

D&SCRN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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Athens, Greece, erc@otenet.gr

D&SCRN REPORT

Publication of Electronic Newsletter. I would like to start with an apology to the members of the network, and especially to those members who have contributed materials, for the delayed publication of the Newsletter. Besides the usual paucity of materials several other considerations played a role. One of these had to do with the preparation of the collective call for papers for the 6th ESA conference in Murcia. Another was the necessity to clear up things with regard to the financing of the proposed interim conference in Athens, following a change in the leadership of the Greek Secretariat for Civil Protection. Finally, and after we had the double issue (June-September issue) ready for publication in our webpage and the things regarding the interim conference had been cleared up, we had another delay due to the fact that

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Editor's Note: All "signed" texts express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the D&SCRN or the Emergencies

Maureen Fordham who was managing our webpage made a professional move, from Anglia Polytechnic University who was hosting our webpage to the University of Northumbria. Maureen became Senior Lecturer in Disaster Management. We would like to congratulate Maureen for her new post and wish her the best. We also would like to extend our thanks to the Geography Department of Anglia Polytechnic University for hosting our webpage during the past years. Maureen is now negotiating for the transfer of our webpage in her new university. We hope that her efforts will bring results. If not, we will have to explore alternatives. We welcome declarations of interest from colleagues in European countries, in case negotiations with Northumbria do not work out. Since this process may take some time, we decided to publish a triple issue (including also materials intended for the Sept-December issue) and send the Newsletter to our members by electronic mail.

Canceling of D&SCRN interim meeting in Athens. The meeting (“Socioeconomic Aspects of Disasters: Social Research and Civil Protection Policies”) had been set for March 27-28, 2003, 7 guest speakers, among them 3 members of the Network, had committed themselves to participate, and we had secured a financial commitment from the General Secretariat for Civil Protection, at least for the coverage of costs for guest speakers, translation etc. Then on 3.9.2002 and on the eve of Greek local elections came the Flood which inundated three municipalities in Athens (it was the third time within two months) and also led to the replacement of the Secretary for Civil Protection (A Geology Professor). The new General Secretariat for Civil Protection, having more an operational orientation (former Police Chief) and other priorities, decided not to finance at this time the scientific conference. As a consequence, the local organizing and scientific committee cancelled the conference. More details with regard to the interim meeting and new strategies for an interim meeting after the 6th ESA Conference will be discussed at our business meeting in Murcia Spain.

Murcia September 23-26, 2003 Network Sessions. The D&SCRN is proposing to organize 10 sessions (See below), 8 in English and two in French or Spanish, in accordance with Executive Committee guidelines (See below for topics and details for participation). Members of our Network who are not coordinators and organizers of the ten sessions and who want to organize a session on a relevant topic which is not covered by the present ten topics should send a summary of their proposed topic to the Network Coordinator as soon as possible (we shall try to organize two more English sessions). Naturally, all the Network members are welcome to organize poster sessions, in either English or Spanish.

We are organizing sessions in either English or Spanish, following the Executive Committee’s recommendation that a limited number of sessions be organized in the local language. However, in order to facilitate communication and participation of Spanish and Non-Spanish Speaking peoples in the Sessions during the conference, the participants in the English Sessions are also expected to provide an executive summary of their presentation either in Spanish or French, and the participants in the two Spanish/French sessions are also expected to provide an executive summary of their presentation in English. Perhaps, our Network can propose that such a language policy be generalized for future ESA conferences. At this point I would also like to thank, Juan de Dios Ruano Gomez, for accepting the responsibility to be our local contact for the conference and also together with Andres Garcia Gomez to organize two sessions.

In regard to the 10th session (**Meet the Authors Session: An Introduction to European Perspectives to Crisis and Emergency Management**) I am looking forward to nominations of authors on European disaster management, for presentation at the Murcia Conference.

Joint Activities of D&SCRN members. Not all tidings and news events during September were bad. On Sept. 20, 2002, the Coordinator was notified by the General Secretariat of Research and Technology of Greece (Minister of Development) that a Joint Research and Development Project Proposal, made by Prof. Murat Balamir, Middle East Technical University of Turkey and two collaborating Greek

organizations (the private Emergencies Research Center and the public Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization of Greece) was approved by the two Research Organizations of the two Countries –The Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) and the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) of Greece. The project, which was conceived by the two members of the D&SCRN (N. Balarmir & N. Petropoulos) following the 5th ESA Helsinki meeting and the two catastrophic Eqs in the Athens and Imit areas in 1999, provides for three bilateral meetings, two in Athens and one in Istanbul, and has as an objective the development of a guide for the protection of the two large urban centers from earthquakes (See also activities of Prof. Balarmir below).

Membership Report and Member's Interests. Between March 2002 and May 2002 (the last time the webpage was updated), we have added two new members to our Network, [Aspaslan Ozerdem of the University of York](#), whose interests are in “politics of disaster management, social reconstruction after armed conflicts, settlement reconstruction after earthquakes and demobilization and re-integration of former combatants” and [Deward van Niekerk of the African Center for Disaster Studies](#), whose interests are in “Disasters in Africa, disaster planning and preparedness, sustainable development and sustainable livelihoods.” According to the latest count, we now have 52 members registered in our Network, either regular or associate. A breakdown by [country](#) reveals the following distribution in descending order: USA (9), Germany (5), Turkey (5), UK (4), Australia (4), India (3), Sweden (2), Malaysia (2), Canada (2) and one from New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Romania, Greece, Austria, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Ukraine, S. Africa, Russia, Portugal, Norway, Israel, Finland, the Netherlands and Brazil. A breakdown by [continent](#) reveals 27 from Europe, 11 from North America, 7 from Asia and the Middle East, 5 from Australia and New Zealand, 1 from Africa and 1 from Latin America.

A breakdown by [interest](#) for the 43 members who had supplied relevant data revealed a variety of concerns pertaining to disasters and crises, including: man-made disasters (1), man-made and natural produced drought (1), disaster preparedness, mitigation and response (7), disaster, crisis, emergency management and policy (7), symbolic aspects of policies regarding risks and disasters (1), stress and disasters, trauma, PTSD, psychosocial support, crisis intervention, mental health and disasters (11), culture, language and disasters (5), religion, magic beliefs and disasters (3), resilience and vulnerability assessment (5), community capability building (3), indigenous knowledge and coping strategies (1), disaster analysis, disaster theory, sociology of disasters (4), risk analysis, risk perception, risk awareness, social construction of risk (4), development and disasters, development induced displacement, sustainable development (4), Recovery, reconstruction after Eqs, rehabilitation after development induced displacement, reintegration of former combatants (5), post-disaster volunteering, disaster action groups, participation and self-management in disaster in emergencies prevention, mitigation, planning and reconstruction (6), disaster organization and services, emergency health services, public health, organizations and disasters, multinational organization response (5), natural disasters, Earthquakes, UK floods, UK disasters, Japan Eqs, disasters in Africa (5), conflict management, kosovo crisis, crisis- conflict-transaction, civil organizations and social peace, non-conventional disasters and psychosocial aspects of terrorism, consequences of social crises in Indonesia, social transformation-losers & winners (8), class, race, gender and disasters, feminism and disasters, minorities, strangers and disasters (5), warning in rapid onset

