



TIEMS Presidents 2010 Annual Report

In preparation of TIEMS annual report, the start of 2010 has been a huge reminder of the risk and consequences of natural disasters, with devastating earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, the latter with a following tsunami, the huge storms in Europe, mud and landslides in Brazil and Sudan, cold weather and heavy snow in China, floods in Tanzania and Indonesia, drought in South Africa, and many, many more. Almost every day of 2010, a natural disaster has happened somewhere in the world. The consequences are hundred thousands of casualties and millions of people have fled their homes and are in need of help. On this background, I like to put up the following questions:

- ***How can we as TIEMS contribute to improve the alertness for such disastrous events and improve the ability of the emergency organizations to quickly move in and help?***
- ***How can we as TIEMS contribute to that the communities can be better prepared through risk assessments of potential hazards for their community and by improvement of building structures and other facilities to reduce the consequences of disasters?***

The upcoming TIEMS annual conference in Beijing 8th – 12th June 2010 is focusing on all these issues, and gives the attending international experts in emergency and disaster management the opportunity to meet and exchange experiences and hopefully find always better solutions that can improve the international preparedness for disastrous events.

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 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.

On the background described above, the importance of TIEMS global events only grows and grows, and TIEMS is arranging more and more international events around the world focusing on above issues. Since TIEMS annual conference in 2009, the following workshops and conferences have been arranged or are in planning:

- TIEMS Annual Conference in Istanbul, Turkey in June 2009
- TIEMS BeNeLux workshop in Antwerp, Belgium in September 2009
- TIEMS workshop in Split, Croatia in October 2009
- TIEMS conference in Prague, Czech Republic in November 2009
- TIEMS workshop in Shanghai and Beijing, China in December 2009
- TIEMS workshop in Santiago de Chile planned for April 2010, postponed to late 2010
- TIEMS workshop in Moscow, Russia in May 2010

- TIEMS Annual Conference in Beijing, China in June 2010
- TIEMS workshop in Amsterdam, Netherlands in September 2010
- TIEMS workshop in Split, Croatia in September 2010
- TIEMS workshop in Incheon, South Korea in October 2010
- TIEMS annual conference in Romania in June 2011
- TIEMS workshop in Alés, France in June 2011

The 16th Annual TIEMS Conference was convened in Istanbul, Turkey, on June 9th – 11th, 2009. This international conference brought together scientists, experts and emergency management practitioners from academic and research institutions, industry and governments from many different continents. Senior officials from the Turkish government attended the conference, and the Vice-Governor of Istanbul, who provided the opening address for the conference called upon TIEMS' delegates to draw on the international nature of the organization and utilize their global expertise to address local problems facing distressed communities and countries in the aftermath of natural disasters and shocks around the world. In particular, he noted that while developing countries were highly exposed, they disproportionately lack the technology and expertise to deal with disaster prevention and management. The platform established by TIEMS could greatly enhance information flow and exchange, providing for disaster management and preparedness at minimum costs.

The 2009 conference provided an opportunity to undertake a critical overview of challenges facing countries and regions of the world concerning natural disasters and disaster management. In particular, the conference highlighted the rapid increase in the number of natural disasters and the sustainability of these events, which has been growing almost exponentially since the 1980s. The conference also discussed the globalization of natural disasters, particularly hydro-meteorological hazards and geological hazards, which are exacerbated by global warming. Long-term projections show a global drying trend, with the proportion of land surface affected by extreme droughts predicted to increase from 1% (current rate) to over 30% by the end of the 21st century.

Delegates noted that the distribution of natural disasters was not uniform across regions of the globe, even in the case of global warming. It was noted that while the consequences of global warming were projected into the future for most advanced economies and developed countries, they were already being felt in a number of developing countries, in particular, the overwhelming majority of low-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, most low-income countries lack the technological infrastructure and human resources needed to deal with these crises. In some countries, there is simply no framework for disaster management and preparedness.

The participants recognized that progress in the areas of disaster management depend on advances in research and development, and on the critical support and commitment of governments and international organizations. They called upon scientists and international experts attending the conference to draw upon the platform offered by TIEMS to foster the development and application of new technologies for disaster management through international collaboration and exchange. They also stressed that progress on this front depended on a number of critical initial steps to be undertaken by countries, including:

- The establishment of an operational national disaster management strategy in countries where such a framework is missing

- Building national capacities in the areas of risk identification and mitigation, which are critical for effective risk transfer and preparedness
- Strengthening the linkages between natural disaster management and environmental protection, particularly in light of the growing implications of environmental degradation
- Increasing investment in scientific research and human resources at the national level, possibly drawing on TIEMS' international expertise and experience
- Drawing on risk sharing mechanisms, in part through government disaster assistance and the insurance markets. This would improve emergency response and preparedness and mitigate fiscal costs and contingent liabilities associated with natural disasters
- Expanding TIEMS' international outreach—especially to bring more participants and experts from developing countries on board

TIEMS workshops and conferences are arranged by TIEMS local hosts in the venue area, and with the growing number of TIEMS chapters around the world, TIEMS will be able to arrange more workshops and conferences, which we believe is increasing the global knowledge and exchange of experience in emergency and disaster management.

