Civil Defense (IDNDR Focal Point) and the Postal Administration published a series of five stamps to commemorate IDNDR Day. The stamps feature how to deal with disaster situations. The stamps were distributed with a pamphlet providing information about the purpose and work of IDNDR.

## Egypt

*IDNDR celebrations took place on 26 December due to national elections in October. The festivity, which was attended by 200 visitors, was organized by the National Committee and the Department for Civil Defense.*

### Special event

- Three government ministries (Defense; Insurance/Social Affairs; Health) and the Red Crescent Societies presented their disaster mitigation activities to the audience.
- Children performed national songs and music. Children's drawings were exhibited.
- A video displayed maritime rescue skills. Flyers, brochures and books on disaster preparedness and mitigation were distributed.
- Civil Defense volunteers - from primary school to university level - carried out emergency drills and preparedness demonstrations.
- Representatives from the media observed and reported on the demonstrations and lectures dedicated to the day.

### Lectures, Speeches

- In preparation for IDNDR Day, the National Committee leaders gave presentations on "Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation in Egypt" to the National Strategic Institute and the Atomic Energy Authority.

## Ethiopia

*For the organization of the day, a "Multi Agency National Committee", consisting of members from several government, UN, NGO and donor agencies was set up to prepare various events. Four technical work groups of the National Committee were responsible for implementing an action plan that emphasizes raising public awareness to the day's theme of women and children. The groups worked separately on media, publication, conference and exhibition/festival issues. The activities were funded by UNICEF, Action Aid Ethiopia, Save the Children (UK) and the Spanish Embassy.*

### Media

- Local radio, TV and press covered the activities in three different languages to reach a broad public.

### Exhibits

- The National Museum (Addis Ababa) exhibited drawings, photographs, and films on the conditions of women and children during disasters and on the work of women and children towards disaster prevention.

### Distribution of materials

- The Organization Committee selected posters, prepared banners, stickers, brochures, information packages and organized the distribution among the public.

### Gatherings

- The Organization Committee carried out conferences at three different locations to discuss women and children in prevention, preparedness and relief.

### Special initiatives

- Ethiopian women and children took part in a parade at the Addis Ababa Stadium where they carried banners and wore T-shirts and caps featuring the IDNDR logo and the day theme.

## Fiji

*Disaster Awareness Day was held in late September.*

### Media

- The national radio station broadcast a radio talkback show; several newspapers issued articles on the day activities.

### Distribution of Materials

- The National Committee produced and distributed a poster dedicated to natural hazard awareness.

### Gatherings

- Government officers were briefed about measures to be taken to raise hazard awareness.

## Germany

### Media

- The National Committee issued a press release and held a press conference on 18 October. It was attended by its chairman, a former minister who is a well-known figure on the political scene in Germany. He focused on the increase of natural disasters around the world and on the role of IDNDR. The conference resulted in 97 articles in German newspapers.

## Greece

### Media

- A panel discussion about women, children and disasters was broadcast by two TV channels in late November. The Greek Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization and the Pedagogic Institute were featured in the panel. (see Meetings)

### Contest

- The institutions mentioned above launched a drawing, essay, poetry and sketch contest for primary and secondary schools in which nearly 200 children participated.

### Gatherings

- In early May, the Mediterranean Women's Studies Centre organized a conference in Athens on "Gender Approaches towards Emergency Situations: Women's Realities". Participants included disaster experts, physicians and journalists. (see *Meetings*)

## Guatemala

### Gatherings

- The National Committee, coordinated by the National Emergency Commission (CONE) organized together with the National Women's Office (ONAM) a well attended seminar on "The Protective Role of the Guatemalan Women in Disaster Reduction". National and local women's organizations attended the meeting. The seminar agreed on a list of recommendations which emphasize on the stronger participation of women in disaster reduction. (see *Meetings*)

### Exhibit

- A photograph exhibition organized by CONE generated widespread public interest.

## Holy See

### Media

- Building on the IDNDR Information Package and the Social Summit briefing paper, the Consilium Cor Unum (IDNDR Focal Point) issued an article on IDNDR Day in the Vatican newspaper "Osservatore Romano". It underlines the work of organizations related to the Catholic Church which deal with general disaster prevention and women and children.
- Radio Vatican broadcast interviews with an IDNDR staff member on 11 October in Italian, French and English.

