



TIEMS President's 2012 Annual Report

Introduction

Some of the disaster headlines which “hit” us in 2011 were¹:

- **Brisbane flood level reach peak – January**
- **Thousands in Brazil flooding - January**
- **Deadly quake strikes New Zealand - February**
- **Massive quake, tsunami hit Japan - March**
- **Meltdown alert at Japan reactor - March**
- **Radioactive water found outside plant (Japan) – March**
- **Water radiation millions of times over limit (Japan) – April**
- **Japan disaster now on Chernobyl level – April**
- **Death toll from storms in South (Alabama) nears 300 – April**
- **89 killed by Missouri tornado - May**
- **E. coli infections kill 6, sicken hundreds (Germany) - May**
- **Ash cloud grounds Australian flights – June**
- **Cruise ship sinks with 182 onboard (Russia) – July**
- **77 killed in terrorist attack in Oslo – July**
- **UN to declare famine in Somalia – July**
- **Bullet train derails, cars fall off bridge (China) – July**
- **Landslides leave 32 dead, dozens injured (South Korea) – July**
- **Huge storm tears across New York – August**
- **Airliner with ice hockey team in fatal crash (Russia) – September**
- **Flood kills more than 200 in Pakistan – September**
- **Thai flooding threatens capital – October**
- **7.2 quake strikes eastern Turkey – October**
- **Turkish earthquake topples hotel – November**
- **At least 89 died in fire in Calcutta hospital fire - December**
- **Philippines storm kills hundred – December**
- **Floods, more than 1000 remains missing (Philippines) - December**

Almost every day last year, disasters happened somewhere in the world, with devastating consequences and suffering for those hit. This shows that we have to increase our global cooperation in emergency and disaster management and our efforts on preparedness, but also assure that we are always well prepared and ready to help those in need of help and relief.

¹ World, Disasters, 2011 Timeline

The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS)

TIEMS role in emergency and disaster management and disaster response is expressed by TIEMS mission statement:

TIEMS is a Global Forum for Education, Certification and Policy in Emergency and Disaster Management and is dedicated to developing and bringing the benefits of modern emergency management tools and techniques and best practice to society for a safer world, through exchanging information of the use of innovative methods, technologies and operations to improve society's ability to avoid mitigate, respond to and recover from natural and technological disasters.

TIEMS provides a platform for all stakeholders within the global emergency and disaster management community to meet and network, learn about technologies and operational methods, and exchange experience on best practice, and influence policy makers worldwide to improve global cooperation and establish global standards within emergency and disaster management.

To achieve above mission, TIEMS focal points are:

- *Raising awareness on technical solutions from computers, communication, information technology and social sciences in providing emergency and disaster managers with helpful decision support*
- *Providing a forum for policy guidance to governmental bodies concerning the management of emergencies and disasters*
- *Bringing the modern tools of emergency and disaster management into market place to help provide high quality emergency and disaster management practices around the world*
- *Addressing emergency and disaster management in the context of its implications to the environment and the society*
- *Monitoring the evolution of the best practices in emergency and disaster management throughout the world*
- *Making a multi-disciplinary "all-hazards approach" to tackling emergencies*
- *Bringing together stake-holders such as governmental, industrial, academic, and volunteer organizations and other expert individuals in emergency and disaster management*
- *Raising awareness on research and future developments of technologies from various diverse fields such as simulation, operations research, knowledge based systems, decision support systems, information systems, psychology and other behavioral sciences*
- *Propose, initiate and participate in relevant research activities and contribute to global standards within emergency and disaster management*
- *Contribute to improve the education of emergency and disaster managers and initiate certification of emergency and disaster managers and equipment and methods*
- *Help and stimulate students to increase the global interest for emergency and disaster management studies and increase the common knowledge in society on risk management, potential hazards and means and remedies to avoid or reduce the impact and for a speedy recovery from emergencies and disasters*

TIEMS Achievements in 2011

I am pleased to report the following main achievements for TIEMS in 2011:

- *TIEMS had steady progress in 2011 and is getting very well known world wide*
- *TIEMS Board of Directors agreed an ambitious 5 year Plan for TIEMS*
- *TIEMS arranged an excellent annual conference in Bucharest, Romania in June 2011*
- *TIEMS Rohrmann Student Foundation was financially supported for two more years*
- *TIEMS workshops in Ales – Nimes in France, Espoo in Finland and Suleymaniyah in Iraq were all very successful*
- *TIEMS China Chapter 2nd annual conference in Shanghai was another excellent Chinese event*
- *TIEMS first training course was arranged in Shanghai, China in October 2011*
- *TIEMS issued two newsletters in 2011*
- *TIEMS Secretariat got operational and added value to TIEMS operation and development in 2011*
- *TIEMS new elected board members and officers in Bucharest added value to TIEMS further development*
- *TIEMS chapters were approved in Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Iraq and Finland*
- *TIEMS and IAEM agreed a free reciprocal membership*
- *Partnership of networks were established with IAEM and Global Risk Forum Davos*
- *TIEMS established a research project service for TIEMS members*
- *TIEMS International Education, Training and Certification Program was launched*
- *Agreements to arrange TIEMS annual conference 2012 in Erbil, Iraq in September 2012, with a training workshop prior to the annual event*
- *Agreements to arrange a TIEMS training course in Romania in 2012*
- *Agreements to arrange a TIEMS workshop in Tokyo in May 2012 where TIEMS Japan Chapter will be launched*
- *Agreements to arrange a TIEMS workshop in Moscow in August 2012 on “Earthquake Loss Estimation in Emergency Mode”*
- *Agreements to arrange a Workshop in Rome in 2012 on Emergency Management for Critical Infrastructures Crises, and there invite for establishing a TIEMS Italy Chapter*
- *Agreements to arrange a TIEMS conference in Oslo in October 2012 on "Space Weather and Challenges for Modern Society"*
- *Agreements to establish new types of TIEMS membership in 2012*
- *Agreements of developing a new TIEMS web-site*

The main achievements for TIEMS in 2011 are detailed in the following.

TIEMS International Network of Experts

The beauty of TIEMS is the international network of experts and chapters in different countries and regions worldwide. Such a network is very valuable for exchanging expertise and experience, and can ensure that the best solutions for emergency and disaster management would be used in the best interest of a safer world.