disasters (1), disasters and white collar crime (1), rapid social change (1) public inquiry processes (1), environmental justice (1), technology assessment (1), evacuation processes (1), interface with media in disasters (1), social consequences of disaster prediction (1) education for disasters (1), social construction of Eqs (1), history of disasters, comparative studies of disasters (2) and UN APPEL program (1).. It is to be noted that the numbers in parenthesis do not add up to 52, since the unit of analysis are the plurality of interests of the members and not the overall concerns of our members, which admittedly were hard to classify into simple categories. The variety of interests are in accord with the broad interests and goals of our Network. They are given here in order to expedite future organizational work for conference sessions and interim meetings and in order to stimulate collaboration. Finally, the nine colleagues who have not provided the relevant information for the webpage are urged to do it as soon as possible.

Business meeting. With the growth and expansion of the D&SCRN, as we know from industrial and organizational sociology, there comes a need perhaps for more formalization and for a termination of the transitional informal status. During the Murcia meeting we should discuss the possibility of developing some by-laws, setting more explicit criteria for regular and associate memberships, and holding more formal elections with candidates etc. Also, there has been a proposal brought by Maureen Fordham from the ISA meeting in Brisbane that we should consider more concrete ways of collaborating with the ISA Research Committee on Disasters. Besides that, we may also explore ways of cooperation with other social science associations in Europe which also have Disaster or Crises Research Committees. Suggestions along these lines are welcome by the Coordinating Committee before the Murcia meeting.

Call for newsletter materials. Readers of the D&SCRN are requested to submit relevant materials (e.g. conference reportage, book reviews, country disaster diaries, examples of good practices, brief reports of research activities, announcements of future conferences etc.) for publication in the Network electronic newsletter. The availability of these materials will not only help in the more regular and timely publication of the newsletter, it will also hopefully increase collaborative efforts and contribute to an upgrading of civil protection. Contributors should also provide electronic addresses in case the readers would like further information.

Nicholas Petropoulos
D&SCRN Coordinator
Erc@otenet.gr

**6th ESA CONFERENCE-MURCIA SPAIN 2003
D&SCRN PROPOSED SESSIONS**

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Disaster and Social Crisis Research Network is organizing the following 10 Sessions at the 6th European Sociological Conference to be held in Murcia, Spain on Sept. 23-26, 2003. Those colleagues who are interested in participating in any of the sessions should send an abstract of not more than 250 words to the session organizers, with copies sent to N. Petropoulos, Coordinator of D&SCRN. All session abstracts should be in English, except for those submitted to sessions 8 and 9. In the case of sessions 8 and 9 abstracts could be submitted in Spanish, French or English. The deadline for submission of abstracts is February 28, 2003. Authors whose papers are accepted for final presentation will also be expected to submit a written summary of their final presentation in another language (see details below) in order to broaden the participation in D&SCRN sessions. For more information concerning the conference itself, colleagues may consult the conference's webpage (www.um.es/ESA).

Session 1. “Varieties of Terrorism: Psychosocial, Political and Economic Impacts”

The session focuses on political terrorism and its social impacts. Papers are invited on the social- psychological effects of terrorism on the victims, their social circles and the wider community (e.g. PTSD etc.), the impact of terrorism on the political system (e.g. progressive or regressive changes etc.) and its macro-economic effects. Studies using a variety of social methodologies (historical, case study, comparative, surveys etc.) are welcome. The session will be conducted in English. Written summaries (about 500 words) of the final presentation should be submitted to the session organizer in either Spanish or French in order to encourage participation of non-English speakers in the session.

Session organizer and coordinator: Nicholas Petropoulos, Director of Emergencies Research Center and Sociology Counselor of the Pedagogical Institute of Greece, Athens, Greece. E-mail: erc@otenet.gr

Session 2. “Crises, Disasters and Emergency Management in Modern Ageing Societies.”

The session focuses on emergency management practices in modern, complex and multicultural, industrial societies. Papers are invited on (1) civil protection policies regarding special groups such as the aged populations, the persons with special needs, and foreign residents. (2) the role of state, community and non-governmental organizations in emergency management (3) the impact of disasters and mass emergencies on civil protection policy reviews and (4) alternative models for emergency management in the 21st century. The session will be conducted in English. Written summaries (about 500 words) of the final presentation should be submitted to

the session organizer in either Spanish or French in order to encourage participation of non-English speakers in the D&SCRN sessions.

Session organizers and coordinators: Boris Porfiriev , Institute for System Analysis, Russian Academy for Sciences, b_porfiriev@prin.msk.su and Elke M. Geenen, Institute of Sociology, University of Kiel, Germany, E-mail: elke@geenen.ch

Session 3. “Classical Social Theories and Modern Crises”

Accumulating signs of deep social, economic, political, ecological and moral crises, accompanied by “natural”, “technological” and “complex” war disasters, revive the debate concerning the adequacy of classical social theories to diagnose, to explain, to understand and to predict the crises of modern societies. The session proposes to examine (1) the extent to which the processes of rationalization, industrialization, secularization, scientific and technological revolution contributed to a substitution of “mechanical solidarity” by “organic solidarity” and of the ideological derivatives of militaristic political and adventuring capitalism by peaceful trade and civil capitalism (2) the degree to which social conflict and war constitute permanent extra-economic response to the intrinsic structural crisis of capital accumulation and (3) whether the relationship between actual multidimensional crisis and complex disasters is one of correlation or causation. The Session will also examine the implications of different answers to these questions for disaster management strategies in the present and the future. The session will be conducted in English. Summaries (about 500 words) of the final presentation should be submitted to the session organizer in either Spanish or French in order to encourage participation of non-English speakers in the D&SCRN sessions.

Session Organizers and Coordinators: Vera Vratosa, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Yugoslavia, E-mail: vvratusa@f.bg.ac.yu or vvratusa@sezampro.yu and Susann Ullberg, Crisis Management, Research and Training (CRiSMART), Swedish National Defense College, Stockholm, susann.ullberg@fhs.mil.se

Session 4. “Crises, Disasters and Psycho-social Intervention: Approaches and Evaluation of Outcomes”

This session will focus on models of psycho-social intervention that can be used either in small scale crises or in larger scale disasters. Over the last three years there has been some collaborative work carried out by members of an EU working group, the aim of which was to develop a model and guidelines that could be further developed by professionals within each region/country. Within this session there will be scope for further discussion of models and approaches and this could include the use of approaches within a community affected by disaster, with specific groups of survivors, or with groups of rescue workers. A further aim of the session will be to consider methods and approaches that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of psycho-social intervention following crises or disasters. The session will be conducted in English.

