



BULLETIN # 25

2003 in Review

Asociación Dominicana de Mitigación de Desastres

The Dominican Disaster Mitigation Association (La Asociación Dominicana de Mitigación de Desastres - ADMD) invites you to visit our Home Page:

<http://www.desastre.org>

Write to us at:

desastre@desastre.org

&

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to receive the Bulletin about the ADMD and its activities by e-mail.

The ADMD, sponsored originally by the Caribbean Disaster Mitigation Project (OAS/OFDA/USAID), is a non governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to vulnerability reduction for communities, institutions and companies. We cordially present the 25th edition of our Bulletin to summarize the activities carried out during 2003:

THE ADMD's AWARENESS CAMPAIGN:

Since its inception in 1994 as part of the Caribbean Disaster Mitigation Project (OAS/OFDA/USAID), the ADMD has emphasized community outreach regarding the country's most common natural phenomena, their characteristics and the most effective measures feasible for reducing their probable impact. These efforts continue in order to contribute to the public's understanding of risks, hazards and vulnerability as well as their cooperation with the National Emergency Commission and their willingness to follow the authority's instructions. The purpose is to motivate each citizen to acquire the skills needed to better protect family, community and productive activities – be these on an individual, institutional or company level. During 2003 **63 presentations** regarding the Dominican Republic's natural hazards and disaster mitigation were given to a total of **9,481 people** nation wide in factories, hotels, companies, professional organizations, social and Church groups, communities and schools in **Santo Domingo, San Cristóbal, Moca, La Vega, Santiago, Puerto Plata, Nagua, Samaná, and Punta Cana**. Due to our concern for the education sector, 23 of these presentations were offered in schools to a total of 2,836 students, teachers and parents as participants. In addition, earthquake and fire drills were practiced in 12 of these schools with all faculty, staff and students participating. Those who are interested in coordinating a **presentation regarding the Dominican Republic's natural hazards and disaster mitigation** (<http://www.desastre.org/home/data/txt/activities/esp/Charla%20de%20Orientacion%20de%20la%20ADMD.txt>), courses, and technical assistance are welcome to visit our services menu for more information (<http://www.desastre.org/home/index.php4?lang=esp&m=2&c=1>) **and/or contact us at:** m.desastre@codetel.net.do or call **(809) 508-2596 & (809) 533-8024**.

The ADMD maintains an open forum to facilitate Coordination and Communication among the NGO's and Community Groups for each Hurricane Season and in particular we would like to mention two very informative activities with specialists from the Panamerican Health Organization (<http://www.desastre.org/home/data/pdf/articles/esp/Resumen%20Presentaciones%20OPS%20S%20alud%20y%20Desastres%204%20de%20Sept.%202003.pdf>) and with Ing. Antonio Cocco (<http://www.desastre.org/home/data/pdf/risk/esp/Detalles%20sobre%20los%20Boletines%20Meteorologicos,%20Ing.%20Cocco.pdf>). In addition, the ADMD continues to assist fifteen communities in the San Pedro de Macorís and Barahona provinces to provide support to the Community Emergency Committees. We also promote the use of cellular phones as part of an early alert system among communities downstream from dams and reservoirs. In response to the frequent power outages and isolating effect of the same in rural communities, the ADMD has proposed that solar/mechanical radios be provided for the offices within community Churches to allow a systematic monitoring of the National Emergency Commission's Bulletins during Hurricane Season and the ADMD has convened the directors of ADORA, UDECA, CRS and the



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Adventist Radio Circuit in order to coordinate with Vice Admiral Lora Salcedo, Civil Defense Director to encourage greater coordination and dissemination of Official Bulletins during hurricane season. This includes promoting the "radio operas" created by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (EIRD): "Its Hurricane Season" (Tiempo de Huracanes, available in Spanish) - <http://www.eird.org/> as well as the material regarding earthquakes: "Réplicas en el Corazón" (Aftershocks in my Heart) - <http://www.eird.org/esp/radionovela/2004/radionovela2004.htm> .

Activities have also included supporting the Disaster Chapter of the Engineering, Architectural and Topographical Union (CODIA) by participating in activities in Jaquimeyes, Nagua and Santo Domingo. In collaboration with SODOSISMICA and SODOGEO, the ADMD seeks a permanent educational display regarding seismic hazard within the Natural History Museum – which is visited by 7,000 to 8,000 students every month. We aspire to provide an earthquake simulator to teach the students what an earthquake feels like and what precautions to take in the event one does occur. The ADMD was contracted by UNICEF to adapt the educational materials "Let's Learn to Prevent Disasters!" ("¡Aprendamos a prevenir los desastres!") and the accompanying game "Riesgolandia" (www.unicef.org and www.uniceflac.org) in order to reflect the risks, hazards and vulnerabilities that are most prevalent in the Dominican Republic. This initiative is conducted jointly with the participation of representatives from the National Emergency Commission – with an additional contingent on behalf of the Secretariat of Education – and from institutions such as PAHO, the Peace Corps, FLACSO, Plan International, INDESUI and other organizations related to risk management and education.