There is a growing interest in TIEMS worldwide and TIEMS is reaching out to all stakeholder groups in emergency and disaster management in more geographical areas of the world. Since emergency and disaster management and disaster response is the responsibility of the authorities, TIEMS seeks cooperation with the authorities in all our initiatives and arrangements, and our global and local events are supported by the local authorities wherever the events are arranged.

TIEMS objective is to create a meeting place for all stakeholders in emergency and disaster management for an open dialogue and exchange of experience and expertise. This is achieved through moving our annual conference around the world, and arranging local workshops annually in TIEMS chapter areas in cooperation with the authorities, industry and others with an interest in emergency and disaster management. This way TIEMS international network increases and opens up an international dialogue also for exchange of important local knowledge in emergency and disaster management.

It is therefore of importance that TIEMS offers its members attractive benefits, summed up here for TIEMS members as of 2012.

TIEMS Member Benefits

- ✓ *Belonging to a worldwide network of experts and volunteers in emergency and disaster management, providing the opportunity for networking and collaboration*
- ✓ *Access to TIEMS conferences and workshops worldwide at preferential rates*
- ✓ *Access to information on global emergency and disaster management trends and news through TIEMS announcements and newsletters*
- ✓ *Access to professional international emergency and disaster management journals at preferential rates*
- ✓ *Access to TIEMS electronic library with all papers from TIEMS conferences from 1994 – to present*
- ✓ *Access to TIEMS International Education and Training Programs in Emergency and Disaster Management*
- ✓ *Opportunity to become certified in Qualifications in International Emergency and Disaster Management – TIEMS QIEDM Certification*
- ✓ *Opportunity to participate in research and development projects initiated by TIEMS R&D service or its members*
- ✓ *Access to TIEMS Young Scientist Network and its assistance to young scientists*
- ✓ *Access to TIEMS Student Support Program*
- ✓ *Ability to influence TIEMS global work for a safer world*
- ✓ *Become part of TIEMS Management as an elected TIEMS Director or appointed TIEMS Officer in TIEMS International or in TIEMS Chapters*

TIEMS 5 Year Plan

Another aspect of importance to members is to know what will become of TIEMS in the future. It was therefore with great expectations for the future that TIEMS Board of Directors approved the TIEMS 5 Year Plan for the period 2012 – 2016 at the end of 2011. It is a very ambitious plan, but it is my belief that it is a realistic plan seen in relation to the needs for an organization like TIEMS, when looking at the latest frequency and magnitude of disasters worldwide. The whole overview plan with concrete goals is reported below.

TIEMS 5 Year Plan 2012 – 2016

1. **MEMBERS:**

Personal: 500 (2011)		6500 (2016)
Institutional: 0 (2011)		400 (2016)
Membership Categories:	Regions:	(I) (D)
International (I)		
▪ Regular	: 1976	Europe : 1100 200
▪ Professional	: 1350	Africa : 100 100
▪ Certified Professional	: 675	Asia : 1900 1500
▪ Student	: 500	Au-New-O : 550
▪ Institutional:	: 400	LAC : 200 200
Domestic (D)		N. America: 600
▪ Domestic (Chapter locals)	: 2000	

2. **CHAPTERS:**

8 (2011)		30 (2016)
<i>Target countries:</i>		
Japan, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Philippines, Africa, LAC, France, North America, Russia, Germany, Pakistan, Turkey, and others		
<i>Minimum per Region:</i>		
Asia: 9, Europe: 7, Africa: 5, LAC: 5, North America: 2, Aus-New-O: 2		

3. **EVENTS per year:** 4 (2011) 24 (2016)

4. **EXHIBITORS:** 10 (2011) 100 (2016)

5. **NETWORK addresses:** 29 000 (2011) 100 000 (2016)

6. **PAPER REVIEWERS:** 10 (2011) 50 (2016)

7. **FINANCES:**

	Securing sufficient finances for:
▪ Secretariat	
▪ TIEMS Rohrmann Student Scholarship Fund	
▪ Research plan with global projects	

- International Education Program
 - Technically updated to state-of-the-art
 - Travelling and Work compensation funds
8. **RESEARCH service for members:** Global research plan with key global projects funded
9. **INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM:** Education Program operational:
- Chapter Training at every TIEMS Event
 - QIEDM Certification operational in most chapters
10. **NEWSLETTER:** Issued quarterly every year
11. **TECHNICAL:** State-of-the-art technology for website, conference management, library, member register, etc.
12. **PARTNERSHIP:** With UN – system organizations, many governments and authorities, EDM industry, international organizations and institutions, and other relevant bodies
13. **TIEMS COUNCIL/ADVOCACY FORUM:** Established with at least 2 key officials from chapter countries, representatives from UN organizations and international organizations and institutions.
14. **TIEMS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE:** Extended with members from all regions of the world, and with an active participation in the development of TIEMS technical programs for its events

EXPLANATORY COMMENTS TO THE 5 YEAR PLAN:

The 5 year plan assumes that a new membership type and new categories are established. The International type membership opens up for all with interest in emergency and disaster management to become member of TIEMS, and this is as a regular member. The following new categories are

established; professional member (as today's regular member), and certified professional member (professional member who has been certified in TIEMS International Education Program). A new type membership, Domestic, is a local or chapter member in low income countries, who may not speak English and find himself/herself more comfortable in a chapter membership. This type membership has no voting rights at TIEMS General Annual Meeting.

Chapter training is TIEMS own training program at TIEMS events, comprising of local trainers/instructors and international instructors in a two day training course prior to or after a TIEMS event, fulfilling the needs of the chapter members.

QIEDM stands for TIEMS Certification of Professional TIEMS members as Qualified in International Emergency and Disaster Management. This program is expected established in cooperation with universities, training institutions and certifying authorities worldwide.

TIEMS 2011 Annual Conference in Bucharest, Romania

TIEMS 18th Annual Conference took place at hotel Intercontinental in Bucharest, Romania 7th – 10th June 2012. It was another important and excellent TIEMS event, gathering some 150 participants from 25 countries. The below declaration was concluded at the end of the conference.