Summaries (about 500 words) of the final presentation should be submitted to the session organizer in either Spanish or French in order to encourage the participation of non-English speakers in the D&SCRN sessions.

Session Organizer and Coordinator. Dr Alison Rowlands, Consultant Clinical Psychologist: Clinical Psychology Unit, Dept of Psychology, University of Sheffield, Western Bank, Sheffield, UK, E-mail: a.rowlands@sheffield.ac.uk

Session 5. “Cities confronting Crises, Disasters and Mass Emergencies: Social Vulnerabilities and Models of Emergency Management”

Are cities more vulnerable entities today, due to changing natural and social conditions? Are there factors that diminish the resilience of cities in material and organisational terms against natural hazards like earthquakes and floods? Are settlements today far from the physical and social security they once provided to their inhabitants, with high rates of accidents, crimes and contemplated acts of collective and individual terrorism (e.g. September 11 events, sharp-shooters, etc.)? Are cities in need of physical and social transformation to become more robust entities? Are cities to be reinvented as safer contexts in generating new forms of urban democracy, as production and work are reorganised and redistributed through the global networks? Is there an intensified need for research in feasible and integrated forms of mitigation? Many disciplines could contribute to our understanding of modern complex urban processes in a global context and to the development of new practices in the physical and social conduct of cities that would protect them from the multitude of dangers they are confronting these days. Papers that attend to these questions are welcome. The session will be conducted in English. Summaries (about 500 words) of the final presentation should be submitted to the session organizer in either Spanish or French in order to encourage participation of non-English speakers in the D&SCRN sessions.

Session Organizer and Coordinator. Murat Balamir, Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey, E-mail: balamir@arch.metu.edu.tr

Session 6. “International Collaboration in Hazard Reduction and Response”

Recurring hazards pose a continuing threat to megacities in the developed and developing worlds. This problem is especially severe in regions where major cities are located on earthquake faults or in the path of floods, cyclones or hurricanes that cross national borders. In such cases, hazard reduction and response necessarily involve collaboration across national boundaries. Such collaboration has, to date, occurred largely after a damaging event, in an unplanned and spontaneous manner. While it demonstrates good will among nations, international collaboration in hazard reduction and response could likely be far more effective if designed prior to the occurrence of damaging events in areas of known vulnerability. This panel invites papers that address the problem of mitigation of risk among nations that share a known risk of recurring hazards and seek to reduce the vulnerability of their cities and communities to that risk. The session will be conducted in English. Summaries (about 500 words) of the final

presentation should be submitted to the session organizer in either Spanish or French in order to encourage participation of non-English speakers in the D&SCRN sessions.

Session Organizer and Coordinator. Louise K. Comfort, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, 3E30 Wesley W. Posvar Hall, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. USA, E-mail: lkc@pitt.edu,

Session 7. “Environmental Policies and Disasters: A Comparative Perspective”

The decisive role of the cumulated effects of environmental policies has been demonstrated dramatically in the recent past, following the simultaneous occurrence in various parts of the world of both slow and fast onset disasters (e.g. floods, floods, heat waves, forest fires, droughts and desertification). The session invites papers on (1) the level of awareness of the public and civil servants regarding the connection between environmental policies and disasters, (2) the formation of public attitudes through the educational system and the media regarding the protection of the environment (3) the process of state and international policy formulation regarding protection of the environment (e.g. question of “jobs vs. environment” etc). and (4) the dynamics/structure/impacts of local /global environmental movements. The session will be conducted in English. Summaries (about 500 words) of the final presentation should be submitted to the session organizer in either Spanish or French in order to encourage participation of non-English speakers in the D&SCRN sessions.

Session Organizer and Coordinator: **Sorin Cheval, Researcher, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy**, sorincheval@fulbrightweb.org

Session 8. “The Economic and Social Consequences of Disasters: New Theoretical and Methodological Approaches”

The social consequences of a disaster involve nearly all areas of an affected society, acting sometimes as disintegrative elements, other times as regulating ones and in a few instances as contingent factors of structural changes in social, economic or political relationships. The aims of the session are (1) to detect alterations that a disaster can produce in a social system (2) to complement the traditional analysis of economic effects with new constructs that inform us about alterations in the affected social system as a whole, about their features and structures and (3) to detect those stable characteristics that would allow us to evaluate changes in the structures and different subsystems of social organization. Papers in Spanish, French or English based on actual empirical studies, on development of new methodologies and formulation of new relevant theory are welcome. The session discussion will be conducted in Spanish and/or French. Participants submitting/presenting papers in French or Spanish are required to submit summary (about 500 words) of their final presentation in English in order to encourage participation of English-speakers.

Session organizer and coordinator. Juan de Dios Ruano Gomez, Facultad de Sociologia, Universidad de A Coruna, Spain, E-mail : juande@udc.es

Session 8. “Les Conséquences Économiques et Sociales de Catastrophes: Les nouvelles Théoriques et Méthodologiques »

Les conséquences sociales dérivées d'une catastrophe ont une incidence sur l'ensemble de la société affectée par cette dernière. Cette catastrophe peut être dans certains cas un élément destructeur de cette société, dans d'autres un élément régulateur, et dans un très petit nombre un facteur contingent de transformations structurelles qui peuvent amener de profonds changements dans les relations sociales, économiques ou politiques. Les objectifs de cette session seront de détecter : (1) Les altérations qu'une catastrophe peut produire dans un système social (2) Compléter l'analyse traditionnelle des effets économiques provoqués par cette catastrophe grâce à de nouveaux concepts nous donnant des informations sur les altérations produites sur l'ensemble du système social affecté and (3) Pour cela, et de manière parallèle, nous devons détecter les éléments d'analyse pertinents qui nous permettront d'évaluer les changements produits sur les structures et sur les distincts sous systèmes qui constituent l'ordre social. Papiers en espagnol, français ou l'anglais ont basé sur les études empiriques Réelles et sur développement de nouvelles méthodologies et formulation de une nouvelle théorie pertinente. La discussion de la session sera conduite dans espagnol and/or français. Le papiers des participants realise en français ou l'espagnol est exigé un résumé (approximativement 500 mots) de leur présentation en anglais pour faciliter la participation d'Anglophones.

