

ASSESSMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE DECADE

Information on Provider

Name: Dr. Ivan Obrusnik

Position: director Chairman of the Czech Nat. Committee of IDNDR

Organisation: Czech Hydrometeorological Institute

Address: Na Sabatce 17

State/Province:

Zip/Post Code: 143 06 Prague 4

Country: Czech Republic

Phone Number: (+4202) 401 65 03

Fax Number: (+4202) 401 08 00

Email: obrusnik@chmi.cz

webpage: www.chmi.cz

Experience and Recent Disasters

1. Please provide a list of major disasters your country has experienced during the past five (5) years.

- a) 1996 flood (flash flood) Northwest Moravia
- b) 1997 July large 1 month flooding Moravia
- c) 1998 July flash flood Northeast Bohemia

2. What was the impact of the above listed disasters?

- a) 5 people dead, 70 mil. USD damage
- b) 50 dead people, 2 billions USD damage
- c) 7 dead people, 70 mil. USD damage

3. Which measures were taken to reduce the impact of the disaster?

- re-evaluation of early warning system
- improvement of telecommunications
- improvement of state emergency system (partially)
- education of people
- long-term measures on rivers and landscape

4. Do you believe there can be improvements in preparing for natural hazards in your country and in preventing negative impacts of such hazards? What sort of improvements?

See above (item 3)

- early warning including flood forecasting
- integrated safety and relief system
- education of people

5. Do you believe the IDNDR helped your country to give greater attention to disaster reduction?

+ Yes No Explain

Czech IDNDR NC has been working since November 1997.
First results have been appearing (better coordination etc.)

6. Please provide an example(s) an achievement (s) incorporating successful preventive approaches which you consider a "success story"

Exercise - testing of telecommunications between Civil
Safety, Fire Brigades and Czech Hydromet. Institute
(early warning). Meeting with IDNDR NCs from Central
Europe in July 98 in Prague → coordination of activities

Czech 2

Progress made, since the inception of IDNDR, in the field of disaster reduction as a component of development planning and risk management

1. Please provide a brief statement of national accomplishment and/or describe current activities related to the achievement of the IDNDR Programme Targets:

(a) Comprehensive national assessment of risks. If an assessment exists, is it published or codified? *floods are almost frequent risks*

It has not been codified in a special publication

(b) Structured mitigation plans. Do documented comprehensive national disaster management plans exist? *There exists i.s. for floods but they have been*

under the process of fundamental re-evaluation

(c) Ready access to global, regional, national and local early warning systems. Can you provide examples of early warning practices and demonstrated successes?

Flood forecast i.s. in July 97 flood has been successfully done by means of numerical weather models, satellite and radar data. Information has been disseminated both within the country and outside i.s. to Poland (Oder River)

2. What obstacles do you face which prevent the accomplishment of the Decade targets? What are your recommendations to best overcome these obstacles?

a) difficult co-ordination among several ministries (reports) responsible for natural disasters etc.

b) low frequency of disasters → therefore low awareness and education of people

3. To what extent have you established and implemented educational and information programmes aimed at generating public awareness? What methods of information dissemination have been utilized? *Education and local response is our*

major problem. IDNDR NC will help to improve this situation. Besides classical paper materials also video will be used.

4. Have you liaised with policy makers and major groups, such as local authorities, NGOs, and the media, in order to ensure support for and effectiveness of disaster reduction programmes? Please describe your activities.

1) In the framework of the IDNDR NC - some of these institutions are members of the NC

2) By long-term contacts of specialists with media especially during disasters - then the much higher attention can be achieved

5. To what extent have you worked with other sectors in incorporating disaster reduction activities into their planning (i.e. insurance, banking, private sector and development agencies)? *good co-operation with insurance companies,*

vendors of equipment used for early warning and telecommunications etc.

6. The Decade provides an international arena for information exchange as well as an extensive

w

Czech

international network of partners, how have these inputs contributed to achieving the goals of the Decade?

- 1) IDNDR Secretariat in Geneva → supply of materials
coordination etc.
- 2) IDNDR NCs from neighboring countries → coordination
of work, future exchange of workings and mutual
help

Structures in Place

1. Is there a designated government authority for disaster reduction activities? If yes, is this authority's commitment to prevention embodied in the government structure, priorities, budget and legislation? *These activities are connected with ministry of environment and also ministry of agriculture. Then, also ministries of interior and defence*
2. Have budget lines for disaster reduction and preventive activities been made available in your government's budget? *mostly for compensation of damages caused by recent floods plans to finance improvement of the state system including early warning*
3. Have legislative authorities (national, state or local level) established legal frameworks for the implementation of disaster mitigation measures (ie. land-use planning, water and forest management building codes)? *These laws have been under the process of changing and improvements as a consequence of recent floods*
4. Have academic institutions and professional schools in disciplines such as engineering, agriculture, architecture, urban planning, business or public administration incorporated in their curricula applicable disaster-reduction concepts and measures? Please provide examples. *Yes, they participate on the projects on mitigation of disasters*
5. Have networks been build in order to aid in the transfer and application of existing knowledge and technology, information dissemination and international collaboration? Please briefly describe. *There are networks on each levels (international) i.e. civil safety, firemen, flood forecasting etc.*
6. Who are your principal working partners? Do they represent an interdisciplinary approach to disaster reduction? *Civil Safety, State Administration on different levels River Catchment, Public media (TV, radio) other media*

Future Requirements

1. Given your experience since the inception of the Decade and the new challenges of disasters in the 21st century, please provide comments as to what you believe are the necessary future requirements needed to successfully carry disaster reduction activities into the 21st century. Listed below are some criteria for your consideration:

- international mechanism for coordination
- budgetary commitments
- policy commitment
- network building
- information dissemination
- communication tools
- local authorities
- links to economic and social development programmes, environmental protection and sustainable development

I think all above mentioned items should be considered

The most important is to create a system - both on national and international levels.

Dissemination and modern and quick telecommunications are very important.

Co-ordination between people from different institutions and different fields.

Legislation, funding, well-defined competencies for emergency situations.

Education of local people and administration.

2. What sort of national or international measures would you like to be put in place in the 21st century?

Standardization of warnings and codes

Trans-boundary co-operation

Fast help or relief etc.