TIEMS Bucharest 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

TIEMS 2011 Award Winners

During the annual conference the following awards were granted:

- ***TIEMS AWARD 2011 FOR BEST PRACTICE PAPER***

Vasile Meita, Daniela Dobre, Emil-Sever Georgescu, Cristian Paul Stamatiade, Luminita Vilceanu, all Romania

- ***TIEMS AWARD 2011 FOR BEST RESEARCH PAPER***

Janet Dilling and Malaika Samples, USA

- ***TIEMS AWARD 2011 FOR BEST ROMANIAN PAPER***

I.-G. Craifaleanu, D. Lungu, R. Vacareanu, O. Anicai, A. Aldea and C. Arion, all Romania

The different awards were granted 100 USD from TIEMS Korea Chapter.

- ***TIEMS AWARDS 2011 FOR BEST STUDENT PAPER***

Andrea Dutu, Romania, Estuning Tyas Wulan Mei, Indonesia, Alena Pejcochova, Czech Republic and Melissa Peach, USA

The student winners were granted 100 USD each from TIEMS China Chapter.

- ***THE 2011 TIEMS ROHRMANN STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND AWARDS***

Alena Pejcochova, Czech Republic and Melissa Peach, USA

The winners were financially supported by TIEMS Rohrmann Student Scholarship Fund to be able to participate for free at the annual conference.

- ***TIEMS President's Outstanding Achievement Award for 2010***

Dr. Zhang Ji (Jack), China

This was a new award instituted by TIEMS President for acknowledging outstanding achievements for TIEMS in the past year.

TIEMS Rohrmann Student Scholarship Fund

During the closing ceremony of TIEMS Annual Conference 2011, Bernd Rohrmann announced that he would donate further financial means to TIEMS Rohrmann Student Scholarship Fund, so that the Fund will be able to support two students for the coming two annual conferences in TIEMS in 2012 and 2013.

He encouraged other donors to also donate financial means to be able to both increase the support of students and also continue with this support for the future.

TIEMS Workshops and Regional Annual Conferences in 2011

TIEMS operates as a decentralized organization where the momentum of the organization comes from chapter activity, according to the slogan “Think Globally and Act Locally”. The central organization with its secretariat in Brussels is supporting and stimulating the chapters to establish chapter activity and arrange at least a workshop or regional annual conference every year.

During 2011, two TIEMS workshops and one regional annual conference were arranged:

1. Ales – Nimes, France 2011
2. Suleymaniyah, Iraq 2011
3. TIEMS China Chapter 2nd Annual Conference

Ales – Nimes, France 2011

TIEMS workshop in Nimes – Ales was arranged in cooperation with Ecole Des Mines in Nimes – Ales 22nd – 23rd June 2011, and some 100 participants from 13 countries were present. The following Declaration shows the results of the workshop.

TIEMS Ales – Nimes Declaration

We as TIEMS members and partners emphasize our full dedication and support to work in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) involving all disaster management stakeholders. It is evident that natural and human induced disasters are an increasing trend due to global warming, environmental degradation, rapid and unplanned urbanization and industrialization all over the world.

The earthquakes and tsunami in Haiti, New Zealand, Japan – the floods in Pakistan, China and Europe, the tornado in the U.S.A. and a number of other disasters in various parts of the world have caused the loss of thousands of human lives and massive damage to physical property worth billions of dollars. It is an established fact that preparedness is the key to minimize the effects of multiple hazards. With this in view, we, the organizers and participants of TIEMS Ales-Nimes workshop 2011, agree unanimously and declare as following:

- 1. TIEMS, as a dedicated organization in sharing knowledge, exchanging experiences and networking through the workshops and annual conferences in different parts of the world, intends to help nations establish and encourage organizations working for DRR.*
- 2. The best practices, hazard maps and other hardware and software information among the countries with common concern and disasters should be compiled, printed and shared. Similarly, early warning, simulation exercises and evacuation methods must be strengthened through the collaborative works amongst all stakeholders, including the neighbouring countries as disaster related events, forecasts and other matters are exchangeable. Likewise, mutual understanding should be developed in formulating regional and international level plans to address disaster risk reduction activities of general interest.*

3. *Indigenous knowledge in most countries entails its own strategies to successfully cope with disasters. Hence, transformation of such indigenous knowledge and blending them with modern scientific knowledge would certainly enhance the community's capacity for disaster mitigation and preparedness in a sustainable and cost effective manner.*
4. *Nowadays, global warming is a very big problem. Therefore, the problem of global warming focusing on the issues of climate change needs to be addressed before it is too late.*
5. *TIEMS urges all governments to work and contribute towards attaining the vision, mission and goals of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) by adopting all possible measures and allocating adequate resources.*
6. *TIEMS platform should be used to influence all member nations to introduce and or develop disaster risk reduction courses at appropriate levels in the schools and in higher education.*
7. *This is high time to move from policy to action. Therefore, attention is needed to bring necessary policy reform, development and enhancement of prevailing Acts and Regulations with emphasis on preparedness activities.*
8. *In conclusion, TIEMS requests the concerned governments to prioritize the DRR by allocating sufficient funds by mainstreaming NGOs, INGOs and social organizations to deal with the disasters and address the needs and aspirations of disaster victims.*

Done and adopted on 23 June 2011 at Nimes, France

Suleymaniyah, Iraq 2011

TIEMS 1st workshop in Iraq Chapter took place in Suleymaniyah, Iraq, 26 – 27th October 2011 with 315 participants from 15 countries. Also bi-lateral assistance organizations to Iraq and international NGO's were well represented, like, Doctors without Borders Program in Iraq, AMAR International Charitable Foundation Program in Iraq, Trauma Care Foundation Program in Kurdistan, World Health Organization, International Medical Corps Program in Iraq, Act Alliance through Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, International Committee of the Red Cross program in Iraq and other organizations.

The workshop was opened with welcome speeches from Iraq Vice Minister of Health, Dr Esam Namik, Kurdistan Minister of Health, Dr Tahir Hawrami, DG of Department of Specialized Services (MOSS), Dr Mohammed Shuaib and Sulaymaniyah HD Dr Rekaut Hama Rasheed.

Dr Shakir Katea from MOSS presented an Update of Emergency Medical Services in Iraq and TIEMS President presented TIEMS Vision, Status and Future Plans.

