

TIEMS' ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY

K. Harald Drager
TIEMS President

A/S QUASAR Consultants
Østvangveien 29
0588 Oslo
Norway

E-mail: khdrager@online.no

Abstract

The TIEMS President looks at the strengths of TIEMS, and TIEMS Mission Statement, and with this basis and the society's present status, makes a visionary journey of how to develop TIEMS to play an important role in the international emergency management community.

The President's vision comprises TIEMS future events, contact/information network, TIEMS WEB Forum, standardization, training, emergency management databases, library of TIEMS papers and an international TIEMS journal; all items to be discussed among TIEMS members and to be concluded and included in TIEMS Strategy and Action Plan.

The vision is concluded with an invitation to TIEMS members to join TIEMS working groups to develop the details of the different items of TIEMS Strategy and Action Plan.

Introduction

The strengths of TIEMS are as follows:

- TIEMS is a true international society. More than 100 participants from 34 countries have registered for the upcoming TIEMS conference in Provence
- The papers presented at the TIEMS conferences are peer reviewed and edited, and many of these papers are subsequently published in major international journals
- Participants represent a unique blend of expertise and experience, covering a broad spectrum of emergency management, including natural hazards, man-made disasters and terrorism



- TIEMS provides an annual global meeting place for emergency management specialists that enables interactive and lively discussions during the conferences and associated social events/programmes
- TIEMS has an active WEB-site for communication with its members and the international emergency management community
- TIEMS is offering memberships and is building regional/national chapters to reach its goal of globalisation
- The Society has strengthened over the last decade in an increasing competitive environment, where other international organisations are competing for participants

At the international conference in Waterloo, Canada in 2002, the Board of Directors (BoD) approved a very challenging program for the future, comprising the following elements:

- New organisational structure
- Globalisation of the society
- TIEMS conferences to be an annual meeting place for the international emergency management community
- Define TIEMS' professional role in a TIEMS Strategy and Action Plan

My duties as President have been to follow-up and get the approved program to work in practice. The following describes the progress made.

An international board of 16 directors and officers from 10 different countries is in place, with defined working tasks for the different directors and officers. The TIEMS' WEB Site (<http://www.tiems.org>) has been redesigned and updated in order to meet the challenge of today's interactive communication over the Internet. An electronic newsletter, "Carpe Diem", is available through the WEB Site. All readers are invited to participate with comments, questions, ideas and views on the newsletter, and on any matter connected with emergency management. This will contribute to our aim of "Carpe Diem" becoming a forum for the international emergency management community.

Formal memberships with several membership classes in TIEMS were initiated beginning January 1, 2003, with a secretariat to handle both membership and conference registrations opened in Oslo, Norway and maintained by the TIEMS' Secretary. An International Program Committee has also been established to be responsible for international TIEMS international conferences, symposia and workshops. The recruitment of members to the International Program Committee continue.

Conference programing has been extended to also include symposiums and regional workshops, and the first regional TIEMS workshop took place in Washington, D.C. 28th-29th January 2003.

The approved organisational structure is working well, and in accordance with the expectations set by BoD at the 2002 annual conference in Waterloo.



The globalisation of the society is also under way. Three regions/countries are actively working with forming TIEMS chapters:

- North America (Canada, Mexico & USA)
- Australia/Asia
- Europe/Germany

The first discussion of TIEMS Strategy and Action plan took place at the BoD meeting in Washington in January this year. TIEMS secretary will, based on this discussion, propose a first draft document to be discussed at TIEMS Annual Meeting (AGM) in Provence this year. The discussion is then expected to take place within BoD and TIEMS members up to next annual meeting in Australia 2004, where a TIEMS Strategy and Action Plan is expected to be approved by the TIEMS AGM.

The following is my personal view of a possible future evolution of TIEMS; its purpose is to provide input to a broader strategy and action plan discussion. This must only be seen as my open thinking and input to the discussions that shall take place within TIEMS up to the next annual general meeting in Australia. Formal handling of the development of the strategy and action plan will be done by the Board of Directors and the annual general meeting.

