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Ministry of Interior
Emergency Management Agency

Speech of Welcome

On behalf of the Ministry of the Interior, Emergency Management Agency, I would like to welcome all the participants in TIEMS 1997 Conference to this conference and also to Copenhagen.

Such a conference has several purposes. Firstly, experts from many countries are assembled to pass on their experiences for the benefit of others. Secondly, the conference highlights the importance of cooperation across the borders.

Over the years there have been an enormous development of the training possibilities of personnel for the rescue preparedness. It has been possible to visualize old theories in "live" demonstrations, for example by training in flash-over containers. Operational material and personal protective equipment have been considerably improved, but what about the development of the training material for the theoretical lessons? At this point, the rescue preparedness does not live up to the standard in the surrounding society. New rescue preparedness personnel are familiar with modern interactive educational material such as CD ROM etc. from schools and institutes, and, of course, they expect to "meet" the same efficient educational material during their training in the rescue preparedness.

Of course, the Emergency Management Agency has realized this, and some minor initiatives have been made. When the Agency participates actively in this conference it is out of a conviction that we can contribute to the acceleration of the introduction of integrated educational material in the rescue preparedness.

I know that the organizers of this conference have put great effort in the preparation of the exiting programme which is now to come, and I am convinced that the participants will receive inspiration for further development in their own field and that many useful personal contacts will be established before this conference is over.

I hereby declare the conference open!