At the closing of the workshop the following Declaration was approved by the participants:

TIEMS Suleymaniyah Declaration

1. The Iraqi Ministry Of Health [MOH] supports the organizing and hosting of the TIEMS 20th conference in 2013 in Iraq.
2. That there should be Continuing Emphasis and coordination on the role of national and International NGOs and UN agencies working in Iraq addressing training of EMS [Emergency Management Services] first responders.
3. That there should be continued support for Capacity building of EMS, doctors, paramedics and nurses.
4. That there should be continued support and collaboration in providing EMS organizations, doctors, paramedics and nurses with state of art technology and resources for front line response
5. There should be encouragement for the procurement and importing of equipped ambulances with adequate equipment including ventilators & specific stretchers according to different geographical areas and trained paramedics needs.
6. To encourage the higher education medical students to prepare research and analysis about pre-hospital emergency medical services.
7. To encourage coordination & collaboration between MOH, MOI, MOD, & other bodies to share their information relating to disaster & emergency management.
8. To gain benefit of NGO's experience & capacity for developing rehabilitation training and education strategies for emergencies proposed by MOSS of the MOH.
9. Enhance effective early warnings by the implementation and the development of comprehensive and efficient communication systems.
10. To develop Media assistance to educate communities about disaster risk reduction skills
11. To raise the importance for psychological support for disaster victims and front line responders.
12. To encourage permissions and acceptance to train and allow paramedics in using drugs and life support intervention (intubation & chest tube) in pre-hospital EM services.
13. To promote and advocate for the Planning and construction of trauma centers within each governorate in Iraq.
14. To emphasize and promote the standards that all medical students should learn ATLS, ACLS, ALS & BLS before graduating and prior to work placements.
15. To encourage the participation of Iraqi Medics & non medical Emergency Management within the TIEMS network.
16. That there should be invitation and encouragement for participation and deliberate dialogue with all Government Departments and Local Administrations to be inclusive within strategic planning and formation of Policy.

Upon the successful conclusion of the 1st international workshop on Updates in Disaster and Emergency Management in Sulaymaniyah, it is proposed to continue the enthusiasm and momentum of interest and support by holding an internal follow up meeting within two months to commence and initiate the instigation of this declaration.

The workshop ended with a guided tour to the Halabjah Memorial, giving all participants a briefing of what happened in Halabjah in 1988 when Saddam Hussein regime's gas attacked the Kurdish population. The Halabja poison gas attack also known as Halabja massacre or Bloody Friday, was a genocidal massacre against the Kurdish people that took place on March 16, 1988, during the closing days of the Iran–Iraq War, when chemical weapons were used by the Iraqi government forces in the Kurdish town of Halabjah in Iraqi Kurdistan. The attack killed between 3,200 and 5,000 people, and injured around 7,000 to 10,000 more, most of them civilians; thousands more died of complications, diseases, and birth defects in the years after the attack. The incident, which has been officially defined as an act of genocide against the Kurdish people in Iraq, was and still remains the largest chemical weapons attack directed against a civilian-populated area in history.

TIEMS China Chapter 2nd Annual Conference and Training Course

The 2nd Annual TIEMS China Chapter Conference was held in conjunction with the 2011 International Forum on Metropolitan Public Safety, in Shanghai, China on October 13th and 14th. Once again, practitioners and professionals in the Emergency Management and Disaster Management fields were able to discuss related topics and learn from many expert speakers and presenters. There were more than 200 participants. The conference was opened by special guest, Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa; the UN OCHA's representative for the Asia Region on Preparedness and Response.

A training course for Chinese emergency and disaster management personnel was arranged two days prior to the annual conference, 11th and 12th October in Shanghai. The training course provided some great opportunities for networking and colleagues to meet and discuss all things related to Emergency Management and Disaster Management. 84 participants from 8 provinces and 5 ministries, industry and others were offered the following program:

Training Course Program

Moderator: Jack Zhang,

TIEMS Director and TIEMS China Chapter Secretary

Day 1 (8 hours)

- ***“Coordination and Command in SAR Operations in Earthquakes”***
Qu Guosheng, TIEMS Vice President
(in Chinese)
- ***“Worldwide Activities and Organizations in Emergency and Disaster Management and Crisis Response. An introduction and Overview”***
K. Harald Drager, TIEMS President
(in English with Chinese translation)
- ***“Global Concepts in Emergency Management”***
James C. Hagen, TIEMS Regional Director for North America
(in English with Chinese translation)

Day 2 (8 hours)

- ***“Practice and Theory in Chinese Emergency Management”***
Shan Chunchang, TIEMS China Chapter President
(in Chinese)
- ***“Global Concepts in Emergency Management – Continuous”***
James H. Hagen, TIEMS Regional Director for North America
(in English with Chinese translation)
- ***“Theory and Practice in Emergency Planning”***
Liu Tieming, TIEMS China Chapter Vice President
(in Chinese)

All attendees at the Training Course received a signed certificate of attendance at course completion. This was the first training course provided by TIEMS, and based on this experience the TIEMS International Education, Training and Education Program will be further developed.

TIEMS Newsletters in 2011

TIEMS issued two newsletter editions in 2011:

- Issue no 13: May 2011

This issue covered articles on, TIEMS 2011 annual conference and its sponsors, the workshop in Ales – Nimes, international recognition for Australian academics and researchers, presentation of Pacific Disaster Center, presentation of the International Ocean Institute, presentation of AUAP, presentation of MENA Chapter future plans, news from TIEMS India partner, 5th Australasian natural hazards management conference, conference on information sharing for emergency response & recovery and a presentation of TIEMS Secretariat.

- Issue no 14: November 2011

This issue covered articles on, Managing Social Communications in Society, The development of crisis management in Romania, Emergency Surgery Workshop Davos 2011: Surgery During Disaster Relief, Titu Maiorescu University, Bucharest, Romania: Master in disaster medicine, START-TRANS: Managing Risk in Transport Networks, Report from TIEMS first Workshop in Iraq, TIEMS Young Scientists Network (YSN), The DCEM 2011 workshop as the first practical step toward the expansion of TIEMS activities in Finland, TIEMS China Chapter Training in Emergency Management, 2nd Annual TIEMS China Chapter Conference & the 2011 International Forum on Metropolitan Public Safety, Research Information Request, What Constitutes a Good Business Continuity Management (BCM) Program?, Briefing Note about an International Workshop on Effects of Climate Change in Nepal and Beyond, 10th Anniversary National Security Australia 2012.