## India

### Media

- 80 national and regional newspapers issued a supplement on IDNDR Day provided by the Ministry of Agriculture. The advertisement features addresses by IDNDR Director Olavi Elo (reprinted from Stop Disasters) and by the Minister for Agriculture of India. The Minister encouraged the public to support the organizations dealing with disaster reduction.

### Exhibits

- The Disaster Management Institute located in Bhopal observed IDNDR Day by organizing a well attended exhibition on disaster reduction and preparedness. The exhibition included

### *Visitors comments from two exhibitions in Guatemala Photographic Exhibition at the National Palace and the Disaster Reduction Stand at International Fair*

The Guatemalan National Emergency Commission kept a visitors book at their exhibits. A few of the many comments:

*"It is exactly prevention we need in Guatemala... Forge ahead - a life saved is a great success."*  
**Arturo Gonzáles M.**

*"There should be more such exhibitions in the interior of the Republic".*  
**Rodolfo Quiquívix**

*"I believe that nowadays it is necessary to make everyone aware of how to survive a natural disaster. The exhibit is very important."*  
**Joaquín Ferro**

*"Institutions like yours are very important. Lamentably, they don't get the attention they deserve. Thank you for educating us."*  
**Blanca Najarro**

film displays and demonstration by members of the Civil Protection.

### **New publications**

- The Building Materials and Promotion Council, a part of the Ministry of Urban Development, published a booklet on disaster management and mitigation measures.

### **Children's Booklet**

The Joint Assistance Centre (JAC) in Haryana used material from "Learning About Natural Disasters" to create flyers and leaflets to promote the community risk mapping contest featured in the booklet. The JAC received 135 drawings which will be exhibited to raise awareness on the issue. They also awarded the three winners with 250, 150 and 100 Rupees.

### **Gatherings**

- The Institute for Disaster Reduction and Management in Nagpur organized a "Disaster Reduction Week" between 9 to 15 October on "Women and Children - Key to Prevention". The event included two symposia, a roundtable talk, a seminar, an exhibition and a special programme for women and children. (see *Meetings*)
- In Nagpur, the National Civil Defense College, a part of the Ministry of Home Affairs, celebrated IDNDR Day by organizing activities

related to the programme of IDNDR which took place during one week around 11 October.

- The National Center for Disaster Management held a roundtable workshop on "Women and Children in Disasters" in New Delhi. Participants were scientists, administrators, social workers and representatives from UN agencies and NGOs. The roundtable suggested greater involvement of women and children in disaster reduction activities at community level. (see *Meetings*)
- The women's association "Mahila Udyamita Vikas" held a roundtable discussion on "The Role of Women and Children in Natural Disaster Reduction" in Rae Bareilly. Participants included university lecturers, students and lawyers. The conclusions emphasized the increase of hazard awareness education among women and children. (see *Meetings*)
- In Ongole, representatives from government agencies, NGO's and the district administration attended a conference on the day theme. It was organized by the Praksam District Disaster Reduction Coordination Centre. (see *Meetings*)
- The Indian Public Health Association West Bengal Branch celebrated IDNDR Day by hosting a community-based seminar on "The Role of Women in Disaster Preparedness". (see *Meetings*)

