

The Education and Solidarity Key Lesson of TIEMS 18th Annual Conference 2011

Bucharest, Romania (7-10 June 2011)

DECLARATION

We as TIEMS family members reinforce our full commitment and support to provide a platform for knowledge and collaboration involving all stakeholders in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

We realize that the intensity and incidences of natural and human induced disasters are increasing due to rapid environmental changes including global climate change, while at the same time the use of vulnerable areas for settlement increases the risks. Such practices of unplanned urbanization and settlement have put our expanding cities and peripheral rural areas at high risk of calamities.

The disasters of varied nature have been leading to stressful life of the people living in vulnerable areas. While floods, landslides, fires, cyclones and epidemics have been hitting hard almost concurrently every year, the earthquakes and tsunami in Japan, New Zealand, Haiti – the floods of Pakistan, China, Europe, the tornado in the U.S.A. and a number of other disasters in various parts of the world have resulted in the death of many thousands of people and caused enormous damage to physical property costing billions of dollars. Needless to mention, the hardest hit by such disasters in the developing countries are mainly the poor and people residing on the marginal lands. As the countries have to prioritize their actions to uplift the living conditions of the poor, investments in disaster risk reduction activities always falls behind other development initiatives. Thus they end up with very little budget in disaster preparedness activities compared to huge amount of resources that have to be spent during post-disaster relief and recovery. It should be highlighted that preventative measures dramatically minimize the effects of multiple hazards upon communities.

Therefore, keeping in view of the above situation, we, the organizer and delegates of 18th Annual Conference of TIEMS agree unanimously and declare as following:

1. There is a need of an organization like TIEMS, which is specialized in knowledge management, to share knowledge, exchanging experiences through the series of workshops and annual conferences in various parts of the world. Hence, TIEMS aspires to helping nations to establish and encourage proactive organizations and backstop technology.
2. Disaster related events, forecasts and other matters of common concerns should be exchangeable. Early warning and evacuation mechanisms have to be strengthened through the collaborative works amongst all stakeholders, including the neighboring countries and remote donors.
3. Regional level, cross-country hazard maps would be mutually beneficial. Similarly, informative booklets and audiovisuals could be prepared and publicized among the member

nations. In addition, the best practices of regional countries should also be compiled, printed and shared.

4. Joint simulation exercises have to be carried out occasionally. Joint collaborative teams should be encouraged to be mobilized at the time of major disasters in any affected countries.
5. Communities have their own ways of coping strategies to successfully deal with disasters. Hence, the cross-fertilization of such Innovative Knowledge (IKs) and blending them with modern scientific knowledge would upgrade the community's capacity of disaster mitigation and preparedness in a sustainable and cost effective manner. Such IKs should be piloted in each other countries and results shared.
6. Mutual understanding should develop in formulating regional and international level plans to address the disaster risk reduction activities of common concern.
7. The programs like Tsunami Learning Project should be designed, regionally funded and implemented to address the mitigation and preparedness activities.
8. The issues of climate change needs to be addressed in due time with sufficient resource allocation.
9. That TIEMS encourages the coordination NGO activity to maximize resource potential.
10. All governments should conscientiously work and contribute towards attaining the vision, mission and objectives of Millennium Development Goals and Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) by adopting all possible measures.
11. Under the Human Resource Development activities, courses in disaster management need to be developed in an integrated way. Hence, TIEMS platform should be used to influence all member nations to introduce disaster risk reduction courses at appropriate levels in the schools and higher educations.
12. The attention is needed to bring necessary Policy reform, development and enhancement of prevailing Act and Regulations with emphasis on preparedness activities.
13. Finally, we TIEMS family members commit to dedicate ourselves to address the issues of DRR from our part of capacities. Similarly, this platform urges the respective governments to prioritize the DRR by paying due attention and allocating sufficient resources towards the reduction of natural and human induced disasters particularly by empowering the local communities to cope with all possible hazards.

Done and adopted on 10 June 2011 at Hotel Intercontinental, Bucharest, Romania