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An Example Of Earthquake Crisis Management In a Day-Care Center Or Child Care Center Of Guadeloupe (F.W.I)

BACKGROUND

Guadeloupe is a small island (1,704 km²) located on the Caribbean Plate, which is the place of a subduction zone between the North American Plate (with the Atlantic crust) and the South American Plate, since approximately 55 millions of years, with an important volcanic and seismic activity. This French department, located at 8,000 km far from France is vulnerable to most of the natural hazards. The main and not foreseeable hazard is the earthquake and unfortunately most people of this island are not aware that they can have a chance to stay alive during and after a big earthquake. There is a strong need to inform, educate and train people of the country on sustainable development towards effective disaster mitigation in order to enhance their security. The author, a native of Guadeloupe, is convinced by the idea that the best policy in this field begins with children and even with babies aged between 3 months and 3 years.

OBJECTIVES

The main goal and objectives the program are to achieve preventive and effective actions in order to assure the security of everyone working in a day-care or child center and also save the lives of the children during an earthquake. For example, prevention with babies and children who do not walk alone and do not talk correctly and do not read yet, is specific because it depends on

- how the training was performed for the adults
- the morality of these adults in case of emergency such as will they really assure the babies security or leave them alone

ACTIVITIES

First of all, the program concerns the adults to whom theoretical lessons were provided on. What is a great or major natural risk, what does the term "preventive actions" means, the geological presentation of Earth and Plate tectonics, the Caribbean Arc and its

geodynamics, what is an earthquake, how to recognize a big earthquake, the historical earthquake occurrences in Guadeloupe and in the other islands, how to be ready to face with a "big one".

After this first theoretical part for four hours practical training was provided. The adults were trained on "How to prepare or Preparedness". They have to recognize the safety places where they can be safe, both inside and out of the building. Discussions were made with the adults on the best way to reach such security places with the babies and the other children.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In the best day nurseries or day-care centers or child-care centers of Guadeloupe, one adult have three or four babies in charge. So it is often worked on how to evacuate accurately and quickly all the babies; and to do it, their small beds on casters are usually used. Each adult puts three or four babies in such a bed and makes it roll to the security zone.

Among the children some of them can walk, so the adults made them learn a simple song used only in case of emergency. After an alarm, as soon as the adult starts the song you can see the children falling into line, singing and making their way towards the security area. Thus, the effectiveness of this approach has been proved.



LESSONS

Unfortunately some of the children are afraid by the alarm and cry. Of course, it is required to inform the adults they will have to manage all the crying babies and how to do it during the real earthquake.

FUTURE

One of the first actions will to implement systematically one unexpected exercise per month at different moment of the day in order to analyze and correct as quick as possible their behavior even when the children are sleeping or have lunch The second action will to prepare a special cartoon for these children in order to awesome natural disasters.

MIRAI Sustainable Development Consultancy is specialized in education, training, audit, consulting, expertise and management of all natural, technological and professional linked risks, in order to help people (politicians, economic and industrial managers, employees, children, aged people, and all the other population of a region or a country) in living with risks and practicing a sustainable development for their country. Figures relate to the second phase of this Save the Children Project.



CONTACT DETAILS

Dr. Myriam LUBINO-BISSAINTE

Director of M.I.R.A.I. Sustainable
Development Consultancy

Habitation BISSAINTE
Jabrun - Face Lycée Agricole
97122 Baie-Mahault Guadeloupe (FWI)

Tel/Fax: 05.90.20.08.49

Mobile: 06.90.56.29.09

myriam.lubino@wanadoo.fr

mirai.sustainabledevelopment@wanadoo.fr

www.miraisustainabledevelopment.org

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Books On Disaster Reduction For Sustainable Development And Peru's Sustainable Cities Programme

BACKGROUND

After returning from his participation in the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Yokoyama, 1994, the author made an evaluation of the advances in knowledge that had been made and of the challenges remaining to be tackled in Peru during the second half of the IDNDR 1990-99. Two priority problems were identified which needed immediate attention.