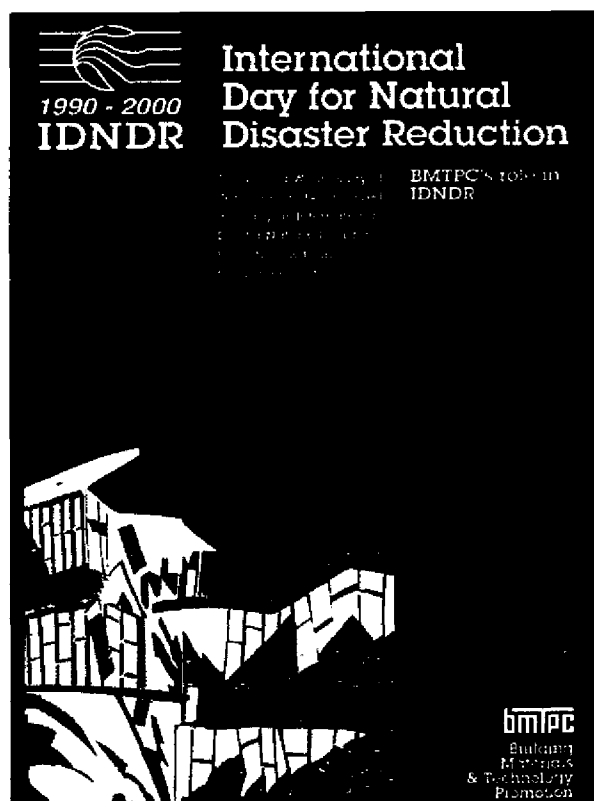
### **Lectures, Speeches**

- The Tamizhosai Radio Youth and Science Forum celebrated IDNDR Day with 1500 pupils of the local secondary school in Pondicherry. The event included speeches which focused on the theme of the day, on reducing the impact of different types of natural disasters.

## **Iran**

### **Media**

- The *Tehran Times* published an article based on a statement Peter Hansen, Under-Secretary General of DHA. The message had been given during the IDNDR Day press conference in Geneva.
- Iranian TV covered IDNDR Day by broadcasting a programme on the purpose and work of IDNDR, a children's movie on natural disaster reduction and an interview with the Deputy Minister for Coordination of Development Affairs.



Booklet produced for IDNDR Day by the Indian Ministry of Urban Development



- A nationwide radio station transmitted a radio programme on disaster reduction and on the National Committee.

### **Exhibit**

- The National Committee launched a drawing contest in which 6000 children participated. 2400 pictures have been selected for an exhibition in Tehran.

### **New publications**

- The International Institute for Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES) produced a children's booklet on earthquake preparedness.

### **Distribution of materials**

- The IIEES produced and distributed a special sticker, a wall newspaper and a poster.

### **Gatherings**

- The IIEES contributed a roundtable discussion on "Women's Role in Earthquake Hazard Reduction and Preparedness". Participants were experts in the fields of earthquake engineering and social sciences as well as

- The University of Naples, and STOP Disasters magazine organized a roundtable on "The Role of Women and Children in Disaster Prevention". Representatives from the University of Naples, local authorities, UNICEF Italy and Italian schools attended the meeting. The participants stressed the need for an improved education in school on natural disasters and on the hazard risks in the Naples area. (see Meetings)
- In Trieste, the Adrian Alps Community, a regional group, organized a roundtable discussion on "Women and Children - Natural Elements in Calamity Prevention". The meeting was sponsored by the UN-IDNDR Secretariat, Italian Red Cross, the Chamber of Commerce, industry, Artisan and Agriculture of Trieste. The roundtable featured speakers from Slovenia, Hungary and several Italian regions. The participants discussed topics related to the roles of women and children in disaster reduction, gender differences and post traumatic stress disorder. (see Meetings)

### **Special initiative**

- A "Stop Disasters" private institute was launched by the city of Naples, the university Federico II and the publisher Alfredo Guida Editore.

Sticker used by the International Institute for Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES) during IDNDR Day. It says "Knowledge - Preparedness - Cooperation: More Security during an Earthquake"



representatives from Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations and women's associations. (see Meetings)

### **Simulation exercises, training courses**

- 100,000 people took part in an earthquake relief operation manoeuvre which was organized by the National Committee in collaboration with the Red Crescent Society. The Master of Ceremonies referred to Peter Hansen's message in his opening speech.

## **Italy**

### **Media**

- The Naples' newspaper *Il Mattino* published an article on the roundtable discussion mentioned below.

### **Gatherings**

## **Jamaica**

### **Media**

- The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) issued a news release to highlight the Jamaican events for the celebration of IDNDR Day.
- Media coverage included a TV commentary by Dr. Barbara Carby, Vice Chair of the IDNDR Scientific and Technical Committee and a TV programme on the "Proper Preparation of Food during Disasters".

### **Exhibits**

- The ODPEM organized a four day exhibition on floods, hurricanes and earthquakes and a display of emergency supplies for students and teachers.

### **Children's Booklet**

- ODPEM distributed 500 copies to schools as part of Earthquake Workshop series.

### **Lectures, Speeches**

- The Kingston Parish Disaster Coordinator did

a presentation for pre-schoolers on "Basic Disaster Preparedness in the Home and School".

- ODPEM carried out a presentation for 16 year olds on fire prevention and earthquake preparedness, followed by a earthquake and fire drill.

## Jordan

### Media

- The national TV station broadcast a programme on emergency measures.

