ASSESSMENT OF EATHQUAKE HAZARD AND RISK IN SOUTH AMERICA

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The quantitative assessment of earthquake hazards in South America has improved significaltly over the past 25 years. The term hazard is used here to mean the physical phenomena associated with the occurrence of earthquake: ground motion, surface faulting, liquefaction, landsliding, etc. Maximun intensity maps for all of South America are now avilable, and probabilistic ground motion maps are regionas in character, and, in general, do not take into account the shaking associated with local surficial material (material to depths of several hundred meters). This local shaking (site response) associated with local sirficial material is particularly important because of the dramatic influence of site response on the distribution of damage resulting from an earthquake. A number of methods are expensive. Othe, less expensive, more generalizad techniques provide at least a guide to areas of severe site response.

Up to the present time, very little has been done to asses seismic risk (loss), either on a regional or a local basis, although techniques exist to provide at least a firstorder approximation of future earthquake losses (risks) in any area. Earthquake risk studies provide a powerful tool for the mitigation of earthquake disasters

through their application to public information, disaster preparedness training, local and regional planning and development, economic studies and the evaluation of insurance risk and exposure. Evaluation of the earthquake risk is the single, most important application of seismic hazard studies, and is the most important single tool in the protection of the population and infraestructure from life loss and economic disaster. Risk studies can identify potential disaster areas fir the application of civil preparedness and mitigation measures. Another example is provided by the earthquake provisions of building codes. Seismic codes are often designed to limit life loos by preventing building collapse, and not to limit economic loss. As the building codes that limit economic as well as life loss. Risk studies provide an essential guide to the level of earthquake resistant design required to limit economic (or insurance) loss to an accepable level. Risk studies are the logical extension of hazard assessment, and they represent an important multidisciplinary integration and application of seismological, geologic, engineering and economic research.

ESTRATEGIA PARTICIPATIVA DE LA CRUZ ROJA CUBANA EN CASO DE DESASTRES

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Se hace referencia a los desastres que con mayor frecuencia afectan a nuestro territorio nacional y a los principios adoptados en la conferencia mundial sobre la reducción de los desastres naturales celebrada en Yokohama del 23 al 27 de mayo de 1994.

Posteriormente se plantea cual debe ser la estrategia participativa de la cruz roja cubana en caso de desastres en consonancia con estos principios y con la política de la federación internacional de la cruz roja y la media luna roja.

Por último se plantean las actividades a desarrollar por los miembros de nuestra sociedad para:

1.- Mejorar la eficacia en la prevención y preparación para desastres.

2.- Mejorar los efectos de intervención en caso de desastres.

3.- Intensificar los efectos de la rehabilitación y reconstrucción posterior a desastres.