

First **WCDM-2008**
World Congress on
Disaster Management

October 21 - 24, 2008

Venue of the Congress

National Academy of Construction (NAC) Campus

Cyberabad, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India - 500 84



Disaster Management, Infrastructure and Control Society

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In association with



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World Congress on Disaster Management

PREAMBLE

In spite of the rapid strides registered in science and technology, human society is still vulnerable to natural as well as man-made disasters. Excessive exploitation of natural resources to meet the ever-increasing needs of the society is one principal cause of the disasters. Environmental degradation and concentration of population in a few urban segments also lead to enhanced impact of disasters. Understandably human society struggles to come to terms with such calamities.

Of late disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, floods, landslides, droughts and many other hazards have been occurring with alarming frequency. The super cyclone of 1999 killed over a 100 000 people in Orissa besides causing wide spread destruction. The December 2004 tsunami (Banda Aceh, Indonesia) killed more than 250 000 people spread over different countries, while the series of cyclones that devastated Coastal America, especially New Orleans (Dennis, Emilu, Katherina and Rita), rendered several people homeless. The disastrous earthquake of 7.6 magnitude that hit north western Himalayas on October 08, 2005 killed over 80 000 people, and exposed several to live without shelter in harsh winter. The Kolkata fire of January 2008 raged uncontrolled for nearly 5 days in a commercial building, causing losses of billions of rupees.

Global reaction to such high intensity disasters has emphasised the need for concerted and coordinated policies and plans. Considerable infrastructure and control systems were mobilised to mitigate the sufferings of mankind after every disaster. Such an attitude should lead to framing policies, initiating interventions, and collaboration and cooperation amongst all layers of society on a global scale. A holistic approach is required to focus the efforts of disaster management for the benefit of mankind.

Disaster Management, Infrastructure and Control Society (DMICS) is organising a four-day World Congress on Disaster Management in association with central and state government organisations, and NGOs. We look forward to an overwhelming response from all over the world for this event, expected to be another landmark in formulating disaster management policies and would involve disaster management specialists worldwide. The themes of the Congress include disasters identified by the High Power Committee of the UN. The Congress is planned from October 21-24, 2008 at the National Academy of Construction, Hyderabad 500 081, Andhra Pradesh, India.

The Congress intends to focus on the prevention and mitigation of disasters through international co-operation and local preparedness besides the development of infrastructure. Control systems to detect, warn and initiate steps to contain undesirable events and to trigger personnel volition and mobilisation are as essential as the infrastructure, planning, management and intervention policies which also form the themes of the Congress.

The Congress would involve professionals from all walks of life in order to bring together scientists, researchers, environmentalists, engineers, policy makers, administrators, industrialists, media, Government and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), local government institutions, academic bodies and others dealing with disaster related activities, with a view to focusing on the priority areas which need immediate attention.

OBJECTIVES

The Congress provides a common platform to discuss and plan disaster preventive measures, and to disseminate information to a wide section of society. Some of the aspects of primary focus are listed below:

1. Creating awareness among the vulnerable communities, particularly in the developing countries.
2. Dissemination of warnings to the first responders, especially to the people and the communities likely to be affected.
3. Involvement of communities in planning, organising and implementing local-level action plans through disaster taskforces in all the three, pre-, co- and post- disaster, stages.
4. To initiate developmental programmes in vulnerable areas to treat disaster mitigation as an essential component.
5. Formulating the best practices to deal with the problems that follow a disaster.
6. Incorporating accountability and transparency in the policies to be supported by legislative acts.
7. Preparation of and training in Disaster Management plans on area-specific and hazard-specific basis.
8. Sharing of experiences in implementation of policies and action plans of various countries in managing disasters.
9. To review the techniques of treating post-traumatic stress disorder syndrome (PTSD).
10. Planning of budgetary allocations at national and state government levels for pro-active measures to prevent major damages and losses.
11. Training and updating knowledge and skills required to handle various disasters.
12. Establishing well-equipped and modern Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs).
13. To assess the risk management visa-a-vis the insurance sector.
14. To appraise in preparing the communities to face disasters and appraise the roles of
 - media
 - armed forces
 - paramilitary forces
 - police
 - banking and finance institutions.
15. To create awareness among academic institutions, and capacity building of the youth in human resource development, relevant to disaster management practices.
16. To enlarge the pro-active role of corporate sectors following a disaster in medical, health, IT and industry related sectors.
17. To protect the Involvement of women and children in disaster prevention and preparedness.
18. To appraise welfare of the aged and differently abled persons.
19. To investigate social and economic effects of disasters.

THEMES OF THE WORLD CONGRESS

The themes of the World Congress focus on disaster management and social responsibility to spread awareness and involvement of all sections of the society.

