Emergency Management Centre
A role model for the Middle East and beyond...

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GCC Emergency Management Centre
To establish a GCC Emergency Management Centre

For the benefit of the entire Middle East and the Islamic world.

Applying state of the art technology, knowledge, education and capability

Capable of handling all kinds of disasters and emergencies

Through regional cooperative networks

The purpose
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Where we are (background)

Where do we want to go (the big picture)

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WHERE
We Are
The Middle East

The background

- Large scale human loss and economic setbacks due to natural and man-made disasters in the last decades
- The world views the Middle East as a hotbed of terrorism, extremism and radicalism
- Rising regional and sectarian conflicts
- Rampant poverty and lack of education across the region
Key challenges in the historical context

- Israel Palestine conflict
- Fall outs of the Iran-Iraq conflict
- Lebanon –Israel conflict
- Civil war in Iraq
- Domestic conflicts and civil unrest in the region
- Israel and Iran’s nuclear programmes
- Kuwait’s invasion by Iraq, Gulf war, and US involvement
- Erosion of state power in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, & Yemen
- Political conflict in Syria
- 65% of Middle East population is under the age of 30 and 20–30% unemployed*
- Risks of the brain drain – around 70,000 college grads relocate to western countries every year (1/4\text{th} of all college grads)**
Comfortable Zone

We can classify countries in a very simple way. (Comfortable zone)

- Hardship
- Comfortable
- Prosperous
Factors Affecting Direction

- Attitudes & behaviors
- Education and higher education
- Justice & equity
- Freedom and human rights
- Knowledge – science /research
- Needs for different age groups
- Women empowerment
- Media
- Political stability
- Religious tolerance
- Greed & corruption
The need of the hour

We must bring people together and re-establish the stability of the region.

We must help our children and our people to prepare and prevent human tragedy.

We must provide a ROLE MODEL, a RALLYING POINT and a RESOURCE CENTRE for emergency preparedness and peace for GCC, Middle East and the Islamic world.
WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO
An international hub and resource centre

Association with international organisations of repute

Regional Partnerships within the GCC, the Islamic world as well as the rest of the globe

Disseminating knowledge and education to the public

Bringing people and governments together

What is the GCC Disaster Management Centre?
What is the GCC Disaster Management Centre?

Latest early warning systems

“State of the art” technology

Robust risk mitigation and disaster management plans for all kinds of emergencies

Accurate data on environmental, demographic, political -security issues

Risk analysis for each country, for the Middle East, the GCC and the Islamic world as a whole
What is the GCC Disaster Management Centre?

Capacity Building and Training

- Innovative programmes for training of different target groups and communities
- Joint and collaborative effort in the GCC and internationally
- Media awareness and community outreach programmes
- Offering scholarships and internships for youth
HOW DO WE GET THERE?
GCC EMC – Life Cycle and Strategic Objectives

Step 1: Set the foundation for a stable and progressive organisation

Establish the vision, mission, values and a solid strategic plan

Set up key international agreements and partnerships

Establish the technology acquisition strategy
Strategic Partnerships and alliances

Some examples

- GCC EMC
- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Disaster Management Centre
- The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action
- Emergency Management Institute - USA
- Centre for Excellence - Disaster Management and Humanitarian Aid - USA
- Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
- Monitoring and Information Centre for the European Union Civil Protection Agency
United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Resolution and the Hyogo Framework for Action

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction is a strategic framework comprising numerous intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations, which share information to reduce disaster risk. Serves as the focal point for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) - a ten year plan of action adopted in 2005 by 168 governments to protect lives and livelihoods against disasters.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations - Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response

This treaty involves complete integration of regional resources of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations member countries for the whole cycle of disaster and emergency management including risk identification, assessment and monitoring, disaster prevention and mitigation, disaster preparedness, emergency response, rehabilitation, technical cooperation, and scientific research and institutional arrangements and procedures.
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Disaster Management Centre

It brings together the South Asian resources in the interest of disaster management and risk mitigation. The success of this cooperative could be seen in the effective containment of financial and human loss during the Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh 2008.