### Gatherings

- The Civil Defense organized several activities on the occasion of IDNDR Day, including a roundtable on "Women and Children - Key to Prevention" (in cooperation with the Ministry of Health/Education and UNESCO) As a result, the Civil Defense and the Ministry of Health plan to publish a booklet on the theme to be distributed among the general public. (see Meetings)

## The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

### Gatherings

- IDNDR Day presentations were made at the International Course on Seismic Design and Construction (12 week course for engineers, autumn 95). IDNDR Day press release and the statement of Peter Hansen were distributed.

## Malaysia

### Gatherings

- Parts of Peter Hansen's message were read while an official handing over of earthquake bearings (produced by the Malaysian Sime Darby Tyre Technology Centre) to the UN Industrial Development Organization for a project in Armenia.

## Mexico

### Media

- Press releases based on the IDNDR Day circular I and II were issued by the Mexican Medical Society for Emergencies and Disasters. They resulted in two newspaper articles one week before the day.
- The IDNDR Day activity mentioned below was covered by three local daily newspapers (*Quetzal*, *El Sol de Puebla*, *La Opinion*).

### Simulation exercises, training courses

- The Mexican Medical Society for Emergencies and Disasters organized an air emergency simulation for the district of Puebla.

### Special initiatives

- The National Committee prepared 120,000 National Lottery tickets for IDNDR Day. The cards featured artwork by a female Mexican artist along with the announcement of this year's theme.

Many other activities planned by various Mexican states could not be carried out because of earthquakes and hurricanes that occurred the same week as IDNDR Day.

## Mongolia

### Media

- The Mongolian government newspaper released information material and articles on earthquake reduction.
- The National Committee arranged five radio broadcasts and two TV programmes on natural disaster prevention on IDNDR Day.

### Gatherings

- The National Committee organized a workshop on Natural Disasters and Warning Systems, attended by local organizations dealing with the issue. (see Meetings)

### Special initiatives

- The National Committee reported on a new database on natural disasters and a National Action Plan to combat desertification.

## Nepal

### Media

- On 11 October, Radio Nepal transmitted a radio message given by the Minister of the Interior (Chairman of the National Committee).
- Nepal Television broadcast a TV conference on "Disaster Management in Nepal" which was attended by representatives from the Government, the Nepal Red Cross Society, disaster experts and journalists.

### Gatherings

- The National Committee organized a ceremony in a school in Kathmandu. Representatives from national and international organizations as well as from the Government and women's and children's institutions participated together with 1500 pupils.

- Geoscientists, hydrologists and engineers attended a scientific seminar on "Prevention of Natural Disasters: Challenges to Scientific Communities in Nepal". The discussion of topics related to various natural disasters resulted in a resolution which will be submitted to government agencies and NGOs for action. (see *Meetings*)

## New Zealand

### Media

- "City Voice", a newspaper for the Wellington area, dedicated a page to IDNDR Day in early October. It focuses on the earthquake threat New Zealand is facing and gives a list of emergency preparedness measures.

### Children's Booklet

- Testing of "Learning About Natural Disasters..." elicited such a positive response that the National Committee is considering reproduction for local use. The Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Limited included it in a teacher's pack they prepare for visiting groups to learn about natural hazards.

## Nicaragua

### Gatherings

- On IDNDR Day, the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources organized a training seminar for community leaders in which representatives from the Nicaraguan Institute for Technological Studies (INETER), the Civil Defense, the Ministry of Construction and Transport and the Municipalities of Masaya and Ticuantepe participated.
- On 12 October, the University of Engineering in Managua, the Civil Defense, the Ministry of Education, INETER and Partners for the Americas organized a symposium on natural disasters. The meeting was directed to students and professors of the university. (see *Meetings*)
- The NGO "Partners for the Americas" held a workshop on "School Preparedness" on 5 October in Managua. "Learning About Natural Disasters..." was supplied to the participants of the meeting. (see *Meetings*)

### Simulation exercises, training courses

The Civil Defense and the Fire Services of Corinto and Managua arranged fire drill exercises with the assistance of volunteer groups on 29 October.

## Niue

*Activities in the island of Niue (South Pacific) to mark IDNDR Day were organized by the Niue Police Department and focused on cyclones as this presents the major disaster threat to the island.*

### Media

- The awareness programme included a radio broadcast including interviews with disaster management experts and a TV report on the last cyclone which hit the island.