TIEMS slogan of *“Think Globally and Act Locally”* has materialized in three new formalized chapters in 2009 and 2010, namely in:

- China
- South Korea
- India

TIEMS has now 5 formally approved chapters, with Romania and BeNeLux added to the above. A dialogue is also opened for starting up and formalizing chapters in Italy, Middle East, Latin America and Caribbean, Japan and ASEAN. This is an important development for TIEMS, and is increasing TIEMS global network of experts.

TIEMS new web-site was finally operational in 2009, and can be viewed at www.tiems.org. Since TIEMS promotion mostly is done through the web-site, this was a very welcome step forward. A new feature in 2009 was the welcome video for TIEMS Beijing 2010 Annual Conference, which also can be viewed on YouTube. It has been seen by more than 1600 viewers from all over the world on YouTube, and it can also be viewed on TIEMS new web-site. It is expected more than 600 participants at TIEMS 2010 in Beijing, with a very full program of keynotes, technical papers and posters and workshops and an exhibition.

The participants at TIEMS annual conference will have a comprehensive program of more than 100 important presentations. Simultaneous translations English – Chinese, and with two co-chairs for each session, one international and one Chinese, will see to it that there will be a good exchange of experience and dialogue between Chinese experts and international experts, which again may hopefully lead to even more global cooperation in emergency and disaster management. The participants will also one day during the conference visit the new China National Training Base for Urban Search and Rescue. This base is the largest facility of this type in Asia and the delegates will experience an earthquake simulation, as well as watch a seismic emergency rescue drill. The above program is integrated with relaxing social events showing the ancient Chinese culture, and it will certainly make the 5 days at TIEMS annual conference 2010 in Beijing a memorable event.

The papers will be included in the conference proceedings, and should give a broad international view of emergency and disaster management in an international perspective, and with these proceedings TIEMS like to stimulate to a continuous ongoing global dialogue on emergency and disaster management. A number of papers in Beijing will be selected for publication in a special edition of the International Journal of Emergency Management (IJEM), as also was the case for the annual conference in Istanbul. The Beijing Proceedings will also be submitted to Thompson Reuters after it is finished and be considered by them to be enrolled into ISTP (Index to Scientific and Technical Proceedings). TIEMS Conference Proceedings will therefore be issued in accordance to Thompson Reuters rules and hopefully will be included in ISTP and be TIEMS standard for the future.

Details on TIEMS 2010 are found on the 2010 web-site at <http://www.tiems2010.org/tiems/index.htm>. The host for the TIEMS annual conference, TIEMS China Chapter, has established and is responsible for this web-site. This web-site will be re-used for all annual TIEMS conferences in the future, filled with information of the host country and organization and the annual event.

TIEMS newsletter has been issued two times since TIEMS annual conference in June 2009. The 9th issue in August 2009 was among others covering TIEMS annual conference in Istanbul and the best practice papers from the conference. The 10th issue in January 2010 was among others announcing the upcoming annual conference in Beijing in June 2010, and covering the Haiti earthquake, reports from the TIEMS workshops in Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic and China and introducing TIEMS Education and Certification Program.

The NARTUS project, where TIEMS participated with its President, who had the responsibility for consensus building and establishing the PSC Europe Forum in the project, was successfully concluded in 2009. The goals were reached with a formal establishment of the PSC Europe Forum, see www.psc-europe.eu, registered as a not for profit NGO in Belgium, with an organizational structure with dedicated PSC Europe Forum officers and a permanent secretariat in Brussels, and with approx 600 members from 54 countries recruited during the NARTUS project. The forum arranged its first conference as a self governed forum in November 2009, which was a successful follow up of the five conferences arranged in the NARTUS project period. It is my belief that PSC Europe Forum will be an important global forum for improved public safety communication and public safety.

TIEMS has also revitalized its partnership with IAEM (International Association of Emergency Managers), and TIEMS and IAEM are now announcing its respective events to its membership and through its newsletters regularly. TIEMS and IAEM are also looking into how to extend their partnership in order to improve the global emergency and disaster knowledge to the benefit for increased global safety.

In order to advance friendly relations, TIEMS and SERCS (Science and Engineering Support Center) in South Korea, see <http://www.sersc.org/>, signed an agreement in October 2009, on the promotion of educational and academic exchanges between the two institutions. TIEMS and SERCS agreed that both institutions will make every reasonable effort to encourage direct contact and research cooperation between their members.

Various types of cooperation are included in the agreement:

- Joint research activities in disaster recovery and business continuity

- Free publication of TIEMS members' papers in IJDRBC (International Journal of Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity) hosted by SERSC
- IJDRBC journal special issue assignment to all events hosted by TIEMS
- Discounted registration of TIEMS members who submitted papers to all events hosted by SERSC
- Exchange of key members
- Exchange of academic materials and academic publications

TIEMS has also launched its Education and Certification Program in 2009, and it is believed that this program is needed and very welcomed by the global emergency and disaster management community. A subset of this program is to be an interactive learning program for kids at elementary school level. I believe strongly in educating children early in school about risks and hazards in their neighboring area and teaching them in a calmly and not threatening way what to do in an emergency and disaster situation. Planning is on the way to start in China in 2010 and we will cooperate with educational authorities to achieve the best practice on how to introduce this program into elementary schools.

