

# **REMARKS OF THE CDERA COORDINATOR AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE WORKSHOP ON MITIGATION PROCEDURES FOR MEDIUM SIZED INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS**

*MARCH 14 - 16, 1995  
UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES  
ST AUGUSTINE CAMPUS, TRINIDAD*



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

THIS WORKSHOP IS ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION OF THE OPERATIONALISATION OF THE CDERA PROGRAMMING PHILOSOPHY WHICH EMPHASIZES THE BUILDING OF PARTNERSHIP WITH THOSE AGENCIES WHICH HAVE MANDATES AND RESOURCES FOR ADVANCING THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENDA IN THE CARIBBEAN.

THE CONTINUOUS SHRINKAGE OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENDA IN THE REGION NECESSITATES INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION ON PROGRAMME PLANNING AND DELIVERY. TO RESPOND TO THIS INEVITABLE REALITY, PARTICIPATING AGENCIES IN THE CARIBBEAN DISASTER ARENA WILL HAVE TO LOOK VERY CLOSELY AT THEIR MEASUREMENT OF PROGRAMME SUCCESS.

CDERA IS ADVOCATING AND PROMOTING A FORUM WITHIN WHICH DISASTER PROGRAMME AGENTS AND ACTORS IN THE CARIBBEAN CAN MEET AT AGREED TIMES TO REVIEW THE FOLLOWING:

- PROGRAMME GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- IMPACT TARGETS
- AVAILABLE RESOURCES
- PROGRAMME SCHEDULING
- MODALITIES FOR COOPERATION AND DELIVERY

A MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 17, 1995 AT THE LOCAL HOLIDAY INN WILL BE THE FIRST EFFORT AT FACILITATING SUCH A FORUM. APPROXIMATELY TEN (10) AGENCIES WILL PARTICIPATE IN A REVIEW OF EXISTING TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND HOW THESE COULD BEST BE STRUCTURED SO THAT THE TARGETED REGIONAL CONSTITUENCIES COULD DERIVE MAXIMUM BENEFITS.

THESE EVOLVING INITIATIVES WILL COMPLEMENT ONGOING BILATERAL DIALOGUE AS WELL AS THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CDERA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WHEN COLLABORATING PARTNERS GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE INFORMATION ON ON-GOING PROGRAMMES.

WE SHARE THE CONCERN OF THE ORGANIZERS OF THIS WORKSHOP THAT IF THE LONG TERM BENEFITS OF OUR INTERVENTION ARE TO BE SUSTAINED THEN OUR INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING MUST BE ACTIVE PLAYERS IN THE PROCESS.

IN THIS REGARD, WE MUST BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES POLICY ON DISASTER TRAINING AND RESEARCH. THIS HISTORY OF DISASTER OCCURRENCE AND MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT CLEARLY INDICATES THAT MANAGING THE HAZARDS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT WILL BE CENTRAL TO OUR SUSTAINED DEVELOPMENT. THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES CAN NO LONGER DEFER ITS OBLIGATION TO OUR PEOPLES IN THIS CRITICAL AREA.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES' EFFORTS CAN NO LONGER BE AD HOC. WE HUMBLY RECOMMEND AN INTER-CAMPUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT THAT AMONG OTHER THINGS WOULD ADVISE ON:

- I. OPPORTUNITIES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR INCORPORATING DISASTER MODULES IN EXISTING CURRICULA;
- II. IDENTIFY AND LIST ONGOING UWI DISASTER TRAINING AND RESEARCH EFFORTS;
- III. RECOMMEND STRATEGIES FOR RATIONALIZING EXISTING EFFORTS;
- IV. RECOMMEND A POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES.

MR CHAIRMAN, THIS STRUCTURED ASSESSMENT OF THE CAPABILITY OF OUR REGIONAL UNIVERSITY TO ASSIST US IN OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SAFE BUILT ENVIRONMENTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS CENTRAL TO THE EFFORTS OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS TO DETERMINE WHERE TO LOOK FOR AND EXPECT THE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE REQUIRED TO BUILD OUR AGENDA.

WE THEREFORE SEE THIS WORKSHOP AS AN INDICATOR OF POSSIBILITIES AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE ORGANIZERS AS WE CONTINUE OUR CAMPAIGN FOR THE INCORPORATION OF HAZARD CONSIDERATIONS IN OUR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS.

THE 1995 IDNDR THEME ***WOMEN AND CHILDREN: KEY TO PREVENTION*** PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO LAUNCH A PLATFORM FOR UNIVERSITY BASED INITIATIVES.

TO SUPPORT THE 1995 IDNDR THEME, CDERA WILL BE UNDERTAKING THE FOLLOWING:

- I. A REGIONAL ESSAY COMPETITION AMONG UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES ON A

**SUBJECT RELATED TO THE THEME;**

- II. A GRANT FOR THE BEST TERTIARY LEVEL RESEARCH PAPER OR PROJECT ON A DISASTER RELATED TOPIC;**
- III. SHORT ATTACHMENTS OF TERTIARY LEVEL STUDENTS AT THE CDERA COORDINATING UNIT FOR EXPOSURE TO ALL RESPECTS OF DISASTER PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT.**

**WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT OUR COLLABORATING PARTNERS WILL SUPPORT THESE INITIATIVES WHILE ANNOUNCING THEIR OWN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.**

***Jeremy Collymore, Regional Coordinator  
Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)  
The Garrison, Saint Michael, Barbados  
Tel No: (809) 436-9651 or Fax No: (809) 437-7649***