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**Name:**

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The association bears the name "Deutsches Komitee für die Internationale Dekade für Katastrophenvorbeugung (German Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction)". The association is organized by civil law.

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**Purpose of the association:**

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(1) The association serves exclusively non-profit-making purposes, according to the tax-privileged purposes within the German tax law.

(2) The goal of the association is to stimulate and support means for disaster preparedness and mitigation, especially in developing countries, in line with United Nations General Assembly resolutions 42/169 of 11 December 1987 and 44/832 of 22 December 1989 on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) 1990-2000.

(3) This goal would be accomplished through:

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## **EXCERPTS FROM THE STATUTES OF THE GERMAN COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION**

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- the fostering of scientific and engineering endeavours by means of demonstration projects, such as:

- the establishment of early warning systems for natural disasters;

- the establishment of disaster prevention services;
- developmental and environmental projects for disaster prevention;
- public awareness building for the IDNDR;
- the adoption of further counter-measures to reduce the vulnerability for disasters.

(4) The committee acts as an advisory body to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and other relevant institutions.

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**Membership:**

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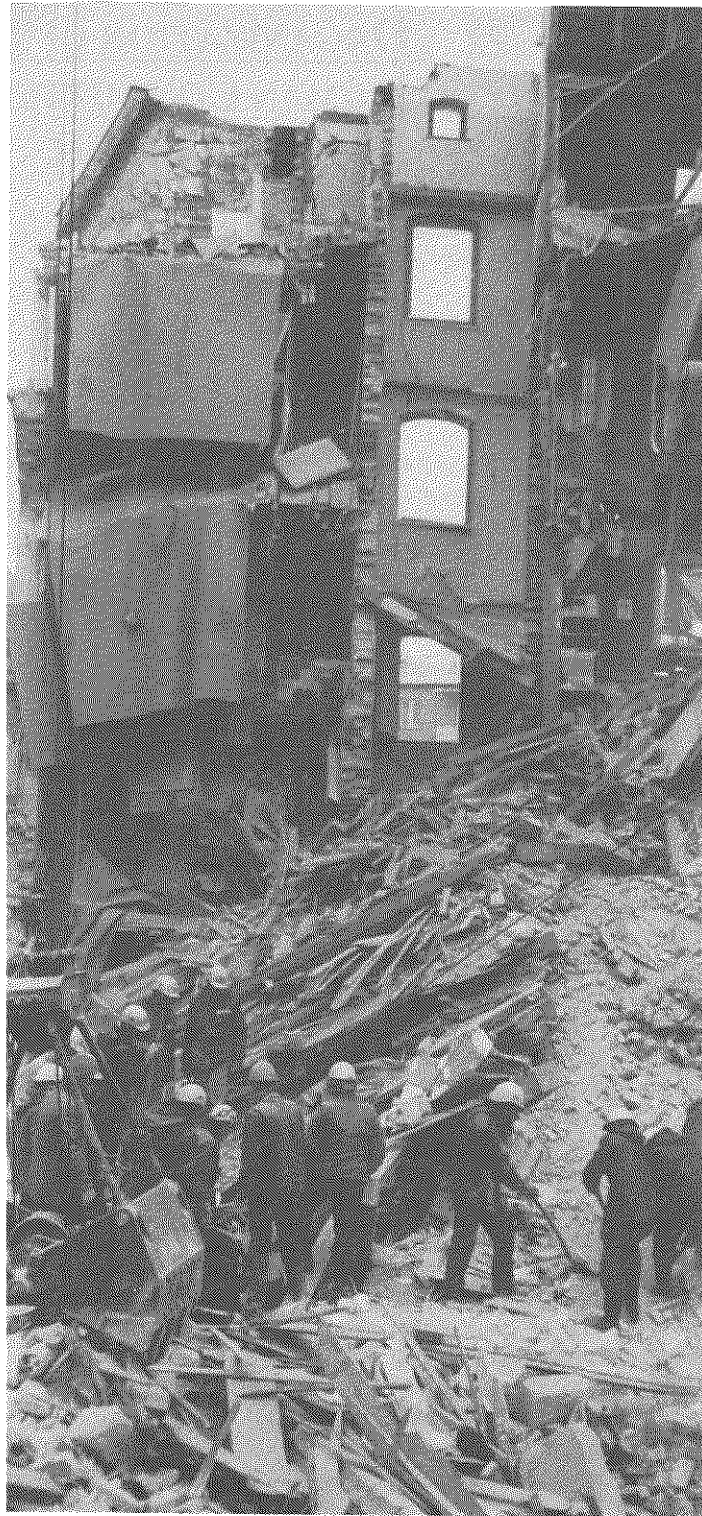
(1) Membership to the association is open to legal and natural entities who fulfil the conditions set up by United Nations General Assembly resolution 42/169. The total number should not exceed 20 members.

(2) There is no fee for membership.

(3) The members are legally liable for the assets of the association.