### Special initiatives

- In conjunction with the Police Department, the Royal New Zealand Navy carried out a flare demonstration to stress its meaning for fishing boats who got lost in the sea.
- During the national float parade to commemorate the 21st Constitution anniversary, the Niue Telecom float featuring Disaster Reduction/Preparedness won the first prize.

## Oman

### Children's Booklet

- The Muscat Private School tested the children's booklet and found that it could be used in certain areas of their curriculum. They included it in their school programmes for the year

## Panama

*The National System for Civil Protection declared October as the month of Civil Protection. Around 30 activities for IDNDR Day took place between 2 and 27 October. They included conferences focusing on civil protection measures in cases of emergencies and evacuation exercises in public buildings. The National System for Civil Protection and the Technological University of Panama signed an agreement about future cooperation.*

### Media

- A press release was issued by the National System for Civil Protection and the Technological University of Panama. They also attended a press conference on IDNDR Day that took place in the Chamber of Commerce

### Gatherings

- The Regional Departments for Civil Protection organized local roundtables, seminars and conferences on community level.

### Special initiatives

- On IDNDR Day, the department arranged a mass in which representatives from governmental, non-governmental organizations, schools and from diplomatic bodies attended.
- Groups from governmental and non-governmental organizations, primary and secondary schools and the Civil Protection participated in a parade which featured the day theme.

## Paraguay

### Media

- The UN Development Programme (UNDP) issued a press release to the national press on IDNDR Day.

### Gatherings

- The Minister and the Vice Minister of the Interior, the President of the National Committee for Emergency, the Vice Minister of Health, the Information Officer of the UN Information Centre and the UNDP Resident Representative gathered in the Ministry of the Interior to celebrate IDNDR Day.

## Peru

*The National Institute for Civil Defense (INDECI) and the National Committee were the main organizers for a variety of events to commemorate IDNDR Day. The celebrations took place between 1 September and 24 November. During those months, nearly every day was dedicated to another event in different Peruvian cities.*

### Media

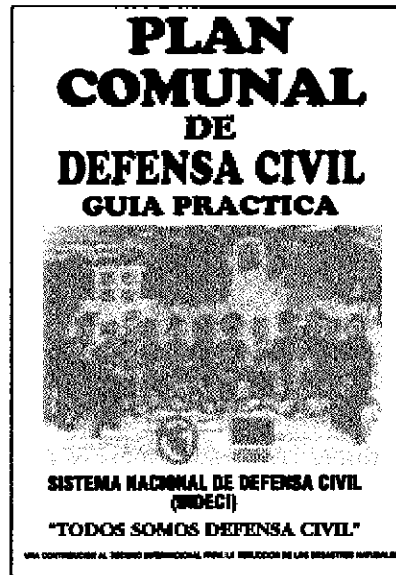
- INDECI issued three press releases on 11 and 17 October.
- The daily newspapers *El Comercio* and *El Peruano* published extensive supplements highlighting IDNDR Day and the work of INDECI. They also contained cartoons featuring what to do in case of earthquakes, mud flows, fires, landslides and tsunamis.

### Contests

- INDECI launched a nationwide drawing, painting and essay contest for students and a contest for journalists and graphic artists. The purpose was to raise awareness about the importance of "Women and Children as Keys to Prevention". The winners were announced in a national ceremony on 11 October.

### Gatherings

- The National IDNDR Committee, INDECI, Regional Civil Defense Departments and various institutes arranged 20 roundtables, seminars and conferences on national and



Community Disaster Plan promoted on IDNDR Day in Peru

community level. These gatherings focused not only on the importance of women and children in disaster reduction but also on general disaster prevention and on the scientific side of natural hazards.

- In May, INDECI and the National Geophysical Institute organized a major regional conference in the city of Huaraz which included a session on "Vulnerable Groups: Women and Children - Key Priority in Disaster Mitigation". (see Meetings)
- PREDES, a Centre for Disaster Prevention Studies located in Chosica, organized a roundtable on the day theme for Peruvian women and children, community teachers and school principals. (see Meetings)

### Simulation exercises

- The regional Civil Defense Departments in Piura, Arequipa and Iquitos organized simulation exercises for earthquake emergencies and volcanic hazards.

### Special initiatives

- INDECI released a postal stamp for IDNDR Day.
- A community emergency action plan has been designed and is being implemented.