All newsletters can be downloaded from TIEMS web-site at:

<http://www.tiems.info/about-tiems/tiems-newsletter.html>

Partnership of Networks

Reaching out with the messages and information from within TIEMS to the worldwide emergency and disaster management community is important for the development and growth of TIEMS. Also receiving feed-back on what we are doing and getting valuable input to further development is a must for the quality of the organization.

TIEMS has developed, over time, a database with e-mails to approx 5000 experts worldwide, where news and information are distributed to. However, in order to reach a larger audience,

TIEMS has made partnership agreements of networks with complimentary organizations. At present we have such agreements with:

- IAEM
- Global Risk Forum – Davos

Through these agreements information and news from TIEMS reach a worldwide network of approx 30 000 experts.

According to this agreement TIEMS and our partners intend to endorse each other's activities and events through:

- The distribution of announcements via each organisation's own channels (e.g. newsletter, website, email distribution).
- Sharing relevant information on each other's activities and events with their own networks.
- Listing the other organisation (including name and logo) as collaborating organisation for specific events. However, this should never happen without prior consultation and agreement by the other organisation.

TIEMS will establish more such agreements in the coming years.

TIEMS Secretariat in Brussels

TIEMS Secretariat in Brussels, Belgium started its operation for TIEMS 1st November 2010, and 2011 was the first full year of operation of the secretariat. During 2011 most administrative TIEMS activities have been transferred to the secretariat and the board has therefore more time to concentrate on the long term planning of the development of TIEMS. TIEMS Vision 2011 and TIEMS 5 Year Plan for the period 2012 – 2016 are results of TIEMS board long term planning. The secretariat office can be found at the SQUARIS company with the following address and phone, fax and e-mails:

TIEMS Secretariat

Rue Des Deux Eglises 39, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2286 8038

Fax: +32 2286 8039

E-mail: mc.bonnamour@squaris.com or r.miskuf@squaris.com

This was a major achievement for TIEMS; TIEMS is now developing as a more professional organization and I trust TIEMS members and those interested in TIEMS and our activities have notice the difference in 2011.

TIEMS New Chapters

The following TIEMS Chapters were approved by TIEMS Board in 2011:

- Middle East and North Africa – MENA Chapter
 - ✓ Contact persons: Dr Ayman Fadil and Dr. Naill Momani at King Abdul Aziz University in Saudi Arabia
- Finland Chapter
 - ✓ Contact persons: Adrian Boukalov and Dr Lauri Halme of NIMCT (Nordic International Multidisciplinary Center of Technology and Training), Finland
- Iraq Chapter
 - ✓ Contact persons: Dr Mohammed Shuaib and Dr Shakir Katea of MOSS (Medical Operation and Specialized Services) in Ministry of Health, Iraq

It was also agreed to establish a chapter in Japan in 2012:

- ✓ Contact person: Dr Maki Norio at Kyoto University in Japan

TIEMS Japan Chapter will be launched during a workshop in Japan 22 - 23 May 2012 in Tokyo. Both TIEMS MENA Chapter and TIEMS Finland Chapter are planning workshops in their respective regions in 2012.

TIEMS will have focus on Latin America and Caribbean, Africa and Australia, New Zealand and Oceania in the coming year, to see if the first chapters can also be established in these areas. However, TIEMS members from all countries and regions are welcomed to take the initiative to establish chapters in their own region//country.

TIEMS Young Scientist Network

TIEMS Young Scientist Network (YSN) was also established last year by the student prize winners at TIEMS annual conference in Bucharest. They formed an interim Board as follows:

- ✓ Chair - Alena Pejcochova, Czech Republic
- ✓ Vice Chair - Estuning Tyas Wulan Mei, Indonesia
- ✓ Secretary General - Andreea Dutu, Romania

YNS seeks to connect young scientists from various backgrounds in the emergency and disaster management field, to make them play an active role in TIEMS, contributing with their ideas and proposals, and in dialogue with the established scientists influence TIEMS policy and activities in the emergency and disaster management field.

YSN has created an information sharing platform through a web-portal, aiming to support young scientists in developing their careers, and at the same time actively take part in the discussion to improve global emergency and disaster management.

YSN aims to enhance the young scientist's research by introducing their ideas to the international level, link them to ongoing/future projects, establish contacts with the global

emergency and disaster management community and inform about scholarships/internships and research subjects undertaken in TIEMS professional global network. Participating in YSN could boost the young scientists CV, be a link to job opportunities and raise the chances of employment

YSN web portal contains forums with the challenges young scientists face both on a short and long term. YSN provides an opportunity to network with other young scientists as well as with experienced emergency and disaster management professionals.

Applicants have to be at least a Master Degree student or up to two years from finishing a Master or three years from finishing a PhD Degree. He/she must be maximum 33 years old.

I am very pleased with this initiative, because the young scientists are the future experts and we need to recruit them to TIEMS early in their careers.

TIEMS Partnership with IAEM

TIEMS and IAEM (International Association of Emergency Managers) are the leading international organizations in emergency and disaster management. TIEMS agreed a Letter of Intent for cooperation with IAEM in 2006, since both TIEMS and IAEM believe that joining forces for the benefit of improved global cooperation in emergency and disaster management is the right philosophy.

With the goal of advancing global emergency management interests, IAEM and TIEMS agreed in 2011 to offer a 1 - year reciprocal membership for members in good standing of each organization. The reciprocal free membership in TIEMS for IAEM members is valid to 1st June 2012. 116 IAEM members have used this opportunity to enjoy a free TIEMS membership up to June 2012, and I hope they find the benefits of being a TIEMS member so satisfactory that they stay on as TIEMS members and add value to further cooperation between IAEM and TIEMS, which both will continue to explore in 2012.

TIEMS International Education, Training and Certification Program

TIEMS launched formally its International Education and Training Program in Emergency and Disaster Management at the end of 2011. This is the TIEMS organizations' contribution to an increased global preparedness. While there exists a variety of different courses, academic degrees and certifications in Emergency and Disaster Management with many training institutions and universities worldwide, we have identified there is still a need for an International Standard, which TIEMS will address.

TIEMS believes that the value of Emergency and Disaster Management is in the ability to understand and integrate many disciplines based on coordinated decisive, meaningful actions that can be used by all response organizations worldwide when in complex rapidly moving set of events, and TIEMS will promote this through its Program.