(4) Activities of the members are voluntary. Such activities of members which are authorized by the Board will be reimbursed according to the German rules on the reimbursement of official travel expenses.

(5) The members are elected for a period of two years on the recommendation of an nominating committee. A re-election is possible.



The German Committee to the IDNDR, which consists of 26 members from areas such as policy/industry/ health/ science/ research and disaster preparedness, was constituted on 21st September 1989.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE GERMAN COMMITTEE TO THE IDNDR**

As following members of the Board were elected:

- ° Günther **van Well**, ambassador (rtd.) as Chairman of the Board
- ° Dr. Hansjoachim **Linde**, former General in the medical corps, now chief physician of the German Red Cross
- ° Professor Dr. Erich **Plate**, Director of the Institute for Hydrology and Water Management at the University of Karlsruhe
- ° Professor Dr. Hans-Jürgen **Karpe**, Director of the Institute for Environmental Protection at the University of Dortmund
- ° Mr. Claus **Detjen**, Managing Director of the Donaukurier
- ° Mr. Christian **Eikenberg** was appointed as the head of the administrative office of the German Committee to the IDNDR.

The Committee appointed two advisory boards:

1) the **Scientific Advisory Board** with Professor Dr. **Plate** as chairman under the care of the DFG (German Science Association, Executive Director: Dr. Ulrich **de Haar**, DFG)

2) the **Operative Advisory Board** for Disaster Relief and Preparedness under the chairmanship of Dr. Hermann **Schmitz-Wenzel**, former Secretary General and member of the Board of the German Red Cross DRK (Head of Office: Mr. Christian **Eikenberg**, DRK)

### **The bodies of the Committee**

The general meeting, the board and the advisory boards have convened several times to structure the national strategy for attaining goals of the Decade. On the basis of a comprehensive study and the appropriate conceptual outlines, projects will be initiated and supported.

The German National IDNDR Committee decided in its inaugural session to establish two advisory boards, one for operational aspects, one for scientific aspects of the IDNDR. The German Science Association (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) agreed to form and support the Scientific Advisory Board (Wissenschaftlicher Beirat, WB) for an initial period of two years. Its members were nominated by the appropriate advisory committees of the DFG, and Professor Dr. E. Plate was asked to be Chairman, Dr. U. de Haar to be Secretary of the WB. The WB had its first meeting on 26 March 1990. For this meeting, the members of the WB had prepared some initial concepts from their respective areas of expertise, which formed the basis of the discussions. During the meeting it was decided to develop a German scientific programme for the IDNDR, which was to be structured according to the following principles:

1 If possible, the programme should draw on existing scientific and financial resources, and should depend on activities which are already under way. The German scientific programme should not be a large scale independent research programme, but it should collect information from many different fields and combine it into IDNDR contributions

2. Research to be conducted specifically for the IDNDR should be interdisciplinary, and should, if possible, fit into international activities.

Examples of the activities to be contemplated were:

- a. To develop a methodological frame for treating natural disaster management along the following stages:
  - identification of disaster causes
  - evaluation of magnitude of disaster potential in terms of damage to life and property, including determination of disaster probability
  - reduction of disaster potential
  - disaster management
  - post disaster evaluations

b. To apply the methodology to a region, perhaps one in Germany, and for each of the disciplines in a developing country, and to

recommend actions

c. To form an Emergency Observer Group, i.e. to develop an interdisciplinary group of scientists, which would in case of a disaster anywhere in the world immediately travel to the disaster location for observation and for securing scientific data

In order to fill this concept, the WB decided to prepare state of the art reports, and to appoint authors, for six areas:

## THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD OF THE GERMAN IDNDR COMMITTEE

**EARTHQUAKES:**

Prof. **Schneider**  
Stuttgart  
(seismology)  
Prof. **Klein**  
Hannover  
(earthquake engineering)

**VOLCANOLOGY:**

Prof. **Schmincke**  
Kiel

**LAND SLIDES:**

Prof. **Mattheß**  
Kiel  
(geology)  
Prof. **Barsch**  
Heidelberg  
(geography)

**WATER:**

(floods, droughts, surface  
erosion):

Prof. **Kleeberg**  
Munich  
(hydrology)  
Prof. **Rouve**  
Aachen  
(structures)

**STORMS:**

Prof. **Roth**  
Hannover  
(meteorology)  
Dr. **Berz**  
Munich  
(insurances)

**HUMAN FACTORS:**

Prof. **Clausen**  
Kiel  
(sociology)  
Prof. **Spada**  
Freiburg  
(psychology)

with the first named appointed  
as responsible reporters.