## Portugal

### Media

- The National Service for Civil Protection (SNPC, IDNDR Focal Point) issued a press release to the Portuguese media on 11 Octo-

ber. It resulted in eight articles in daily newspapers.

### **Special initiatives**

- On 17 October, the SNPC and the NGO "Quercus" agreed on the cooperation in a nationwide study on the population's reactions in drought periods.
- Earlier this year, the Lisbon Town Council Civil Protection Department launched two education campaigns for schools called "Growing in Safety Stages 1 and 2" and "A Family Discovery" which were both covered by the SNPC magazine *Civil Protection*.

## **Russian Federation**

### **Media**

- On IDNDR Day, the Russian newspaper "Izvestiya" published an article about "Learning About Natural Disasters".
- Two video documentaries about the day were shown in Russian TV in late November.

### **Contest**

- A drawing contest called "Save Forests from Fire" was organized by the State Committee of Russia on Forestry.
- The Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM) launched a drawing contest for children from around Russia.

### **Children's Booklet**

- The main activity of the Russian National Committee was the printing and the dissemination of the Russian version of the IDNDR children's booklet "Learning About Natural Disasters - Games and Projects for You and Your Friends" (10,000 copies initially) through "Global Eco Reform", an NGO which is also producing the Russian version of Stop Disasters. The Minister of EMERCOM (Chairman of the National Committee) made a statement which was added to the booklet as supplementary leaflet.
- The head of EMERCOM press centre presented the booklet in a children's TV programme which was broadcast nationwide.

### **Gathering**

- The Ministry of the Interior organized a seminar on "Children and Natural Disaster Prevention".

### **Special initiatives**

- Astronauts of the Russian orbit station "MIR" addressed the world on 11 October via space tele-bridge. They emphasized on the need of

natural disaster reduction and called upon all states to make a concerted effort in accomplishing the task.

## **San Marino**

### **Gatherings**

- Public health experts, disaster experts and sociologists were invited to a conference on "Gender Approaches in Emergency Situations: Women's Realities". The event was held on 8 and 9 December in San Marino organized by the Ministry of Health. (see *Meetings*)

## **Senegal**

### **Children's Booklet**

- The Senegalese Red Cross reviewed the booklet internally and is working to adapt the game to existing activities for children.

## **Solomon Islands**

*IDNDR Day activities were celebrated for the first time in the Solomon Islands by the Red Cross Society and the National Disaster Management Office.*

### **Media**

- The Solomon Islands Education and Awareness Working Group organized the broadcast of a radio show on IDNDR Day which featured a question and answer session on natural disasters.

### **Special initiatives**

- The Working Group also arranged a street parade and the set up of street stalls which displayed posters on hazard awareness. Pamphlets were distributed.

## **South Africa**

### **Media**

- The National Committee issued an article on the role of women and children in disaster prevention and mitigation in the "Nokuphila's Letter" magazine. The publication is distributed to approx. 4,000 women's organizations and clubs which have a readership of more than 80,000 women.

### **New publications**

- A brochure called STOP DISASTERS has been compiled by the National Committee; 60,000 copies were distributed to the nine South African provinces, government departments and NGOs.

## St. Lucia

- The Secretariat for Integral Human Development and Welfare tested the booklet in schools throughout the island, and found it a useful tool to involve children in disaster preparedness.

## Switzerland

### Media

- The daily newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* issued a part of the Associated Press article on IDNDR Day in its edition of 11 October.

### Children's Booklet

- *Télévision Suisse Romande* reported on 11 October in its regional news broadcast. It covered the testing of the IDNDR children's booklet by a class in Fribourg. The National Committee distributed 500 copies to 9 to 11 year old school children to test the French version of the booklet. The experiment has been carried out in collaboration with the Public Education Departments of the French-speaking cantons in Switzerland.

## Thailand

### Media

- The Department of Local Administration (IDNDR Focal Point) organized a press conference on IDNDR Day. The media representatives who attended were briefed about the natural disasters which occurred in 1995 and how assistance was provided by the Civil Defense.
- National TV, cable TV and national radio broadcast information programmes about natural disaster reduction.
- The Department of Local Administration produced natural disaster videos and distributed them among the public.

### Distribution of Materials

- Pamphlets and booklets on natural disasters were widely disseminated to the public.

## Tunisia

### Media

- Tunisian newspapers released an article by Agence France Press on the message of the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization about the day; several articles on the local celebrations were published in two daily newspapers, *Le Renouveau*

and *La Presse*.