Organisateur de la session et coordinateur Juan de Dios Ruano Gomez, Facultad de Sociologia, Universidad de A Coruna, Spain, E-mail : juande@udc.es

Sesión nº 8 “ Consecuencias Sociales y Económicas de los Desastres: Nuevas Teorías y Metodologías Aplicables”

Las consecuencias sociales derivadas de una catástrofe implican prácticamente a todos los campos de la sociedad afectada, actuando en unos casos como elemento desintegrador, en otros como elemento regulador, y en no pocos casos como factor contingente de transformaciones estructurales que pueden llevar incluso a profundos cambios en las relaciones sociales, económicas o políticas. Los objetivos finales de esta sesión serán por tanto detectar: (1) las alteraciones que una catástrofe puede producir en un sistema social (2) Complementar el tradicional análisis de efectos económicos con nuevas aportaciones que nos informen de las alteraciones producidas en el conjunto de las relaciones del sistema social afectado, sus elementos y sus estructuras. (3) Para ello, y de forma paralela, tendremos que detectar los analizadores pertinentes que nos permitan evaluar los cambios producidos en las estructuras y en los distintos subsistemas que conforman el orden social.

Las comunicaciones podran ser en español, francés o inglés, basadas en estudios empíricos reales o bien en el desarrollo de nuevas metodologías y formulaciones teóricas.

La discusión de la sesión se dirigirá en español y/o francés. Las presentaciones hechas en francés o español deberán estar acompañadas de un resumen (aproximadamente 500 palabras) en inglés para facilitar participación de los Angloparlantes.

Organizador y Coordinador de esta Sesión. Juan de Dios Ruano Gomez, Profesor Metodologías, Facultad de Sociología, Universidad de La Coruna, España, E-mail : juande@udc.es

Session 9. "The Role of the Community, NGOs and Volunteers in Disaster/Crisis Prevention and Mitigation"

Countries and societies vary with respect to the degree that they allocate responsibility for civil protection to the central and state government or to the local communities, NGOs, Volunteer and Charity Groups. This session focuses on the crucial role played by communities, NGOs, charities and volunteers in disaster prevention and mitigation. It invites papers on (1) Volunteerism and the state (Liberalism and social solidarity, the "welfare state" and the right to assistance, the crisis in the welfare state and social solidarity) (2) Volunteers by "calling" and Non-governmental organizations (profiles, structure organization and legal basis, integration and relations with institutions) (3) the social conditions leading to the emergence of community self-organization (non-deterministic theories, spontaneous forms of organization... problems of interaction and coordination with established organizations and institutions) (4) the relationship of disaster phases to volunteer structure, composition and profiles, (5) the question regarding the tutelage of volunteer organizations and (6) the future of volunteer groups in welfare/service societies. The papers in this session may be in Spanish, French or English., but the session discussion will be conducted only in French. Participants submitting/presenting papers in French or Spanish are required to submit summary (about 500 words) of their final presentation in English in order to encourage participation of English-speakers.

Session organizer and coordinator. Andrés García Gómez, Centro Europeo de Investigación Social (CEISE). Dirección General de Protección Civil. Madrid, Spain, E-mail : agarcia@procivil.mir.es

Session 9. " Le Rôle de la Communauté, ONGs et Volontaires dans la Prévention et Mitigation de Disaster et Crisis "

Les pays et sociétés varient en ce qui concerne le degré qu'ils allouent la responsabilité pour protection civile au niveau central et gouvernement de l'état ou aux communautés locales, ONGs, Volontaire et Groupes de la Charité. Cette session se concentre sur le rôle crucial joué par communautés, ONGS, charités et volontaires dans prévention et mitigation de la catastrophe.

(1) **Le volontariat et l'état** (Le libéralisme et l'entraide. Le « welfare state » et le droit à l'aide. La crise de l'état de bien-être et l'entraide) (2) **Le volontariat et les ONG** (Profils du volontariat par vocation , Structuration, organisation et bases légales,

intégration et relations avec les institutions) (3) **L'auto-organisation de la communauté** (Les théories non déterministes à l'origine de sa configuration, Quand survient-elle et dans quelles conditions ? L'auto-organisation spontanée : la masse et la meute. Problèmes d'interaction et de coordination avec les organisations établies et les institutions) (4) Le volontariat selon les phases de la catastrophe (Le volontariat dans la phase de prévention de la catastrophe; profils adéquats, organisations, *extraction sociale* et interaction avec les institutions et le reste de la société ; le volontariat durant la catastrophe, le volontariat dans la phase de reconstruction de la communauté) (5) La tutelle des organisations de volontaires and (6) Le futur du volontariat dans la société de services.

Les papiers en espagnol, français ou l'anglais ont basé sur les études empiriques réelles et sur développement de nouvelles méthodologies et formulation de une nouvelle théorie pertinente. La discussion de la session sera conduite dans espagnol. Le papiers des participants realise en français ou l'espagnol est exigé un résumé (approximativement 500 mots) de leur présentation en anglais pour faciliter la participation d'Anglophones

Organisateur de la session et coordinateur. Andrés García Gómez, Centro Europeo de Investigación Social (CEISE). Dirección General de Protección Civil. Madrid, Spain, **E-mail** : agarcia@procivil.mir.es

Sesión nº 9. “ El papel de la Comunidad, ONGs y Voluntarios en la Prevención y Mitigación de Crisis y Desastres”

Los países y sociedades varían con respecto al grado de responsabilidad que asignan para protección civil al gobierno central y estatal o a las comunidades locales, ONGs, Voluntarios y otras Organizaciones Graciables. Esta sesión tratará del papel crucial jugado por las comunidades, ONGs, asociaciones caritativas y voluntarios en la prevención del desastre y su mitigación. Se invita a los participantes a presentar comunicaciones sobre:

A.- El voluntariado y el modelo de estado. El liberalismo y la ayuda graciable. El welfare state y el derecho a la ayuda. La crisis del estado del bienestar y la autoayuda social.

B.- El voluntariado y las ONGs: Perfiles del voluntariado vocacional. / Estructuración, organización y bases legales / Integración y relaciones con las instituciones.

C.- La autoorganización de la Comunidad: Las teorías no deterministas en el origen de su configuración / Cuando surge y en que condiciones / La auto-organización espontánea: La masa y la muta. Problemas de interacción y coordinación con las organizaciones estables e instituciones.

D.- El voluntariado segun las fases de la catastrofe. El voluntariado en la fase de prevención. Perfiles idóneos, organización, extracción social e interacción con las

instituciones y el resto de la sociedad. / El voluntariado en la catástrofe desencadenada.
/ El voluntariado en la fase de reconstrucción.

E.- La tutela de las organizaciones de voluntarios

F.- El futuro del voluntariado en la sociedad de servicios.

Las comunicaciones podran ser en español, francés o inglés, basadas en estudios empíricos reales o bien en el desarrollo de nuevas metodologías y formulaciones teóricas.

