

Preface

The International Emergency Management and Engineering Society (TIEMES) is dedicated to bringing together the research, development and application communities to improve our abilities to cope with emergencies.

After the first conference, held in Miami, Florida, in 1994 and the second, held in Nice, France, in 1995, we are pleased to organize in 1996, the third conference of our society, in Montréal, Canada.

Since the creation of TIEMES, collaborations have been launched between the individuals and groups involved in Emergency Management, cutting across disciplines and national borders to unite efforts.

For this third conference, we have decided to select a smaller number of communications and to have only one track of presentations, in order for the participants to share knowledge and experiences.

We hope the result will be increased and enhanced collaboration. Global participation is essential so that we may face the worst of disasters with the best of our efforts.

In these years of budget reductions, which concern most of our nations, international collaboration is one and perhaps the only way to progress in complex and pluridisciplinary domains as Emergency Management.

The GEMINI project, an initiative of the G7 conference, is a good example of initiating worldwide collaborations in Emergency management. We thank Albert Simard, coordinator of GEMINI, for presenting this project.

At the European level, the Bureau of Major Hazards also plays an important role in collecting detailed data on disasters and organizing collective work to analyse and improve the decisions and actions. Thanks to Neil Mitchison to present the activity of this initiative of the European Commission.

Aspects of emergency dealing with engineering and human sciences show many developments, but there is a need of global formalism which would constitute a framework to organize and improve cooperations. Thanks to Georges-Yves Kervern to introduce the formalism of Cindynics, which proposes such a framework.

Thanks to the authors, coming from many countries around the world to present their work in this conference, for the quality of their papers and their motivation for improving emergency management. All aspects are covered, from the evaluation of risk to the study of human reactions, but decision support, modelling and training represent the major contribution, as they represent common bottlenecks in disaster management.

Thanks to the TIEMES executive committee, and specially to Harald Drager, Kathleen Kowalski and Suleyman Tufekci, who performed admirably. Special thanks to Marie-Christine Therrien, who managed the local organization of the conference in Montréal, and Franck Guarnieri, who organized the review of the papers.

Jean Luc Wybo, General Chair

