

# AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC

## BRIEF NATIONAL REPORT OF IDNDR

Azerbaijan Republic has a sufficientl, large set of elemental factors the display of which results and can result in grave consequences in the future. The Republic is a zone of increased seismic danger, destroying floods of mountain rivers and streams and other inauspicious natural phenomena which together with crashes provoked by these cataclysms, with catastrophes, fires, etc. annually cause considerable material damages. Multiyear rise of the level of the Caspian Sea which floods a significant area of the seashore has to be included into a series of natural disasters.

At the beginneing of 1994, by decision of the Government, National Committee for conducting the UN International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction has been established in the Republic.

The Committee includes the representatives of interested ministries and departments and also leading scientists and public figures. In particular:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of Public Health
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Economy
- Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Communications
- State Committee of Ecology and Nature Conservation
- State Committee of Hydrometeorology
- Academy of Sciences
- Caspian Sea Research Institute of Designing
- Research Institute of Seismology
- Azerbaijan National Aerospace Agency
- State Committee of Construction and Architecture
- Associations

Baku City Administration

Government of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic

"Baku worker" newspaper's editorial staff

"shalg gäzeti" newspaper's editorial staff

State TV radio

National Committee is headed by the chief of the Azerbaijan Republic Staff of Civil Defence. For decision of efficient questions, Presidium of the Committee has been formed which includes the chairman of the Committee, his deputies and the chairmen of subcommittees.

The Committee concludes the business contracts related to participation in conduction of IDNDR inside of Republic and abroad. It gives the ministries, departments, institutions, organizations, enterprises and associations of Azerbaijan the recommendations for participation of the republic in conducting the IDNDR, carrying out the priority investigations and works on the problems of natural disaster reduction, international collaboration in this field. The Committee forms, in accordance with interested ministries and departments, the labour groups of scientists and specialists to work out the sections of the project for the program of Azerbaijan participation in conducting the IDNDR and solution of particular questions related to them.

Prevalent types of risks in Azerbaijan Republic are the followings. About 1/4 of republic territory, with population of 2-2,5 mln persons is in the zone of higher seismic danger where the maximal intensity of shakings reaches 8-9 magnitude (on a 12-point scale by Richter). The zones of the highest geotectonic intensity are Shemakha-Ismailli, Kelbajari, Sabirabad, Oguz, Gabele and the north part of Zakatali area; Jeiranchai district, the Northern Absheron and Southern Talish zones are characterized as ones of mean geotectonic intensity.

The territory of 35 administrative districts of the republic is subjected to the danger of these phenomena as landslips, rockfalls and avalanches. In particular, the most dangerous by activity and degree of their effect are: landslips for 142 objects, rockfalls, screes and stonefalls for 56 objects, and snow avalanches for 10 objects.

Floods on the republic's territory are a serious threat. Up to 2 mln hectares of the republic's territory, 16 cities and about 500 other populated districts with population of 1-3 mln people can be the zones of potential flooding.

A serious disaster by value of damage done to economy of Azerbaijan is intensive rise began in 1977 of the Caspian Sea level. For 14 years the mark of annual average sea level has risen by 180 cm. For the further progress of this process, predicted by the scientists, the republic's significant territory over approximately 600 km length of the sea strip will be flooded.

Natural disasters which have occurred during the last time are the followings:

earthquakes in Ismailli district in 1992 and 1993, which have influenced upon about 300 thousands people. The losses account several hundreds millions roubles;

flooding while rising the level of the Caspian Sea in Astara-Lankaran zone with population up to 900 thousand people, losses account several hundreds millions roubles.

Social-economic conditions of Azerbaijan Republic are the following: population is 7,4 mln people, gross national output is 250 mrd roubles, income per capita is 118 thousands roubles.

International aid required to reduce the danger of natural disasters is seen in rendering assistance while working out the complex program of a long- and short-term prognosis of earthquakes in the Great and Minor Caucasus area. It's very important to set the international collaboration, particularly, of the Caspian basin countries, in affair of prognosis and prevention of consequences from the rise of the Caspian Sea level.

Among the programs for study, prediction, prevention and liquidation of natural disaster consequences we'll separate the following: "Cosmoseismica" project which will allow, using the space techniques and facilities in complex with data of ground-based observations, to create the methods of monitoring, control and prevention of natural disasters and catastrophes, in particular, the earthquakes (the project is worked out by the specialists of Azerbaijan National Aerospace Agency).

Taking into account the project's high price (about 7 mrd dollars), globality and its significance on the scale of whole planet, it can be carried out only in the level of international collaboration of interested countries.

Strategy and tactics of engineering protection of the Azerbaijan seashore has been chosen by special Complex Program. It is formed on the basis of all-round studying the multiyear data on hydrometeor regime and engineering-geological conditions of various aquatories of the sea, on estimation and prognoses of the process development. On the basis of carried out design investigations on separate coastal areas of the republic, the General Scheme of works on consolidation of seashore is under working out. It will be corrected every five years in dependence on changes of the sea level and boundaries. In accordance with this Scheme, the whole of economic activity in the republic's coastal area is outlined to be conducted.

Based on the above discussion it is possible to make the following proposals:

1. At the level of the World Community:

- to start identification of specially protected zones to form the global system of evacocentres under the risk situations ( see Fig.1 and the scheme of distribution of the most densely populated cities).

2. At the regional level of individual countries of the world:

- to identify areas characterized by the similar risk situations to provide the background to the concept of territories-analogues; to make proposals on the distribution of the international training grounds to test the appropriate measures aimed at the protection of the population under the typical risk situations ( according to the proposed matrix of the RS typology).

3. At the level of towns:

- to develop a fore-project to prevent or liquidate a RS under the conditions typical for the given region.

4. To start compiling a multilingual terminology glossary of special terms which could contribute to better understanding of the problems discussed within the framework of IDNDR.

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