I. WATER AND CLIMATE RELATED DISASTERS

Natural disasters strike unexpectedly and cannot be controlled, while others are brought about by avoidable or unconcerned attitudes and actions of people. The actions of 'greed' rather than 'need' bring about disasters of global concern. They are:

- TSUNAMIS
- FLOODS AND DRAINAGE PROBLEMS
- CYCLONES
- SNOW AVALANCHES
- TORNADOES AND HURRICANES
- HAILSTORMS
- DROUGHTS
- FAMINES
- HEAT AND COLD WAVES
- COASTAL EROSION



II. GEOLOGICAL DISASTERS



"Terra firma" is the term given to describe the earth, which occasionally 'shrugs' or 'shakes' disproving our faith in the 'firma' concept. It is necessary to understand and evaluate such instances to prepare preventive plans for any subsequent disasters using the current techniques, such as GIS and Remote Sensing. Some of the Geological Disasters are:

- EARTHQUAKES
- DAM COLLAPSES
- LANDSLIDES AND MUD FLOWS
- VOLCANOES

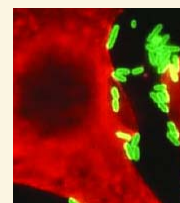
III. CHEMICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, INDUSTRIAL AND NUCLEAR DISASTERS

Improper maintenance and operational practices in industries result in disasters. Economic development due to industrialisation should not lead to environmental degradation and disasters. Such disasters are:

- NUCLEAR DISASTERS
- POLLUTION
- WILDLIFE DISASTERS
- DEFORESTATION
- CHEMICAL AND OILS SPILLS
- INDUSTRIAL DISASTERS
- WARS
- MINE DISASTERS



IV. BIOLOGICAL DISASTERS



Neglect of the maintenance of health and hygiene of food handlers and improper use of materials are known to lead to disasters, besides hostilities. Disasters of such a kind are as follows:

- BIOLOGICAL WARFARE
- PEST ATTACKS
- CATTLE EPIDEMICS
- BIOLOGICALLY MODIFIED MATERIALS

V. TERROR RELATED DISASTERS

Many countries experience various types of terrorism resulting in loss of life and property. This theme delves deep into the reasons and preventive management methodologies. Some such disasters are:



- BOMB BLASTS
- HIJACKING
- RIOTS
- INSURGENCY
- EXTORTION

VI. HEALTH DISASTERS

Medical disasters are preventable by right diagnosis, treatment and care by medical profession. The role of physicians, pharmacists as well as patients is significant in the prevention and elimination of such disasters, which are as follows:

- AIDS AND HEPATITIS-B
- INFECTIOUS DISEASES
- UNLICENSED AND ADULTERATED MEDICINES
- EPIDEMICS



VII. ACCIDENT RELATED DISASTERS

This theme includes a wide variety of cases that could be avoided, especially the human errors. For example:



- TRANSPORTATION
(Air, Road, Rail and Sea)
- OIL SPILLS
- EXPLOSIONS
- FIRES
- STRUCTURAL COLLAPSES

VIII. SOCIAL DISASTERS

Disasters have direct impact on the people by affecting the quality of life. Some social disasters are:

- POVERTY AND SUICIDES
- GENOCIDE
- POLITICAL AND SOCIAL UPHEAVALS
- REFUGEES
- ROBBERIES AND KIDNAPPINGS
- NEGLECT OF AGED AND DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS
- PILGRIMAGE DISASTERS



IX. FINANCIAL DISASTERS

Finances affect all sections of society. Improper investment and erratic stock markets play havoc with the life time savings of investors. Such disasters include:



- STOCK MARKET UPHEAVALS
- FISCAL, BANKING AND INVESTMENT SCAMS
- RUNAWAY INFLATION

CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers are invited on the themes listed above and the related themes for presentation at different sessions. Abstracts of the papers, not exceeding 500 words, along with postal address, e-mail, contact telephone and mobile details may be sent to the convener by post or e-mail. Authors from overseas may send their papers early to facilitate visa processing.

Submission of abstracts : April 30, 2008
Acceptance of abstracts : May 30, 2008
Submission of papers : August 10, 2008
Acceptance of papers : September 15, 2008

Full length papers prepared on Microsoft Word, Times New Roman, font size 12, along with a hard copy and CD RoM may be sent to the Convener by the due date. The Technical Committee may review the papers and edit them to suit the publication needs. Selected papers will be published in the final proceedings, planned to focus on different themes of the Congress.

ABOUT THE VENUE

The National Academy of Construction (NAC) looks after development of all types of construction resources, technologies and methodologies for fast track completion of projects and ensures quality of work, adherence to schedule and to have long lasting aesthetic construction. Established on 67 acres of prime land in Hyderabad, allotted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Academy runs on the basis of voluntary contributions of contractors fraternity of Andhra Pradesh and the complex houses eight institutions covering all sectors of the construction industry. The campus has a large auditorium, seminar halls, classrooms, hostel blocks, dormitory, and laboratory for construction material.

ABOUT THE CITY

Hyderabad is a bustling 400-year-old city with a teeming urban population of 7.5 million. Cosmopolitan and rich with varied cultures, the city presents an old world charm with beautiful monuments of memorable architecture built in the medieval, Moghul and colonial styles. The history of Hyderabad can be traced to the establishment of the Qutb Shahi dynasty. Hyderabad remained the capital city of the Nizams' domain until the old Hyderabad state merged into the Indian union in 1948. Hyderabad became the capital city once again with the formation of Andhra Pradesh State in 1956.


FOR CORRESPONDENCE

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