The Asian Disaster Reduction Centre

Based in Japan, has created a network of 28 countries from across Asia and the Pacific. Its role is to maintain a repository of information and exemplary practices on disaster management, conducting studies on disaster reduction, developing training materials and organising various conferences and workshops. However, its greatest contribution has been the creation of the Sentinel Asia project, which uses data from earth observation satellites as the basis of a disaster management support system.
Emergency Management Institute of the Federal Emergency Management Agency – USA

Part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency – the disaster management body works through 10 regional centers in coordinating national disaster relief efforts with state and local emergency management agencies by providing a comprehensive management relief system. The Emergency Management Institute is the premier focal point for the development of emergency management training in the USA.

Centre for Excellence – Disaster Management and Humanitarian Aid – USA

Its mission is to promote disaster preparedness and societal resiliency in the Asia-Pacific region through inter-agency cooperation.
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

An organisation of 36 countries and 6 international organisations committed to helping developing countries reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and adapt to climate change.

The Monitoring and Information Centre

Operated by the European Commission in Brussels, it is the operational heart of the Community Mechanism for Civil Protection. It gives countries access to the community civil protection platform. Any country affected by a major disaster – inside or outside the European Union – can launch a request for assistance through the Centre.
GCC EMC - Life Cycle and Strategic Objectives

Step 2: Establish the Training and Research Centre

State of Art knowledge and training resources brought in from the world

Functioning a resource centre for the GCC, Middle East, Islamic world as well as internationally

Building capacity within the Middle East, Islamic World and GCC
Role of the Research and Training Centre

**Capacity Building**
- Grass root level
- Individual level
- Community level
- Institutional level
- Simulation centre
- Exercises and drills

**Community participation**
- Training of women
- Children and youth awareness
- Expatriates and locals
- Community outreach programmes
- Volunteer groups

**Media and public awareness**
- Changing the image of the Middle East
- Demonstrate proactive and participatory approach
- The Arab media, the international media
- Awareness campaigns
GCC EMC – Life Cycle and Strategic Objectives

Step 3: Conduct accurate risk assessment and hazard mapping of the region and create robust risk mitigation plans

- Risks within Individual GCC member countries
- Risks for the GCC region as a whole
- Risks in the Middle East that could impact the region
- Risks in the Islamic world
- International risks
Step 4: Acquire state of the art technology and early warning systems

- Biological hazard
- Natural disasters (cyclone, tsunami, flood, earthquake)
- Manmade disasters (fire, building collapse, dam burst)
- Nuclear radiation
- Climate change
- Water demand and quality and sustainability
- Pandemic and epidemics
- Carbon emissions
- Cyber war and IT issues
- Military conflicts and civil unrest
- Population demographics
- Economic GFC and impact
THE OUTCOMES
AND
BENEFITS
The role that GCC EMC can play

- Establishing the GCC as a exemplar for regional cooperation
- Promoting security, stability and peace
- Emergency preparedness for our children, families, communities and governments
- Bringing people together
Providing a role model for the region with an image which is

- Through establishment of partnerships and international agreements
- Through accurate risk assessments not just post disaster recovery
- By looking beyond politics and religion and focusing on humanity
- By working to achieve a vision that brings people together

Participative  Proactive
Visionary  progressive
Discussion Questions

- What are the main challenges for the Middle East and the GCC region today?
- Why are the main reasons that the region is experiencing so much change?
- What are the underlying factors driving the changes in the current political climate in the Middle East?
- What is the likelihood of nuclear war in the region — what are the chances of a nuclear accident or nuclear related disaster?
- What are the FUTURE WEAPONS?
- What’s the role of bio technology in our region?
- What’s the role and reason for nuclear power in the region? Is it necessary?
- How does the world view the Middle East - what characterises our global image?
- What are the typical issues that we disagree about and how can we resolve them?
- How will climate change affect the GCC?
- Energy security - how do we maintain it?
- Is an "Islamic democracy" possible?
- What are the current weapons in the Middle East that may cause a possible disaster in the region?
- There is a huge under-30 population in the Middle east which is accessing the new technology and social media (such as facebook and twitter) with its free and open information sharing culture. How are the Middle east countries satisfying the dynamic needs of this population for free expression.
- Is the health system in the Middle East/GCC equipped to handle a crisis of the scope of for example the Japan Earthquake or the Asian Tsunami?