

GENERAL DISASTER PREVENTION STRATEGIES



LATINAMERICAN CONFERENCE ABOUT NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, CONVENTION CENTER, 21-24 MARCH, 1994

The National Department for Disaster Prevention and Relief, as part of its policy of incorporating disaster prevention and relief into planning, has been supporting events and related activities in education, public information and technical activities attended by the most representative sectors of the research, planning and development fields, in various parts of the country.

The following activities have been promoted:

1. Congresses and technical activities

- The Seventh Latin American Seminar on Seismically Resistant Engineering was

held in conjunction with the Colombian Seismic Engineering Association, the Colombian Society of Engineers and the Ministry of Public Works;

- A first national congress on the prevention of disasters at sporting events and heavily attended sites was held in conjunction with the Colombian Institute for Recreation and Sport (COLDEPORTES) and the Ministry of National Education;
- The International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction was celebrated at a ceremony presided over by UNDP and the Ministry of the Interior, dedicated to seismic hazard in Colombia; a booklet entitled «Mi Amiga la Tierra - Protejámonos del Próximo Terremoto» (My Friend the

Earth - Let's protect ourselves against the next earthquake) was presented;

- Support was given to the seminar/workshop entitled «Natural Disasters: Popayán 10 Years On». Resources were used to support the event and in particular to defray the subsistence costs and domestic airline tickets for Professor Ian Davis from Oxford Polytechnic, who attended the event and the seminar on Habitat and Sustainable Development taking place simultaneously in the city;
- Support for the International Seminar on Risk Prevention and Reduction in Mains Water and Sewage Systems in the city of Cali (August 1993) organized by the Colombian Association for Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (ACODAL), Valle del Cauca branch. National and international experts were in attendance to evaluate the hazard vulnerability and risk to vital services, especially to mains water and sewage networks;
- The National Department for Disaster Prevention and Relief in March 1994 staged the Inter-American Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (National Experience) in Cartagena; the conference was organized by the Colombian National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) under the Risk Mitigation Programme in Colombia (DHA-UNDRO/CIDA/DNPAD) and the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

This event was supported by international organizations, among them the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA-UNDRO), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the regional office of the secretariat for the International Decade for Natural Disaster

Reduction (IDNDR), the Latin American Social Studies Network for Disaster Prevention, the National Red Cross Societies of America, Cooperación Interamericana (CUSEC), the Regional Centre for Seismology for South America (CERESIS), the Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and the Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRENAC). It was also supported by such national bodies as INGEOMINAS, INDERENA, the Colombian National University, the Colombian Red Cross, SENA and INURBE.

The main objective of the Conference was to draw up a broad scenario covering experiences relating to disaster prevention and mitigation in American countries with a view to better cooperation and understanding and inter-institutional, multisectoral and multidisciplinary integration.

2. Records and Programme publications

An important consideration for the National Department for Disaster Prevention

FIRST MEETING OF SNPAD EDUCATION COMMISSIONS - GIRARDOT, NOVEMBER 1995