Also on TIEMS program in 2010 is to establish TIEMS Council or Advocacy Forum, which will be announced during TIEMS annual conference in Beijing in June 2010. TIEMS Council or Advocacy Forum is to become a global forum to influence policy makers on global emergency and disaster management issues. The Forum will be an all stakeholder forum where policy makers, industry and users could meet and agree on important global issues in emergency and disaster management. TIEMS global network of Chapters should recruit the members of the Forum in their region and TIEMS International should form the Secretariat of the Forum, issue the conclusions of the Forum to media, etc. Conclusions could be in form of Roadmaps, White paper, Press Releases, etc.

It is an increasing global recognition of TIEMS and the work we do from organizations and individuals. Last out is the Marshall Center in Europe, see <http://www.marshallcenter.org/mcpublicweb/>, which is offering one TIEMS member a complimentary course in public security at the Marshall Center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Germany. The leadership of the George C. Marshall Center says; *"It believes that a qualified participant from TIEMS will significantly contribute to the quality of the course. TIEMS is active globally and is a major provider of research & development projects which aims at developing or/and improving methods and technologies within emergency and disaster management. The organization's detailed understanding of the subject matter and organizational strength constitute an integral part of the STACS (Seminar on Transatlantic Civil Security) environment, see <http://www.marshallcenter.org/mcpublicweb/en/nav-college/nav-academics-resident-courses/nav-col-stacs.html>. The opportunity to have a representative from TIEMS in the STACS course promises great dividends for all involved. It will enhance the potential for cooperation between and among the states of the North Atlantic space on issues of Civil Security, with emphasis on homeland security and defense, crises management and consequence management"*.

A wish of such cooperation is also expressed in TIEMS Vision and Activity Plan 2008, see http://www.tiems.org/dmdocuments/TIEMS_VISION_2008.pdf, because it is important that TIEMS acknowledge all actors, military, governmental, and private efforts in respect to disaster management. We can only optimize emergency management, especially emergency response and recovery, through an understanding and cooperation between all three of these sectors. Discussions and closer understanding and partnerships can greatly enhance disaster response and relief efforts.

While TIEMS always must take care to be neutral in its areas of involvement, we must never be neutral about enhancing the safety and security of our residents in respect to disasters of all types. The key is in communication, collaboration and cooperation.

Natural Disaster Mitigation – A Scientific and Practical Approach, ISBN 978-7-03-025804-5, is a report just published in December 2009 by The Inter Academy Panel (IAP) on International Issues, see <http://www.interacademies.net/>. The report, see <http://www.interacademies.net/?id=4698>, is describing global natural disasters, like earthquakes, tropical cyclones and storm surges and flood and drought induced disasters, and addressing earth observations for natural disaster mitigation, and is concluding disaster mitigation strategies and recommendations. The work has been lead by the Chinese Academy of Science, see <http://english.ceode.cas.cn/>, in cooperation with other academies of Bangladesh, Cuba, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, United States, Australia, Canada, India and Nigeria. TIEMS President and several board members have actively participated in the Disaster Mitigation Panel of IAP and contributed to the work and making the report possible. The report is recommended reading to TIEMS members with interest for the mentioned disasters and can be accessed by contacting Science Press in Beijing, see http://isbndb.com/d/publisher/science_press.html.

The following statement was expressed in TIEMS Vision and Action Plan 2008; *“TIEMS activities depend on unpaid, voluntary work by TIEMS Directors, officers and members, and the limitations to reach TIEMS goals are evident. To overcome this, proper financing of TIEMS and TIEMS activities, projects and operations is vital. The financial committee, chaired by TIEMS Treasurer, should look into this issue, and propose a set of actions to strengthen TIEMS financial situation. The goal should be that TIEMS have a paid, full time Secretary General within three years”*. It is therefore a pleasure to announce that TIEMS board is discussing and preparing an agreement for functions and services for a TIEMS Secretariat in Brussels, which will be put before TIEMS Annual general Meeting in Beijing for approval. If realized now, this will mean a quality improvement of TIEMS, and also relieve TIEMS directors and officers from most of their administrative duties, and give them more time for the long term planning and development of TIEMS. This means a great step forward for the professionalization of the society.

As can be seen from above, TIEMS is more and more spreading out all over the world, and getting more recognition and is being more involved in key important areas in global emergency and disaster management issues, and this increases our ability to achieve our mission of a safer world. At the same time, TIEMS is in the process of reviewing its organisation and functions, in order to deal with the increased workload coming from above and the inherent need this implies for increased professionalization of the society.

In the coming years I foresee an increasing growth and professionalization of TIEMS.

Oslo 15th April 2010



K. Harald Drager

TIEMS President