La discusión de la sesión se dirigirá en español. Las presentaciones hechas en francés o español deberán estar acompañadas de un resumen (aproximadamente 500 palabras) en ingles para facilitar participación de los Angloparlantes

Organizador y Coordinador de esta Sesión. Andrés García Gómez, Centro Europeo de Investigación Social (CEISE). Dirección General de Protección Civil. Madrid, España, **E-mail** : agarcia@procivil.mir.es

Session 10. Meet the Authors Session: An Introduction to European Perspectives to Crisis and Emergency Management . Presentation of 3 to 5 European authors who have published ground-breaking books in the management of crises, disasters and mass emergencies of all types during the past five years (1997-2002). The session will be conducted in English. Nominations are welcome. Copies of the books should be sent to the session organizer who in consultation with the Coordinating Committee of the D&SCRN will make the final selection. The authors whose books will be selected for final presentation will be expected to take part in the session will and will also be required to submit a summary of their books (about 500 words) in English and in either French or Spanish in order to broaden participation in the session.

Session organizer and coordinator: Nicholas Petropoulos, Director of Emergencies Research Center and Sociology Counselor of the Pedagogical Institute of Greece, Athens, Greece. E-mail: erc@otenet.gr

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News from Boris Porfiriev (May – September 2002)

International Conferences

1. *The second annual meeting of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI) of the Kyoto University on Integrated Disaster Risk Management: Megacity Vulnerability and Resilience. IIASA, Laxenburg, Austria, July 29-31, 2002. (See also D&SCRN Newsletter #9, 2002).*

The conference was attended by almost 80 people from a dozen countries of Europe, Asia and America. It involved a 'Turkish' first day with the presentations on the management of the latest earthquake disasters in Turkey and lessons learnt from these. Most of the presentations were by Turkish specialists. These were accompanied by a contribution of Dr. Louise Comfort from the University of Pittsburgh, who was directly involved in the field research of the Izmit disaster.

The second day covered the plenary presentations of Dr. Fouad Bendimerad, Chairman, Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI) on disasters and disaster management in large urban areas and Prof. Boris Porfiriev on contrast between vulnerability and resilience of the megacities and those in small towns in Russia. These were followed by interesting reports from Chinese colleagues on floods' impact on urban areas, and an intriguing presentation by Prof. O'Rourke from UK on the 9/11 implications for the New York city's infrastructure. During the same day the organizers also made an experiment by holding the so-called interactive sessions with the presentations organized as a combination of seminars and small discussion groups. Presentations were made by speakers from Algeria, India, France, Morocco, Philippines, USA and other nations. This way of discussion provided for broader coverage and a more focused and in-depth discourse of relevant issues.

The third day was devoted to the development of recommendations and future plans including organization of the next meeting in Japan in 2003.

2. *The Discussion and Training Meeting "Challenges Facing Modern Civil Society: The case of Switzerland (HEMOZI)", Horgen, Switzerland, 26-27 August 2002.*

The two-day meeting was organized by Strategic Leadership Training center led by Prof. Laurent Carrel with assistance of Credit Suisse. It involved some 80 local specialists and officials representing all areas of strategic decision-making and six international experts in the fields of policy making and crisis management. These included Boin from the Netherlands, Boyene from France, Dror from Izrael, Porfiriev from Russia, Sundelius from Sweden, Novak from Germany and Taylor from the USA. The participants organized small think tank ad hoc teams to discuss the key challenges facing the modern world and Switzerland using the so-called flow style method developed by Credit Suisse trainers. This was followed by brief presentations of the team leaders and a guest lecture of Prof. Yehezkel Dror contemplating a capacity to

govern in the modern world. These discussions resulted in the development of a set of recommendations for the near future action plan for the Swiss government.

Books

The book 'Crisis Management in Russia: Overcoming Institutional Rigidities and Economic Constraints' co-edited by Boris Porfiriev and Lina Svedin and announced in D&SCRN Newsletter Nos. 7-8, 2001, is now available from CRISMART (Forsvarshogskolan, Valhallavagen, 117, PO Box 278 05, SE-115 03 Stockholm). Those interested in obtaining may approach Series Editor Prof. Bengt Sundelius by his email address: Bengt.Sundelius@fhs.mil.se.

Research Projects

The team of researchers from the Strategic Center for Civil Protection Studies of the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Natural Disaster Response (EMERCOM) and Russian Academy of Sciences finished the first stage of interdisciplinary study *Strategic Risks of Russia*. (Principal investigator – Prof. Boris Porfiriev). The study involved the development of the methodology of the concept of strategic risk and setting priorities of strategic risks to the national security and sustainable development. The key findings expected to be published by the end of the year as a special issue of the Russian journal *Upravleniye Riskom* (Risk Management) published by Ankil Co.

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Activity Report of Prof. Murat Balamir, April-September 2002

I. The results of about 10-12 meetings of the National EQ Council over 2001-2002 were publicly expressed in the 100 page "National Strategy for Mitigation" report in April 2002, in which I actively took part. The contents are:

1. Preface: scope, purpose, the system for mitigation; 2. Information Substructure for EQ: improvement of the national seismic network and its management, hazard mapping and microzonation, EQ data banking; 3. Safer Settlements: national and regional policy, preparation of cities for EQ, urban risk management and preparation of contingency plans, the case of Istanbul; 4. Safety in Buildings: construction supervision of new buildings, problem of existing buildings, historical buildings, the unauthorised stock, need for retrofitting and its regulation, large infrastructure systems and public works; 5. Community Awareness and Training: organisation for public awareness, local groups, NGOs, awareness programs in schooling, training of public organisations and managers, private organisations, proficiency in construction professionals; 6. Resourcing for Mitigation: needs for resources, alternatives for resource generation, the Compulsory Building Insurance

system as a regular resource, resource management methods; 7. Mitigation Regulation: constitutional changes, organisational restructuring, laws concerning disasters/ development/ insurance/ professional bodies/ others; 8. Mitigation Research: earth sciences, building research, urban risks and applied research in planning, social science research, methods of organising and conducting research, research institutes and universities, resourcing research.

The Report was introduced by the Council to the Prime Minister, and the President. The Prime Minister requested its introduction to the Ministerial Board. This was not realised however, due to the loss of functionality of the Prime Minister for a long period and the decision for a general election in November the 3rd, which indefinitely postponed the formal move. Turkey now waits for a political willpower; EQs could also wait! Responses to the Report have in general been positive. Although critics claimed that there is nothing new in the report, in meetings/conferences arranged by the Chambers it was asserted that it constituted nothing shorter than a “technical manifesto”!