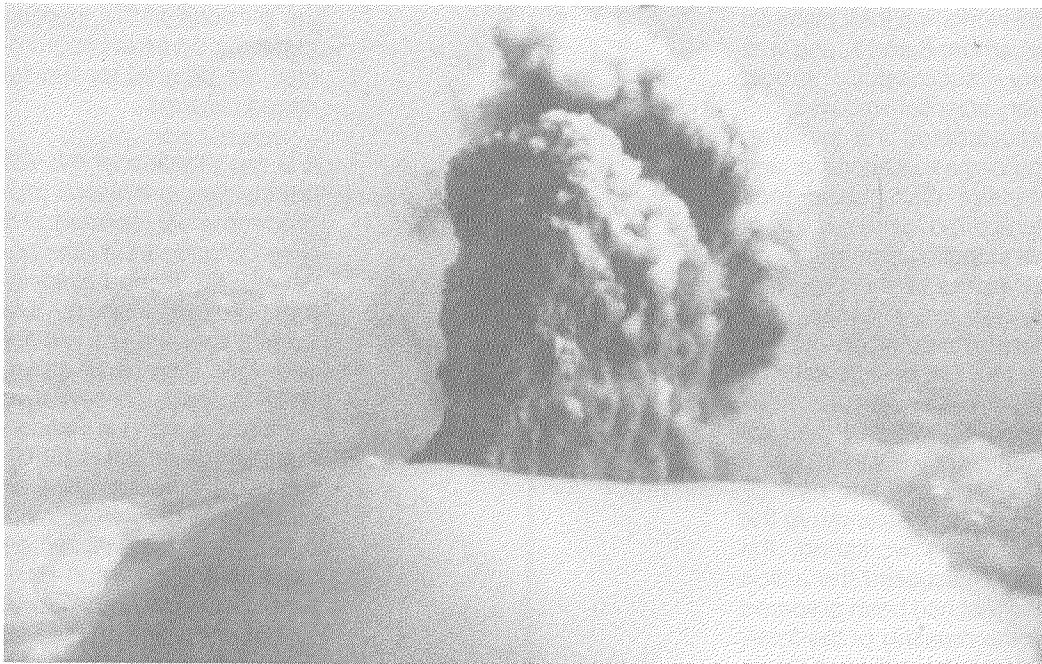
For the preparation of the reports, a proposal for financial support was submitted to the Foreign Ministry and funded. Reports were drafted in summer 1990, and they were made available in preliminary form to the WB for its second meeting in October 1990. It was decided to present these reports to a broader group of scientists during a two-day workshop, which was held in Karlsruhe, and to include the results from the discussions in the final version of the reports.

The workshop took place on December 6 and 7, and was very successful. Almost every scientist who was invited accepted the invitation and came to Karlsruhe, and intensive discussions took place. The enthusiasm of the scientific community to participate in the programme was overwhelming, and there is no question that many see the co-operation in interdisciplinary activities such as offered by the programme of the IDNDR as an important step into new dimensions of science. At the end of the workshop, the group discussed the action plan that had been prepared for the meeting of the International Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) for the IDNDR, and the authors of the reports were asked to take cognizance of the targets for the IDNDR in preparing their recommendations for the scientific programme.

The report of the six authors were submitted to the chairman who has to combine the reports into a short version, which is to form the scientific programme for the German contribution to the IDNDR. Based on this short version a list of deficits in research and technology is drawn up, and it is intended to present this list to the WB for further discussion. During its next meeting on 22 March the WB will make recommendations how the deficits are to be overcome, and sets priorities for scientific actions. Also, it will be

the purpose of the meeting to decide on what programmes are needed for the required research.

It is the intention of the WB to establish a research programme which consists of a core of funded interdisciplinary research, and associated projects which are subject specific. The WB encourages groups of scientists to start co-operative ventures, such as a Sonderforschungsbereich (SFB), which is located at one University and combines interdisciplinary activities towards one common goal. As an example, a group of scientists consisting of natural scientists and engineers plans to submit a SFB proposal for studying land slides, from a study of potential initiation processes for land movement to management of slide disaster. The WB encourages international co-operation, such as the participation of German scientists on the volcano programme of the IUGG-IAVCEI, and co-operation in the international programmes of the UN organizations, such as the International Hydrology Programme of UNESCO. For supporting the interdisciplinary aspects, the WB encourages research and activities according to the three objectives spelled out above, and towards this end it is planned to hold national workshops and symposia on topics associated with IDNDR subjects, for which the WB will interact with the



STC, so that the support by the national programme is of benefit to international activities. Finally, the WB will look into the matter of supporting or organizing training courses on scientific aspects, such as disaster source identification on setting up observation networks, and to train students and researchers from other countries than Germany in IDNDR related subject.

For incorporating these activities into the international action plan, close co-operation is sought with IDNDR advisory committees in other countries, in particular to other European activities,

and to United Nations Organisations. We hope that with support of German federal and state administrations, German industry and German scientific organizations including the Max-Planck-Institutes, the Fraunhofer-Institutes, and the Nuclear Research Centers of Germany, which offer support and guidance to the scientific programmes through the National Committee for the IDNDR, Germany can provide a strong input into the international programmes for the the IDNDR and can ultimately help to make Earth a safer home for all people.

