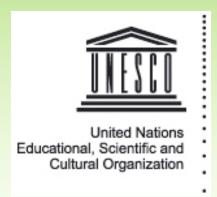


4th International Symposium on Flood Defence, Toronto, 6-8 May 2008



Proposal of establishing Flood Disaster Preparedness ISO

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Disaster reduction goal in MDGs

- Why not now?
 - No reliable damage data & no clear road map to reach the goal.
- An alternative goal
 - The number of communities/municipalities which satisfy a certain standard on disaster preparedness.



The Hyogo Framework for Action Priorities for Action

- Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
- 2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance **early warning**.
- 3. Use knowledge, innovation and **education** to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
- 4. Reduce the **underlying risk** factors.
- 5. Strengthen **disaster preparedness** for effective response at all levels.



Strong institutional basis for disaster preparedness

It is necessary to establish a common mechanism by which a community is encouraged, directed and learn each other to take a rational procedure to make themselves prepared for warning, information dissemination, evacuation, refugee sheltering, refugee support, recovery, receiving official and volunteer helps, etc. etc.



Disaster Preparedness ISO

An international standard that any community of any scale is suggested to follow in order to make it prepared for natural hazards to minimize their negative impacts and lead to quick recovery when they occur.

The standard is not a list of facilities nor equipments to be installed, but rather a list of **institutional procedure** that any community commit to follow to assure **a positive spiral** be installed into its community management system leading to a continuous improvement in disaster preparedness.

Disaster Preparedness ISO

- Ordinary ISOs operate in the market mechanism to increase economic profit.
- Disaster Preparedness ISO operates in the public administration mechanism to get public satisfaction and political justification in their performance at the time of disaster.

In a sense, the ISO license acts as an excuse to community administration when natural disasters do occur. If community administration has been doing proper preparedness exercise following ISO, they certainly deserve for such excuse.

Design Principles of Disaster Preparedness ISO

Such standard may be designed under the following principles.

- (1) Designed according to the local reality and manageable within the local context and administrative framework
- (2) Decided, implemented, checked and revised by the community authorities regularly and have a built-in mechanism for continuous improvement in a positive spiral based on plan-do-check-action cycle.
- (3) Linked with and consistent with the national and regional emergency management scheme.
- (4) Supported by the best practicable disaster forecasting system available to the nation/region.
- (5) Internally & externally reviewed and checked regularly and re-licensing procedure should be built-in.
- (6) Evolve with societal change such as land-use change.



Design Steps of Local Flood Disaster Preparedness ISO

Such procedure may be designed including such steps:

- (1) Form a community flood defense committee.
- (2) Identify the goal.
- (3) Design a set of rules of procedure to reach the goal.
- (4) Identify the annual objectives for improvement.
- (5) Plan and materialize the administrative, technical and financial actions to achieve the annual objectives.
- (6) Establish a linkage with the national/provincial level administration.
- (7) Prepare for internal and external review processes and re-licensing of ISO.

Some practices and attempts of standardization of preparedness

There are already some, although focuses are different:

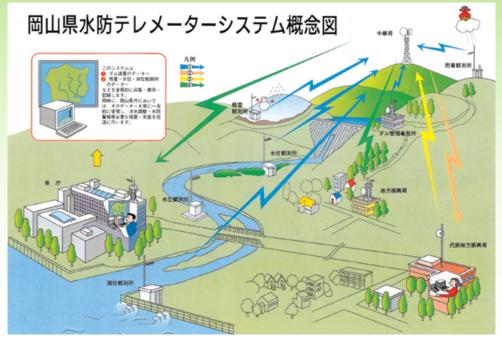
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA): NFPA 1600: Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs, 2007 Edition
- ISO (2006): International Workshop Agreement, Ref number IWA 5:2006(E) Emergency preparedness
- ISO 9001 and 9004: A framework for disaster preparedness
- Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act of 1997, Japan



Role of IFI for Flood Disaster Preparedness ISO

Collection, analyses and archiving of current & past knowledge of preparedness worldwide are the key to the proper design of any local flood preparedness procedure.

The IFI can contribute for such needs and lead its establishment as an integral framework of professional organizations on flood management.











Let all the communities in the world be prepared for disasters in positive spiral!