II. Most of my time goes at the moment to an overdue report to be submitted to an international research project supported by the Swiss Government and conducted by the ‘World Institute for Disaster Risk Management’ (DRM) with Fred Krimgold, as part of a wider international group. The purpose is to establish methods to incorporate earth studies findings in planning: “Microzonation for EQ Risk Mitigation” is the title. This report I wrote (about 100 pages) reviews the background of the conventional physical development system in Turkey, and changes that took place since 1999. In two months time, a second report will cover the local circumstances in the disaster region concerning current practice in planning and land-use management. This we have already surveyed in May 2002 with my students. I have initiated during these surveys a meeting of the local planning officers and other professionals at work in the disaster region, to discuss their current experiences and exchange ideas. The contents of the second report are:

1. Executive Summary: 1.1. Scope ;1.2. Findings and Conclusions; 2. Components of the Conventional System Concerning Physical Development, 2.1. Regulations Concerning Organisational Structure, 2.2. Direct Regulation of Physical Development, 2.3. Authorities Entitled to Monitor Development and their Prerogatives, 2.4. Indirect Control of Physical Development, 2.5. Regulations Concerning Real Property, 2.6. Regulation of Disaster Management; 3. Evaluation of the Conventional Disasters Policy in Turkey and its Improvement: 3.1. Deficiencies of the Conventional Planning Practice, 3.2. Problems of the Conventional Construction Control, 3.3. Findings and Proposals of the 1997-99 World Bank Research; 4. Changes Introduced in the System Since 1999: 4.1. Organisational Changes, 4.2. New Provisions (Decrees, Laws and Mandates), 4.3. Interactions between the Central and Local Authorities Since 1999, 4.4. Draft Laws on ‘Development’, ‘Disasters’, and ‘Compulsory Building Insurance’, 4.5. Conduct of Local Planning Since 1999 in the Disaster Region; 5. An Evaluation of Issues in View of the Purposes of the DRM Research: 5.1. Crucial Problems in the System, 5.2. Viable Changes to Improve the Macro Framework; 6. Appendices

III. A ten-page proposal covering measures for the impending EQ, made 8 months ago by the METU Disaster Research Center to the Greater Municipality of Istanbul has finally activated this administration. They have carried out a tender for research project and received proposals from universities. The research covers planning, engineering,

social science fields, and requires legal, financial and social solutions besides physical. Our proposal contained the initial ideas on the method of large-scale rehabilitation work. This is to take place at two levels: at the macro-framework, spatial risk analysis for the metropolitan system is to be organized, and secondly, immediate pockets of high risk areas are to be designated as action planning exercises where new types of enforcement and finances will take place. METU has signed a research agreement for 10 months.

IV. A further development here has been with the Prime Ministry Project Implementation Unit (PIU). The Turkish Government signed a loan agreement in 1999 with the World Bank to conduct a specific project entitled “Marmara EQ Emergency Reconstruction Project” (MEER). One of the subcomponents (the Land use Planning and Enforcement of Construction Codes) of this project involves the municipal capability development in 6 pilot settlements. This project was internationally tendered earlier this year and the short-listing results are about to be announced by next month. I have been assigned the task of Individual Consultant in this process by the PIU. The work was started last month with our visits to the pilot municipalities. I am confident there is much to contribute here. There is much that coincides here with the previous activities I described above. If sufficient evidence and positive exemplars could be provided in this process, more powerful representation for changing things in the country might be facilitated.

V. Still another research project that coincides in content with the other activities is now activated under the Greco-Turkish inter-governmental agreement. A comparative analysis of mitigation methodologies for Istanbul and Athens as cities under threat, with the intention of producing a manual for both city administrations will be complement the other efforts and provide an international perspective.

VI. The number of international meetings and conferences I could not refuse to attend has reached its highest levels this year in my agenda. Recent international meetings were:

- IIASA-Kyoto University Conference, 29-31 July, Laxenburg Vienna
- Columbia NY-Bosphorous Universities Meeting, 1 August, Istanbul
- Hazards 2002 Conference, 2-5 September in Antalya, Turkey
- Sustainable Rehabilitation of Istanbul Conference, 24-25 October, Istanbul
- Comparative Perspectives in Emergency Management, 11-14 November, Ankara.

VII. The other medium for proliferation has been academic activities. My post-graduate teaching in the City and Regional Planning program and running of intensive studio courses has lately gained momentum with 4 assistants now working in the disasters issues, 6-8 students carrying out collective research. During the past term we carried out a comprehensive survey of ‘what Turkey did’ since 1999. This required going through all written and documented material as well as interviewing people and administrations, and visiting the disaster area several times. One of the by-products has been an exhibition panel introducing ‘legal and organisational/ physical and economic/ research and intelligence/ media work’ in the visual context. This year we have taken up mitigation projects for Istanbul: macro-scale contingency planning, accompanied by exercises of neighborhood rehabilitation projects for smaller enclaves.

**From Capital Globalization Crisis, Underdevelopment and War
Complex Disaster to Global Self-Government (Abstract of Paper
submitted to the 36th IIS World Congress)**

The paper scrutinizes different meanings of all key title terms in order to propose signification appropriate for the demonstration of the causal link between segments of reality denoted by them. An intrinsic contradiction of global profit seeking by transnational corporate and financial capital is interpreted as a socially structured impediment to the satisfaction of basic human needs. Ensuing economic and social crisis precipitates protracted armed conflict over maintenance or change of dominant social relations of production and ownership. It produces and exacerbates mass emergency situations depriving great numbers of people and entire communities of the essential needs in all spheres of human existence, including natural habitat and life itself.

The paper focuses on the present complex socio-historical context of the hierarchical world system intra- and inter- state order restructuring, characterized by the violent clash of conflicting tendencies of regional and global hegemonic military and oligopolistic capital market domination on the one side, and local, national, regional, and world -wide participation of people in strategic decision-making and self-governing.

The main finding of the paper is that an eventual Third World War could not this time even temporarily "resolve" financial and depression crisis and create conditions for renewal of quantitative economic growth through destruction of "surplus" labour force and capital, because it would mean the nuclear annihilation of humanity. The means for the stable peace and sustainable human development are searched for in the active participation of all people affected in strategic decision-making. The aims of eradication of poverty and repression in the world society are sought through structural change of dominant economic production function from accumulation of capital to satisfaction of human needs and institutionalization of a self-governing and participative world society.

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War Complex Disaster Production without the Anesthetics of Moralizing Apologetics (A Brief Article)

The hypothesis that war as a complex disaster is being produced by dominant social groups in the attempt to get out of the systemic economic crisis of capital hyper-accumulation through destruction of apparently "surplus" work force and capital that can not be profitably employed (Vratusa (-Zunjic, V.), 1995; 2000) keeps on being tragically confirmed in the circumstances of falling stock markets and consumer and investor confidence, due to obviously expanding federal budget deficit and explosion of scandals concerning the manipulated reports of profits that concealed huge debts of big energy-trading, technology venture and other companies in US. The announcements of their speedy recovery are not being realized in spite of a massive infusion of government military spending and 11 successive drops in interest rates since January 2001 (Komp, L., 2002). In these conditions the ruling transnational corporate and financial oligarchy, concentrated in USA and the former colonial and neocolonial powers, economically organized in IMF, WB and WTO, and militarily organized in NATO, has made another step toward nuclear catastrophe.