- Radio and TV channels covered the events by broadcasts with participants from the Department for Civil Protection and the Ministry of Education.



Illustrations from a Tunisian disaster brochure about the role of women and children

### Contests

- Some regions contributed to IDNDR Day by organizing drawing contests for children.

### Distribution of Materials

- A poster and a brochure were distributed to draw the attention of women and children to the importance of proper disaster preparedness.

### Gatherings

- The Department for Civil Protection organized two conferences on the "Participation of Women in Disaster Prevention" and on the "Children's Role and Awareness in Disaster Prevention". Representatives from the Government and a women's association attended the meetings. An information programme for women and children has already been started. (see Meetings)

## Turkey

### Media

- The Ministry of Public Works and Settlement, which represents the National IDNDR Committee, issued a press release on IDNDR Day to Turkish media.
- Celebrations for IDNDR Day included information programmes on TV and radio stations. The National Committee produced a movie on earthquakes and a cartoon film for children.

## United Kingdom

### Media

- The National Committee issued a press release on the day activities. Media responded before and after the day through newspaper articles in the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, *Professional Engineering* and *The Guardian* (two-page article on IDNDR Day) and through radio interviews on *BBC Radio Five*, the *BBC World Service Science Unit* and the *BBC World Service*.

### Gatherings

- Lectures were held in four cities, aimed at 15 and 16 year olds.  
These were:  
Belfast: Humanitarian Issues - Natural and Man-made disasters  
Cardiff: Vulnerability Issues - Landslide and Volcano Disasters  
Edinburgh: Earthquakes - How to Survive Them  
The event reached around 1000 schoolchildren.
- The National Committee and the Sedgwick Group, a British insurance company, organized a seminar on "Preventing Natural Disasters - The Role of Risk Control and Insurance". The event was directed to insurers, re-insurers, risk control consultants, scientists and researchers. (see Meetings)

## United States of America

### Gatherings

- Argonne National Laboratory, a part of the US Department of Energy located in Argonne, Illinois, held a meeting on "Women and Emergency Preparedness" on IDNDR Day. The meeting included information displays on disaster and emergencies and on the National Fire Prevention Week. Also, a roundtable on the meeting's topic took place. 14 points of recommendation stressed women's role in disaster prevention and preparedness. (see Meetings)

### Special initiatives

- The Emergency Education Network of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) organized a videoconference called "Act Now: Disaster Preparedness and Fire Prevention". The conference opened with a speech by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton,

on Natural Disaster Awareness Day. Panel discussions and question and answer sessions were also included. The programme was broadcast to a large audience through various TV networks.

- The day organizers from FEMA set up an IDNDR display in the main lobby of the Mitigation Directorate Building. An announcement was disseminated to all employees.

## Uruguay

### Media

- On 11 October, an article in the newspaper *El Mundo* focused on natural disasters which happened worldwide in the last 48 hours preceding IDNDR Day. Another article in *La Republica* mentioned the DHA press conference along with extracts of Peter Hansen's statement for IDNDR Day.

## Vanuatu

### Media

- A radio show focused on IDNDR Day.

### Exhibits

- The National Committee organized a display of natural hazard videos and photographs and distributed pamphlets providing information about the cyclone season.

## Venezuela

### Gatherings

- The National Commission of Civil Defense organized a Forum for IDNDR Day on "Women and Children - Priority in Disaster Mitigation". Presentations were made by representatives from various private institutes, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs; Education; Civil Defense and from the Pan American Health Organization. (see Meetings)

## Viet Nam

### Special initiatives

- On 11 October, the National Committee presented their "Report on Activities of Viet-nam National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in 1995" to its members and the resident representative of the UN Development Programme Viet Nam.

## Zaire

### ***Contest***

- The Association for Victims of Natural Disasters (AVICANAT) organized a drawing contest for 8 to 12 year old children. The task was to paint what they remembered from the flood that devastated Kinshasa in 1990.

### ***Gatherings***

- AVICANAT also arranged conferences on the political, economical and social consequences of natural disasters and their appropriate prevention measures. The target audiences were schools, army units and women's associations. (*see Meetings*)

## Zimbabwe

- The Red Cross Society used the booklet in environmental protection awareness campaigns and disaster preparedness activities and are considering it as a part of their environmental awareness training kit for youth groups.