■ Large and medium Peruvian cities were increasingly occupying very hazardous sectors, resulting in high risk to their residents

■ No adequate bibliographic material existed for the effective and systematic dissemination of knowledge and experience on disaster reduction for professions other than earthquake engineering and architectural specialisations. For school teachers and social communicators, for example, there was nothing, and yet these are people who can accomplish much within the informal education structure, and who can also educate the general public, especially the most socially vulnerable population, on disaster prevention and education.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective was to reduce loss of lives and properties caused by natural and man-made disasters in order to reduce poverty and contribute toward the nation's sustainable development by undertaking the two tasks included in the next point

ACTIVITIES

■ Formulate, develop and implement a Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) in Peru. The flood maps of Peru's north-western cities affected by El Niño 1995-97 were practically a carbon copy of those generated by the El Niño 1982-83. Those cases were investigated by the author's former students for their civil engineering professional thesis under the auspices of JICA. This argument was strong enough for the then Primer Minister of Peru, and at the same time Head of the El Niño Reconstruction Committee, to accept the author's proposal to provide advice to the SCP,

and for the affected cities' mayors to have strong commitment, participating proactively in the program. Thanks to the political decision taken at Peru's highest level, and the leadership and funds provided by Peru's Civil Defence, the SCP has been executed uninterruptedly over the past six years.

■ Thanks to the generosity of several institutions, mainly UN agencies, the Government of Japan, USNSF and Caltech, the author was educated and trained in disaster reduction, and provided with abundant bibliographic material by Japanese and American professors, which was used in writing the book. When the first draft of the book was ready, it was found to be too lengthy and incomplete. So the book's contents were reviewed by an international panel headed by Prof George W Housner, who made very valuable recommendations. The Spanish version of the book addressed to Latin American countries was prepared from 1998 to 2001 and the English version from 2001 to 2004 with the idea that it would be used as a university text book in a new course: DISASTER REDUCTION.

ACHIEVEMENTS

From 1998 to 2004 the SCP 1st Stage (Safety is the first attribute of a sustainable city) was carried out. 50 Peruvian cities and towns have unanimously approved land-use ordinances stipulating that the population may grow more dense and the town may expand in areas where earth science investigations have indicated that the natural hazard is low or medium.

The World Bank has invited the author to give lectures in Lima, Peru; Panama and Guatemala over the past two years to disseminate the Peruvian Method on SCP for South and Central American countries. Prof Toshio Kumagai of the University of Tsukuba, Japan, says that the contents of Chapter 2 of the book "Sustainable Cities: Agenda for the 21st Century", are the main reason that the book is being translated into Japanese in Tsukuba. The book's proof copy has been handed to American, Japanese and Indian professors, and they have said that they would use the book as the text book for a new university course. Copies have also been handed to UNESCO in Paris and to the UN/ISDR in

Geneva The UNISDR web site of September 2004 included a comment on Peru's SCP and the book

LESSONS

A team consisting of a number of professors, practising engineers and urban planners, economists and social scientists developed the SCP. For the programme to be a success it was necessary to obtain very strong political support and necessary funds, which were thankfully provided by the window of opportunity of El Niño 1997-98

Writing a book is time-consuming. In fact, it is very difficult to produce a book for a global audience. It is hard for editors of advanced countries to accept that a book may be produced in a developing country like Peru to be of global interest. The expenses are being covered by the author in full, including the printing to get it ready for Kobe, January 2005.

FUTURE

The author requests world Academia to review the book and comment whether it will be useful as a text book in a new university course. The author has also requested for financial support from international agencies to publish and distribute the book.



CONTACT DETAILS

Julio Kuroiwa

Professor emeritus National University of Engineering, Lima-Peru.

CTA Peru INDECI/UNDP Sustainable Cities Programme

Av. Del Parque Sur N° 442. Lima 27 - PERU

jkuroiwah@infonegocio.net.pe

Tel: 511 222-4252

Fax: 511 440-7197

www.disastersreductionjk.com