Part of the awareness campaign involves the application and implementation of the lessons learned by organizations, businesses and schools to integrate the personnel as part of the process of establishing and testing the Contingency Plan in addition to the regular practicing of drills and simulations in order to modify the Contingency Plan when there is an optimal opportunity for improvement (i.e. when lives and property are not at stake). If your organization has not yet taken these precautions and would like some assistance, you may contact our Coordinator, Ms. Herridge, by calling (809) 508-2596 and 533-8024 to arrange a meeting to discuss your business' particular concerns and goals in this regard. Those who are interested will find a variety of courses available on line, **at no charge**, which are listed in our **Internet Directory** (<http://www.desastre.org/home/index.php4?lang=eng&m=1&c=2#7>) in addition to an ample offering of publications and other information by specialized agencies (<http://www.desastre.org/home/index.php4?lang=eng&m=1&c=2#8>) and especially by the Panamerican Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) (<http://www.paho.org/>) and by **CEPIS/PAHO** (<http://www.cepis.ops-oms.org/>) which offers free on-line courses in topics such as toxicology and others!

ADMD IN THE MEDIA:

While the ADMD would like to respond to each question, concern, and comment during live presentations, the ADMD is very grateful for the generous support given by televisión and radio stations that support our efforts to disseminate the results of the most respected national and international specialists in each discipline. During 2003, Ms. Herridge - the ADMD Coordinator – participated in **39 television interviews** on the following programs: "Tu Ciudad"; "Vertiente de Opinión"; "Arbitraje"; "Buenos Días a Todos"; "El Mundo del Seguro"; "Freites y Su Gente"; "Una Entrevista Exclusiva"; "Hora de Té"; "Despierta con CDN"; "Rafael Rivas en TV"; "Construexpo"; "Domingo Familiar"; "La Noche con Saraida"; "Asuntos Urbanos"; "Ser Humano"; "Mujer 2000"; "Econotemas"; "La Chispa de la Tarde"; and "Actualidad y Vivencias" reaching a total of **1,876 minutes of donated airtime** to promote the ADMD's message regarding the seismic and hurricane hazards, the necessary precautions for each scenario, and the ADMD's activities in communities, organizations, businesses and schools. We would particularly like to express our



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gratitude for a weekly section sponsored during four months by Dr. Fernando Sibilio on his daily hour-long program "Arbitraje."

The radio stations have also offered their collaboration **with 8 interviews** representing a total of **330 minutes** of donated airtime. The ADMD is especially grateful to Mr. Omar Cepeda, President of Radio Dial and La Sultana del Este in San Pedro de Macorís for a two-hour radio breakfast program dedicated to seismic hazard and the September 22, 2003 earthquake in the Dominican Republic. Additionally we thank Dr. Josefina Luna and Ms. Zoila Luna for the hour and a half long interview on their program "Solo para Mujeres" regarding earthquakes and measures to mitigate the most probable damages and losses.

Regarding the printed press, the **El Caribe** – represented by Mr. Iban Campo and Mrs. Gladjorie Rodríguez, and the **Listín Diario** – represented by Ms. Daryeline Torres, have consistently supported and echoed the ADMD's orientation efforts during hurricane season and resulting from the earthquake on September 22 and the ensuing aftershocks. Other newspapers that published articles about the ADMD and its activities include the Diario Libre/Revista Habitat, La Nación, and HOY. **In all 8 articles were published.**

INTERNET:

The ADMD has established its website on the Internet: www.desastre.org (English format: <http://www.desastre.org/home/index.php4?lang=eng>) **THANKS** to Mr. Carlos Pimentel, Director of Esperanza Internacional and the technical assistance provided by their in-house specialist Mr. Andrés Barreto. Throughout the year institutional documentation was posted – including the **Misión, Vision and Values** which resulted from the Strategic Planning Workshop held for the Board of Directors (<http://www.desastre.org/home/data/pdf/aboutus/esp/ADMD%20Vision%20Mision%20y%20Valor%20es.pdf>) as well as the **Interinstitutional agreement with the Civil Defense and the National Emergency Comisión** (<http://www.desastre.org/home/data/pdf/aboutus/esp/Acuerdo%20ADMD%20y%20DC%20CNE%202003.pdf>) and the **Letter of Support from Dra. Milagros Ortiz Bosch, Honorable Vicepresident of the Dominican Republic and Secretary of Education** (<http://www.desastre.org/home/data/pdf/aboutus/esp/Carta%20S.E.%20de%20Educacion.pdf>) regarding our program to train highschool students to give orientational presentations regarding hurricanes and earthquakes – characteristics and precautions – as part of the 60 hours of community service required to qualify for a highschool diploma in the Dominican Republic.