Until recently, the U.S. leadership had at least made an effort to legitimize their interests of obtaining and maintaining the control of the world's resources by force, using the cover of lofty invocation of universal principles of human and minority rights, open society and democracy. Now, it has reached the point from which it even does not attempt to convince in the righteousness of its military campaign. It simply relies on the law of the stronger in the jungle and on the fear of both demonized Third and former Second World's victims and atomized masses in imperialist countries themselves, increasingly deprived of their Constitutional rights to free expression and coalition under the newly introduced "Patriotic Act" and similar Draconian laws.

The reason for this change in ruling oligarchy's conduct is its realization that it is practically impossible to convince anybody that there is in the world today any state government disposing of or "trying to acquire" in president Bush's words, the "weapons of mass destruction" greater than the US war-industrial complex itself. It alone, namely, spends 40% of the total world military expenditures including the militarization of outer space and manufacture of chemical, biological and other "unconventional" weapons of mass destruction. It first used the nuclear weapons against civilians in Japan, sprayed Agent Orange over Vietnam, dropped thousands of tons of projectiles "enriched" by depleted uranium in Iraq, Bosnia, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, and recently proclaimed the military doctrine institutionalizing its right to the first use of nuclear weapons against demonized "evil" states allegedly supporting terrorism. Their only blame is their opposition to foreign colonization and occupation.

The part of the mass media promotion of the new manner of conducting imperialist policies included The New York Times' front-page article "U.S. Exploring Baghdad Strike As Iraq Option" on July 29 2002. It contained explicit threats to attack, invade and overthrow a government in a foreign country. Only the feeling of absolute power to impose global economic and political dominance through new military technologies, could have induced the U.S. establishment to turn former covert operations of meddling into internal affairs of other states, contrary to the present international law, into widely publicized overt verbal terrorism threatening to turn into real aggression any day.

Even the most faithful ally of US administration, the British Blair government, warned that attack on Iraq would be illegal without the new resolution of the UN (Waugh, P., 2002). This caution of U.S. allies can be explained the most by their unwillingness to pay again, like during the 1991 Persian Gulf War the 80% of the \$60 billion military campaign bill, that they passed on at the time to the worldwide consumers through high oil prices. They fear that this time, while Afghanistan is still not "pacified" (Stratfor, 2002), ethnic Albanians keep on attacking non-Albanians and begin to fire on Peacekeepers in Kosovo (Kraja, G., 2002) and Palestine is still under brutal occupation, the war might spread to Saudi Arabia. This would cause the skyrocketing of oil prices that only the U.S. is prepared among the Western powers to withstand thanks to their Strategic Petroleum Reserves (Tyler, P. Stevenson. R., 2002)

This new "candidness" is accompanied by a demonstration of disrespect of the existing international law contained in the Charter of UN, Geneva Convention, the treaties on controlling nuclear weapons, banning the land mines and the establishment of the International Criminal Court and other attempts to control war. The financial, political and military oligarchy wants to retain the freedom to impose deadly economic sanctions and bomb industrial plants, water and energy infrastructure. Included are of course thousands of civilians with the depleted uranium coated shells that have lasting illness and genetic deformities causing after-effects, both among aggressing armies' soldiers (Fleming, N., Townsend M, 2002) and the bombed population.

These bombings are prepared by different kinds of "observing missions" or "inspections" manned by intelligence agents who were sending the coordinates of bombing sites to Pentagon planners. This was admitted in the case of US members of weapons' inspection in Iraq, in the New York Times on January 7, 1999. Fortunately, there were two honest officials within these teams who resigned, denouncing the economic blockade that already causes hundreds of deaths especially among children due to malnutrition and contaminated water, as well as denying that there existed a threat of Iraq developing Mass-destruction weapons (International Action Center, 2002)

Victims of threatened "preemptive" military attacks are as a rule located near the big oil reserves and other important geo-strategic resources and crossroads in the world. Their control thousands of miles away is assumed to

be the sphere of the US national interest, while all other nations are rebuked for their nationalism.

Survival of humanity depends on the organization of the global opposition to this ongoing crime against the peace and for the stopping and prevention of further war disaster production that aggravates the problems of ozone depletion and radioactive and toxic pollution of the planet.

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Activity Report of Eduardo F. Augusto Runte, Petrópolis, 1st of September 2002.

As part of my studies in order to present my monograph in June 2003, I was asked to produce a short paper on what sociology of disaster is all about. I wrote *Sociology of disaster: history, theoretical problems and professional perspectives*. This two page long paper will come out this month in SUBversão, a newspaper published by Centro Acadêmico de Ciências Sociais Darcy Ribeiro.

Largely based on Quarantelli's *Origins of the Research Committee 39* and *Disaster: An entry for an Italian dictionary of sociology*, written with Dennis Wenger, I tried to cover as much of the subject as I could, basically when it started, what it deals with and why it is an important research field. I hope the publication will stimulate other brazilian students, as well as professors, to research this field.

My readings have driven me to a question that I will try to answer in my next paper: What do biologists and engineers mean when they use the word disaster? The importance of this question rests on the fact that much of the material I find about the Rio de Janeiro oil spill in January 2000, which is my main case study, was written by or with the support of such professionals. For instance, one of the most complete reports I found about the event came out in February 2000 in the Engineers and Architects Council magazine. Literature suggestions on the subject are welcome.

Finally, I would like to inform that I have become a member of the NEADS/CDInfo – Núcleo de Educação e Desenvolvimento Sustentável, in Juiz de Fora. NEADS/CDInfo member sociologist Jorge N. Bazaga Jr. and I are going to launch an electronic magazine next month on Sustainable Development, Environmental policy, Risks and Disasters. Our web address is www.revistambiente.com.br, and contact can be made trough neads@iespana.es.

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**Biannual Congress of the International Institute of Sociology (IIS),
Beijing, China, July 7-11, 2003.**

The International Institute of Sociology (IIS) is holding its biannual Congress in Beijing, China next July 7-11 (2003). We have gotten agreement from them to organize a session on The Sociology of Disasters: Theory and Research. It is my intent for the most part to try and to get younger disaster researchers to participate because we think they would benefit most in the long run from such an involvement. However, we are open to suggestions for papers from senior disaster researchers.

As to possible topics, I am more interested in general coverage of topics and summaries rather than a report on a particular study (to give the Chinese a good idea of the range of things being studied around the world).

There is also the matter of getting funding for such a trip (the IIS never has any travel money for participants). If you think you might have the funding and an interest, let me know. It would be necessary for me to have at least a title from you by December 1 and even a short abstract (but that could be very general just as my title for the session is so general that any paper would fit one way or another). At any rate, let me know. We definitely have one session on the program; that would allow only for four papers. If we get another session then we could have up to eight papers. In other words, if there are many submissions and we have only one session, it will be necessary for me to be very selective in choosing papers for presentation.

There is a web site that the Chinese have put up for the Congress and there is an English language version. But you should be warned that often it is very difficult to get into and download.. The site is:
<http://www.iis2003beijing.com.cn>

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Editor's Note: Although the deadline for submission of abstracts has passed, Prof. Quarantelli informs me that he is still looking for discussants. Anyone attending the Beijing meeting who is interested to be a discussant in Prof. Quarantelli's session please contact him {NP}.