The Education Objectives of TIEMS Program

1. Put International Focus on the Profession of Emergency and Disaster Management
2. Contribute to an International Standard in Education, Training and Certification in Emergency and Disaster Management
3. Contribute to education in Emergency and Disaster Management in order to promote the state of the art in technology, systems and methods available in the field
4. Establish a TIEMS Certification of Qualifications in International Emergency and Disaster Management
5. Contribute to Capacity Building in Countries where little or no Education and Training in this field is available
6. Recruit International Teachers and Trainers in this field to TIEMS Pool of International Teachers and Trainers

The plan is that TIEMS chapters will arrange training courses for their respective region/country prior to any TIEMS event being held in the chapter and will recruit the best local teachers and trainers to TIEMS pool of international teachers and trainers. TIEMS China Chapter arranged a two day TIEMS training course in Shanghai in November 2011 prior to their annual conference in 2011, and TIEMS Romania and Iraq chapters are planning training courses in 2012.

TIEMS International Certification – TIEMS QIEDM

The TIEMS–QIEDM is the certification of Qualifications in International Emergency and Disaster Management.

1. The course curriculum will be comprised of both theoretical and practical courses, as well as hands on training
2. Courses will be offered by TIEMS in cooperation with Universities and Training Institutions worldwide
3. Participants must receive a passing grade on the certification exam
4. Certification will be given in cooperation with national and international Certification Authorities
5. TIEMS Chapters will be local/national authorities responsible for adding local/national competences

Once a review is performed of all submitted documentation and a passing grade is achieved on the certification exam, the TIEMS-QIEDM designation will be awarded by the TIEMS QIEDM Certification Development Board. TIEMS seeks cooperation with universities and training institutions worldwide in 2012 to build up a network of education and training opportunities for TIEMS QIEDM certification.

Recertification

Recertification is required every three (3) years by successfully completing three QIEDM TIEMS International courses and submitting the appropriate recertification application.

Training Pre-Requisites

All those applying for TIEMS QIEDM must:

1. Have a documented minimum of 4 years of higher education equivalent to a college baccalaureate degree or higher
2. Have a practical or theoretical background in Emergency and Disaster Management
3. Must be employed as a first responder (fire, police, EMS) or work with an emergency management agency for a minimum of 3 years
4. Provide a letter of recommendation to the TIEMS QIEDM program from their current employer or former emergency management employer.

Core Certification Courses

1. International Overview of Organizations and Activities in Emergency and Disaster Management - *Where to find information and who to contact and what to learn about the different approaches used worldwide*
2. Global Concepts in Emergency and Disaster Management - *Introduction to global concepts in emergency management and knowledge that are critical in any disaster response and to any nationality*

Basic Certification Courses

1. Planning - *Disasters and Application of Management Skills Strategic Planning, Risk Analysis, and Leadership*
2. Command & Control - *Critical Thinking and Decision-Making Command and Control, and the Tools of Emergency Management*
3. Response - *Physical and Emotional Responses to Disaster/Human Behaviour: Community and Personal Response*
4. Exercise Design - *Exercise Design, Development, Execution and Evaluation Learn how to design an exercise, plan the exercise and execute and perform the exercise, including evaluation of performance*

TIEMS Pool of Teachers and Trainers

TIEMS is recruiting teachers and trainers to TIEMS International Pool of Teachers and Trainers, and the present teachers and trainers are listed below with their courses offering through TIEMS.

- K. Harald Drager, TIEMS President, Norway
 - ✓ *International Overview of Organizations and Activities in Emergency and Disaster Management*
- James C. Hagen, Professor at Saint Xavier University, USA
 - ✓ *Global Concepts in Emergency and Disaster Management*
 - ✓ *Exercise Design, Execution, and Evaluation*
 - ✓ *Physical and Emotional Responses to Disaster - Human Behaviour*

- Naill Momani, Professor at King Abdul Aziz University, Saudi Arabia
✓ *Disaster Risk Management*
- Fausto Marincioni, Assistant Professor at University of Ancona , Italy
✓ *Natural Hazards*
- Tavida Kamolvej, Assistant Professor at Thammasat University, Thailand
✓ *Disaster Management*
- Anat Ruangrassamee, Assistant Professor at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
✓ *Tsunami Modelling & Tsunami Risk Assessment*
- Cerasela Tanasescu, Executive Director at ESSEC Business School Romanian Research Centre, Romania
✓ *Decisions in Emergency Response*
- Stanley Goosby, Chief Scientist, Asia Pacific Center, USA
✓ *Disaster Risk Assessment*
- Nicolae Steiner, Professor at Titu Maiorescu University Bucharest, Romania
✓ *Introductory Course in Disaster Medicine*
✓ *Disaster Medicine Postgraduate Course*
✓ *Management of Search and Rescue Activities*
✓ *Healthcare Critical Infrastructure Protection*
- Dan Mănăstireanu, Professor at Titu Maiorescu University Bucharest, Romania
✓ *Disaster Medicine Postgraduate Course*
- Andriciu Radu, Professor at Titu Maiorescu University Bucharest, Romania
✓ *Strategic Management of National and European Critical Infrastructure Protection*
✓ *Fundamental Elements of Crisis and Civil Emergencies Management*

TIEMS expect to recruit more international teachers and trainers in 2012.

TIEMS Chapter Training

The first TIEMS chapter training course was arranged by TIEMS China Chapter in Shanghai, prior to TIEMS China Chapter 2011 annual conference. This course set a direction and standard for how to do chapter training worldwide, and below are listed the focal points:

- *Will be performed at TIEMS events in Chapters*
- *Combination of international and local teachers and trainers in a two day training course*
- *Relevant subjects for the Chapter Country*
- *For local participants in local language and with translation of foreign speakers*
- *Certification of participation*
- *Teachers and trainers from TIEMS International Pool of Teachers and Trainers, where also local teachers and trainers with an international format can join*

The local/regional chapter needs to take the initiative and arrange the training in the chapter, and also recruit the local/regional teachers and trainers. TIEMS International Pool of

Teachers and Trainers are a resource for TIEMS chapters when they put together the program of the training course and as teachers and trainers in actual training courses.

