



CDM Conference 2008 — Showcasing Disaster Risk Management in the Region

Disaster risk management practitioners and experts converged in Barbados for the 3rd Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Conference, held on December 8-12, 2008 at the Hilton Hotel. The Conference, convened under the theme “CDM – A Catalyst for Change,” was hailed the best yet. It attracted a greater number and diversity of disaster management practitioners from the Caribbean and Latin America than its predecessors, and its participants included government and disaster management officials from CDERA’s participating states, donor organisation and private sector representatives, and disaster-related product and service providers.

One of the Conference’s strengths was its wide-ranging and comprehensive programme, which focused on the mainstreaming of disaster risk management, the management of non-traditional threats, and championing change at national and regional levels in light of the evolving face of disaster management internationally. Another programme highlight was the Professional Development Sessions, which focused on Business Continuity Management in the face of disaster threats in the region, Gender Analysis in Disaster Management, and the

Implementation of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, a cost-effective method of risk transfer that has become the world’s first parametric insurance project.

The Conference also featured an Exhibition that allowed private enterprises and public bodies to display their products and services, and treated its participants to a tour of local attractions as well as a Cultural Evening that showcased Barbados’s culture.

The annual, CDERA-hosted Conference is the signature disaster risk reduction and management event in the region. It is an International Strategy for Disaster Reduction event, and continues to be a key vehicle for advancing the CDM agenda and gauging its progress in the region. The 3rd Conference, like its predecessors, received strong support from the donor community, including the US Agency for International Development, US Southern Command, the European Commission, the Canadian International Development Agency, and the UK’s Department for International Development.

Visit <http://cdm.cderna.org/cccdm/2008/index.htm> for more information.