Subject: Trauma Conference Berlin 2003-Update

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Hereby we announce the **VIII. European Conference on Traumatic Stress (ECOTS) 2003**, which will be held in BERLIN, May 22 to May 25, 2003. European Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ESTSS), affiliated with ISTSS, invites you to enjoy a wide ranging scientific program, which offers the opportunity to enhance knowledge in the fields of extreme stress and psychotraumatology. All scientists and mental health professionals working with trauma, service personnel, NGO-officers, voluntary agencies and lawyers are warmly welcome.

You may reply this mail and ask for 1st. and 2nd. Announcement- mail in pdf-format (400 kB). You can also send your post address and order a package of post mail information. Or just visit our homepage and you will find all you need:

www.trauma-conference-berlin.de

which has been updated now with Second Announcement and Call for Papers. **Last update was December 10.**

If you wish to submit an abstract, please notice that deadline has been extended until January 06 for late comers

Abstract submission and registration can be done there on-line or, alternatively, abstract submission by e-mail and registration by fax now. **You will find Fax formula also in the attachment of this mail**

Please notice that for **Early Registration deadline will be February 28, 2003.** If you wish to subscribe membership in order to enjoy lower conference fees (70 € less), please notice, that you furthermore will save Membership- fees, which normally cost 65 € (20 € for low income countries) per year. ESTSS now offers a **reduced membership rate** of 45 € for the first and second year. This offer applies to Berlin conference participants only. All in all you would save $70 + 20 + 20 = 110$ €. You will find membership inscription on our homepage with a link to the ESTSS or directly under www.estss.org/form.htm

What you have to do: Only send back filled membership application form by fax or online (no payment now). Don't wait for confirmation from ESTSS, just go straight to online registration in <http://www.trauma-conference-berlin.de> and click the button for reduced member fees. A few days later you will receive membership confirmation by ESTSS.

If you run an own homepage, we would appreciate if you could make a hyperlink from your homepage to the ECOTS homepage of which the URL is: <http://www.trauma-conference-berlin.de>

It would be very kind of you if you would forward this E-mail to everybody who might be interested in it.

Thank you very much,

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Norbert F. Gurrus, Berlin Prof. Dr. Dr. Andreas Maercker, Zürich

Report from the 5th International LACDE Conference in Shanghai, China, October 15-18, 2002

Last October the Shanghai Municipal Civil Defense Office and the Mayor of Shanghai, Mr. Xu Kuangdi, hosted the 5th international LACDE [Local Authorities Confronting Disasters and Emergencies] Conference to discuss disaster and emergency preparedness and management.

The conference, sponsored by the World Bank and the Council of Europe, gathered hundreds of experienced government officials, representatives from NGOs as well as prominent scholars in the field of emergency management from all over the world. Among the goals of LACDE is that of promoting participation in these discussions from as many countries as possible, including the economically constrained developing countries, in order to strengthen cooperation and ties across the globe. It was thus of particular importance that representatives from several developing countries had been able to come to Shanghai in order to discuss emergency management, not only within the local authority vs central authorities frame, but also from a macro perspective that deals with structural development and resource management.

"Reducing Risks and Vulnerability through Sustainable Urban Development" was the overarching theme of the conference, addressing these issues for cities of all sizes. The introductory plenary session focused on new challenges for disaster planning in different settings ranging from Norwegian municipalities, Shanghai City, Serbia, and the United States [after the 9/11 events]. The conference was then organised in four workshops, mainly consisting of a series of brief 15-minute presentations followed by questions. In the first, *"Approaches for identifying, quantifying, and communicating risks"*, the speakers approached the issue of risk from different theoretical angles; economic, psychological and, perhaps the most challenging, cultural perspectives. The latter was proposed by Prof. Kirschenbaum, Israel Institute of Technology, who concluded that disaster management organisations lacked a cultural gender perspective, the reason why their input sometimes was in essence ineffective.

Workshop number two, *"Activities undertaken to promote risk reduction in cities"* was quite broad in scope, ranging from a discussion on public awareness to disasters and research findings on power outage management to an overview of Chinese policies on disease control, a proposal for disaster management reform in Algeria and a summary of pedagogical tools for training in crisis management. The link between these different themes, however, was the emphasis in promoting preparedness at all levels as a means of reducing risk for disasters.

The third workshop was labelled “*Strategies for overcoming obstacles to creating safer cities*” and presented several interesting speeches. Dr Borodzicz from University of Southampton (UK) made an interesting effort to culture relativise the concepts of ‘safety’ and ‘security’ as a starting point for discussions on disaster management, while Mrs Delica from Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (Thailand) advocated an increased grassroots-based disaster management planning, emphasising the role of local actors [victims] as crisis copers. This workshop ended with a presentation on the LACDE Safer City Award criteria, by one of the Chairpersons of the LACDE Research/Scientific Committee: Mrs Castenfors, Swedish National Defense Research Agency.

Finally, workshop number four focused on “*Rescue technologies for urban emergencies*” and featured two presentations : Dr Ritchey, Swedish National Defense Research Agency, proposed morphological analysis as a methodological tool for preparedness assessment, while Mr Lei, Chinese Disaster Recovery Association, gave an overview of the research on the Chinese emergency planning for the 2008 Olympic Games. This workshop was followed by a demonstration of the Shanghai disaster management preparedness and organisation, displaying a large scale exercise involving all emergency services on a exercise venue in the outskirts of the city.

Concluding the conference, a panel of some of the participating scholars, together with LACDE and host city representatives, were invited to expose their impressions of the conference. They all emphasised the importance of a forum such as this for local authorities, in order to think about risks and emergency planning at “small scale”, in spite of the differences in the size of “the local” (for example within the municipality of Shanghai live some 15 millions of people, almost twice the size of the Swedish population). The impressions about the 21 papers presented were positive, in spite of some disparity in scope of them. Also the questions raised in the workshops had been relevant. There was a call for the need of **more research** on these topics, as well as the continuity of this kind of **international encounters**, in order to promote learning from vicarious experience. The need for **developing explicit criteria** and **methodologies** for benchmarking cities in terms of their risk and crisis management regime was also addressed. Not least was it emphasised the importance of the conference’s integrated character enhancing **dialogue between research and practice**.

Closing up, the Shanghai Declaration of the 5th LACDE International Conference was approved and the LACDE commitment for organising the next international conference in 2004 was expressed. In sum, a very interesting conference, an significant number of participants, both speakers from the entire world as well as observers from the local host country. While no breaking news regarding emergency management were presented, it definitely reaffirmed the need and the interest for gathering and thinking about these issues, in order to improve emergency planning at local authority levels. The LACDE motto “*You are not alone!*” was reassured.

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