The local/regional teachers and trainers get an exposure when teaching in the chapter training courses, and TIEMS will recruit the local/regional teachers and trainers with an international format to join TIEMS International Pool of Teachers and Trainers. This way also the different cultures excellence in emergency and disaster management get an international exposure, and this can assure an international consensus of the best solutions for improvement of global emergency and disaster management and a safer world.

I am a strong believer in trying and learning, and that pilot cases are the best way to develop TIEMS chapter training. We have got two new opportunities in 2012:

- Romania

The chapter training course in Romania is intended to be for Chiefs of Voluntary Emergency situations services from rural environment of a county from Romania, which this winter has undergone a serious emergency situation caused by winter storm and hard snowing

- Erbil in Iraq

TIEMS hosts for the annual conference in Erbil is preparing an Iraq chapter training prior to the annual conference, but course content is not yet decided

These two training courses will give TIEMS further experience and understanding, on how to further develop TIEMS chapter training. The two planned courses will also lead to recruitment of Romanian and Iraqi teachers and trainers joining TIEMS International Pool of Teachers and Trainers.

All TIEMS chapters will be encouraged to take an initiative to do chapter training courses and using the experience we now have and thus develop TIEMS chapter training concept further.

TIEMS Annual Conference in Erbil, Iraq in September 2012

TIEMS Iraq Chapter invites to TIEMS 2012 annual conference, which will take place in Erbil, Iraq 16 – 22 September 2012 with the following introduction:

Tomorrow is the reward for working safely today.

In the face of disaster...Zero Tolerance to loss of life!

As the world deals with the loss of life, livelihood and wealth due to disasters, both natural and man-made, there is a growing recognition that many of these can be averted. The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS) presents an opportunity to convene in an international platform at the annual conference to be hosted by TIEMS Iraq to focus on a Lifecycle Approach in the preparedness, management and relief efforts while addressing issues related to emergencies and disasters.

With a goal of “ZERO TOLERANCE” to loss of life due to disasters, this International conference will highlight important technology and knowhow aspects in the field of Disaster Management. The primary objective is to provide participants with rich information about the core aspects of the Lifecycle Approach in managing and mitigating disasters. The conference aims to build a platform for exchange of lessons learnt in different countries while addressing the impacts of disasters which can help in developing ways to achieve collective goals of safety. At this conference, eminent speakers and domain experts with global prominence will share their valuable experiences, expertise and best practices

Recently, there has been a disturbing increase in the number of natural disasters affecting millions of people, destroying property and resulting in loss of human life. These events include major flooding, hurricanes, earthquakes and many others.

Today the world faces unparalleled threats from human made disasters that can be attributed to failure of industrial and energy installations as well as terrorism. Added to this is the unparalleled threat of emerging and re-emerging diseases, with scientists predicting events such as an influenza pandemic.

All these events pose unprecedented risks to human health on a world scale which requires a massive effort by the international community. This conference therefore focuses on current global health risks, and how best to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters in order to reduce human health impacts.

The conference aimed to help participants to understand the nature of global risks, learn risk management strategies to prepare for disruptive events, and identify the best prevention methods in disaster management and public health. It also provided a forum for the exchange of information between leading academics and partners in disaster management.

The President of the organizing committee, Dr. Mohammed Shuaib Abdugafoor greets the delegates with the following message:

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the organizing committee, I am very pleased to invite all of you to the international Emergency Medicine conference 2012 Emergency Management –A lifecycle Approach (EMLCA 2012), which will be held in September 2012 in Erbil, IRAQ.

EMLCA 2012 is born of partnership between the MOSS (The Medical Operation & Specialized Services) and the TIEMS (The International Emergency Management Society) to promote mutual exchange and to achieve academic advancement of emergency medicine and Disaster Management in all regions.

In our region, regardless of developmental stage of emergency medicine, all of us are striving to provide quality emergency care in challenging environment with the same passion and ideal. I strongly believe EMLCA 2012 in Erbil will be a momentum to build a bridge for the advancement of Emergency Medicine and Disaster management across the world “Thinking globally and acting locally”.

The hosting Organization, MOSS was established in 2004 and has been leading the academic, clinical and administrative development of our discipline. With its Emergency Medical Services department, MOSS is trying to make IRAQ as one of the leading countries in emergency medicine and disaster management.

During the Conference, the latest developments and important issues pertaining to emergency medicine and disaster management will be delivered through the lectures and workshops from renowned scholars and experts. And attendees can make best use of conference in networking and strengthening scientific collaboration, too. The detailed program of EMLCA 2012 will be elaborated soon.

The hosting city of EMLCA 2012, Erbil, is the capital city of Kurdistan where 8000 years' historical tradition and modern culture coexist. I firmly believe EMLCA 2012 in Erbil would be an exciting and memorable experience to all.

You are invited to participate in this grand occasion for the sharing of ideas, friendship, and culture in the hospitality of IRAQ.

Looking forward to welcoming you to Erbil in 2012.

TIEMS Iraq Chapter is also planning a training course prior to the annual conference in Erbil.

TIEMS Conferences and Workshops Plans for 2012 - 2014

TIEMS worldwide program planned for the 2012 – 2014 includes the following events, with different key topics as listed below:

- TIEMS Workshop in Tokyo, Japan 22nd – 23rd May 2012
✓ *Activates in Asian countries toward Resilient Society*
- TIEMS 19th Annual Conference in Erbil, Iraq 16th – 22nd September 2012
✓ *Emergency Management – A lifecycle Approach*
- TIEMS Workshop in Moscow, Russia, 19th – 24th August 2012
✓ *Earthquake Loss Estimation in Emergency Mode*
- TIEMS Workshop in Rome, Italy, 4th October 2012
✓ *Emergency Management for Critical Infrastructures Crises*
- TIEMS Conference in Oslo 22nd – 24th October 2012
✓ *Space Weather and Challenges for Modern Society*
- TIEMS Annual Conference in Japan in 2014
✓ *Will be held in Niigata in memorial of the Niigata earthquake*

Other events are in planning in Tunisia, Philippines, China, South Korea, BeNeLux, India, Nepal, Finland and France, and they will be announced when details are confirmed.

The 2013 annual conference location is not yet decided.