Our **Gallery** (<http://www.desastre.org/home/index.php4?lang=eng&m=1&c=1&cat=obras>) showcases the pictures and descriptions of over 60 community initiatives facilitated by the ADMD and its international donors. National and international colleagues have authorized the publication of their work in the **Risk Management section** (<http://www.desastre.org/home/index.php4?lang=eng&m=2&c=3>) which reflects the quality and relevance of the results of research by leading specialists in each discipline.

The ADMD also offers its own publications and bulletins

(<http://www.desastre.org/home/index.php4?lang=eng&m=3&c=1>) **as well as articles** (<http://www.desastre.org/home/index.php4?lang=eng&m=3&c=2>) to facilitate ongoing work in communities, organizations and companies.

Our Internet Directory now offers over 700 links

(<http://www.desastre.org/home/index.php4?lang=eng&m=1&c=2>) to related pages. The listing is constantly updated and now includes links to other sites with information regarding **September 22, 2003 earthquake** (<http://www.desastre.org/home/index.php4?lang=eng&m=1&c=2#26>) and



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the **Flooding in November and December, 2003** (<http://www.desastre.org/home/index.php4?lang=eng&m=1&c=2#13>). In addition, a **special section** was added to the ADMD's website regarding the **September 22, 2003 earthquake which includes presentations by local and international experts** (<http://www.desastre.org/home/index.php4?lang=esp&m=2&c=4>).

Those interested in **Publications and Materials available on CD ROM** should visit this link and (<http://www.desastre.org/home/data/pdf/risk/esp/ADMD%20Biblioteca%20en%20CD.pdf>) and our **Library** (<http://www.desastre.org/home/index.php4?lang=esp&m=2&c=2>).

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS:

The ADMD participated in the following seminars during 2003:

- Presentation by Mr. Reginal García "Bridges: Art and Science";
- Internet Course on Disaster Management sponsored by the Panamerican Health Organization in the EOC/Civil Defense.;
- "Closing the Gap between Education and Technology" sponsored by the World Bank on behalf of the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic;
- "Hurricane Season 2003" by Mr. Antonio Cocco in the CODIA;
- "Childrens' Rights in Emergencies and Disasters" by Dr. Spielberg, UNICEF Consultant, in the EOC/Civil Defense;
- "International Scientific Round Table on the Caribbean Convention Center" in Santiago, sponsored by UTESA;
- "Bingol, Turkey Earthquake 2003 and Structureal Vulnerability of Dominican Buildings" by Dr. Eduardo Fierro, sponsored by ONESVIE and held in the EOC/Civil Defense – cd available at the ADMD;
- The SPHERE PROJECT: Minimum Standars for Humanitarian Assistance (<http://www.sphereproject.org> and sphere@ifrc.org; in Spanish: http://www.sphereproject.org/spanish/index_sp.htm), sponsored by CRS – cd available at the ADMD;
- "Gender and Conservation" by Dr. Matthew McPherson, sponsored by FLACSO;
- "CODIA Round Table: Bingol, Turkey Earthquake May 1, 2003: Recommendations and Measures for the D.R.." Mr. O'Reilly, President of SODOSISMICA summarized and explained Dr. E. Fierro's presentation;
- "Disasters" at INTEC, Ms. Herridge presented "Prevention and Risk Management";
- "The September 22, 2003 Earthquake, Report by CODIA Northern División and Presentations by Dr. Paul Mann, Dr. Eric Calais, Dr. Jay Puliam; and Dr. Huérfano" in Santiago (<http://www.desastre.org/home/index.php4?lang=esp&m=2&c=4>);
- "Introduction to Seismically Resistant Design" by Dr. Eduardo Fierro at the PUCMM, Santiago – cd available at the ADMD;
- "Seismic research using acelerographs" by Dr. Juan Pablo Ligorria, sponsored by SEOP&C;
- "Paths to E-Learning" November 16 to 22 in Lima, Perú, sponsored by the Panamerican Health Organization (PAHO) and the Panamerican Sanitation and Environmental Sciences Center (CEPIS) – cd available at the ADMD. The ADMD is very grateful to PAHO for providing a full scholarship for Ms. Herridge to participate;
- "Validation Workshop for the SESPAS Municipal Emergency and Disaster Plan" sponsored by PAHO;
- "Second Seminar on Cultural Risk Prevention for the Caribbean and Central America," December 8 – 12, 2003 sponsored by UNESCO, ICCROM and the Ministry of Monumental Heritage of the Dominican Republic.