TIEMS New Web-site

Most organizations like TIEMS are facing the same financial constraints for developing their organizations, and this often leads to the fact that we have to live with solutions, which we sometimes know are outdated and need improvement and development. The most visible item for TIEMS is of course our web-site.

I am therefore pleased to inform that a new TIEMS web-site is under development and expected to be operational in early 2012. Improvements of the presentation of the web-site are evident. However, more important is certain functionality, which has not been functioning or is cumbersome today; the following features will be prioritized:

- On-line payment functions with credit cards and bank transfer
- Conference management
- Members portal with information and benefits for members
- TIEMS Library

The latter has been on the agenda for some time, and I am therefore pleased to inform you that we were able to collect all papers presented at all annual conferences from 1994 in Fort Lauderdale in Florida, USA, up to Bucharest in Romania last year. We had some challenges, but we have made it!

In the future all presentations made at TIEMS events will then be available immediately after the event electronically in the TIEMS Library on the web-site.

TIEMS Members, Officers and Directors

The main assets of TIEMS are its members, officers and directors, their expertise and the voluntary work they do in order to develop and promote the society all over the world.

I therefore like to thank them all for the work they do and the loyalty to TIEMS and its mission. Without them and their efforts TIEMS could not exist.

TIEMS Board of Director members are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which takes place at the TIEMS Annual Conference. TIEMS members make up the AGM, and they make the decisions by their voting in the AGM. At the AGM in Bucharest, new board members were elected for a period of one to three years and TIEMS Board has now the following board members with below mentioned positions:

- *K. Harald Drager, TIEMS President (Norway)*
- *Guosheng Qu, Vice President (China)*
- *Stela Petrescu, Secretary (Romania)*
- *Charles Kelly, Treasurer (USA)*
- *Ranko Britvic, Director for International Relations (Croatia)*
- *Ji (Jack) Zhang, Director for Communication and Publications (China)*

- *Jaroslav Pejcoch, Director and Chair of TIEMS Advisory Board*
- *Snjezana Knezic, Director for Chapters and Membership (Croatia)*
- *Nina I. Frolova, Regional Director Europe (Russia)*
- *James Hagen, Regional Director North America (USA)*
- *Stephen Jenkins, Regional Director Australia, New Zealand & Oceania (Australia)*
- *Madhav Maraju, Regional Director for Asia & Pacific (India)*

The Board appoints officers each year for different tasks, and the following officers are appointed for the different functions for one year, and are members of TIEMS Advisory Board:

- *Meen Poudyal Chhetri, Chair of TIEMS Paper Review Committee*
- *Ruben C. Umaly, Chair of TIEMS International Program Committee*
- *Cerasela Tanasescu, TIEMS Research & Development Projects Coordinator*
- *Alex Fullick, TIEMS Newsletter Co-editor (Canada)*

There are several board positions open for election each year, and all TIEMS members can stand for election. I encourage all TIEMS members to consider taking on a position either as a board member or officer for special tasks. TIEMS needs active and dedicated directors and officers, so I encourage TIEMS members to use the opportunity in Erbil to suggest their candidacy for either a board or officer position.

TIEMS Future Plans

As can be seen from the report above, 2011 was another very active and expansive year for TIEMS, but also an important year with a major effort towards increased professionalization with the Secretariat in Brussels now fully operational.

There was a major achievement by the Board of Directors to agree on a 5 year plan for the society, which has set concrete goals to work towards, and which sends a message to TIEMS members and the international emergency management community about an active future that all with interest in emergency and disaster management can take part in and work towards the TIEMS mission of a safer world.

The 5 year plan may be considered ambitious, but TIEMS directors and officers are already actively working towards these goals, and plans are already laid out for the future with events up to 2014, and there is a dialogue already established with local hosts all over the world for more events. Communication is a must if we are to improve emergency and disaster management and TIEMS events worldwide are arenas where all stakeholders can meet and discuss and learn from each other.

Three new chapters were established in 2011, and Japan will be established in 2012, and a dialogue is opened with local hosts for TIEMS chapters in other areas worldwide. TIEMS slogan of "Think Globally and Act Locally" is demonstrated in a very concrete way with the establishment of TIEMS chapters. TIEMS is a decentralized organization, where the driving force and momentum of the organization is with the Chapters. The activity level in the established Chapters is clear proof. TIEMS Board of Directors and Officers and TIEMS

Secretariat is the central function of TIEMS, supporting the chapters and establishing a solid framework and support function from which all chapters can benefit. .

The number of submitted papers and posters to the annual conference is increasing, and is giving TIEMS an improved international academic standing. The model for the conference with both English papers and local language papers, with two chairs for each session, one international and one local, assures a good dialogue between the international and local experts. This will also be the practice in the annual conference in Erbil, Iraq.

TIEMS research project service for TIEMS members, where members are informed of research project calls, for example in the EU, and will be invited to participate in research projects, which was established in 2011. This service leads to project proposals for TIEMS members to participate in, and it is believed that this will be an increasing and welcome activity for TIEMS members in the coming years.


By launching TIEMS International Education, Training and certification Program in 2011, we do hope that this initiative will trigger interest from worldwide universities and training institutions to work together with TIEMS to make an international standard in emergency and disaster management within education. TIEMS is here as a provider for an international joint drive to put focus on the profession and also contribute to capacity building where needed.

Launching new types of membership within TIEMS is an effort to give everybody with interest for emergency and disaster management the opportunity to join a professional society, but also at the same time give the professionals in the field the opportunity to be professional and even as certified professional members. It is my belief that a dialogue between all these groups of members will enrich the profession of emergency and disaster management.

TIEMS by-laws were established in 2006, when TIEMS was registered as a non – profit international NGO in Belgium. There has been a major development in TIEMS since then and it is in need for revising and simplifying the by-laws according to the development of TIEMS since 2006 to reflect the present function and operation of TIEMS. This work has been started by the Secretariat's lawyer, and it is expected that the new set of by-laws will be discussed and approved at the AGM during the annual conference 2012 in Erbil.

I would like to conclude my annual report for 2012 with a strong belief that TIEMS has an important role to play internationally in education, training and certification and in policy concerning emergency and disaster management and disaster response, and we will continue to strive to develop this role to the benefit of our members and towards our mission for a safer world.

Oslo 2nd March 2012

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature appears to read 'K. Harald Drager'.

K. Harald Drager

TIEMS President