In order to put every thing into perspective, I start by citing TIEMS mission statement.

TIEMS Mission Statement

TIEMS is dedicated to developing and bringing the benefits of modern Emergency Management (EM) tools and techniques to society for a safer world.

TIEMS will achieve its mission by:

- ***Focusing on the transfer of technology from computers, communication, information technology and social sciences in providing emergency managers with helpful decision support;***
- ***Providing a forum for policy guidance to governmental bodies concerning the management of emergencies;***
- ***Bring the modern tools of Emergency Management into market place to help provide high quality EM practices around the world;***
- ***Addressing Emergency Management in the context of its implications to the environment and the society;***
- ***Monitoring the evolution of the best practices in Emergency Management throughout the world;***
- ***Making a multi-disciplinary "all-hazards approach" to tackling emergencies;***
- ***Bringing together stake-holders such as governmental, industrial, academic, and volunteer organizations;***
- ***Using technologies from various diverse fields such as simulation, operations research, knowledge based systems,***



***decision support systems, information systems, psychology
and other behavioral sciences.***

TIEMS Strategy and Action Plan

The TIEMS Strategy and Action Plan should define TIEMS' role in the international emergency management community, and what we can offer this community. In the following is listed some items of importance, and some thoughts are added to each item:

- TIEMS Events
- Contact/Information Network
- TIEMS WEB Forum
- Standardization
- Training
- Emergency Management Databases
- Library of TIEMS Papers
- TIEMS Journal

TIEMS Events

The upcoming international conference in Provence, is TIEMS 10th international conference. In Waterloo the BoD decided to extend its events also to comprise:

- Symposiums
- Workshops
- Exhibitions
- An international meeting place

Along with the globalisation of TIEMS, it is important to build up the regional/national activity and use this as recruitment for members and participants for the international conferences. A future program for TIEMS could therefore look like:

- 2003 International Conference in Provence, France
- 2004 International Conference in Shire of Yarra Ranges/Melbourne, Australia
- 2005 International Conference in The Farao Islands

From 2005 onward it is suggested that TIEMS arranges the international conferences bi-annually and stimulate to annually symposiums and workshops in the different regional/national chapters. The international conferences should open up for more exhibitions and industrial participation (read: trade shows) to be recognized as a meeting place for all actors in the international emergency management community.

The upcoming bi-annually conferences/trade shows should then from 2007 concentrate on those regions of the world where TIEMS has not arranged conferences before, like for example:

- 2007 Asia/Bangkok?



- 2009 Africa?
- 2011 South America?

Then annually from 2006 it is suggested that the regional/national chapters arrange their regional/national symposiums and workshops. Because of the international conference now is bi-annually, one of these regional/national events should be selected every second year by the BoD for hosting the TIEMS AGM that year. This would then stimulate the different regions/nations to build up their local chapters.

In order to firm up the TIEMS Events Program, I suggest establishing a working group with the President as chairman. Volunteers are welcome to join this working group.

Contact/Information Network

A global contact and information network could also be provided by TIEMS through its WEB-site network, giving vital information on different aspects of international emergency management. This could comprise, for example:

- Universities/Students Exchange Program
- Emergency Management Projects
- Funding Availability
- Emergency Management Industrial Companies
- Public Authorities and National Emergency Management Organisations
- Humanitarian Organisations
- Emergency Management Societies
- Emergency Management Consultancy Experts
- Emergency Management Practitioners

This can then serve as a good recruiting base for TIEMS.

In order to concretize TIEMS Contact/Information Network, I suggest to establish a working group with the Secretary as chairman. Volunteers are welcome to join this working group.

TIEMS WEB Forum

This item is related to the above item, and actually the tool for providing the above service, namely a WEB-site network developed to comprise the global TIEMS organisation. The first parts of this network can be observed by looking at www.tiems.org which is the central TIEMS WEB-site, and the first regional site www.tiems.de which is the German site. The German site is now developing different services like a WEB Forum, and an offering of papers from TIEMS conferences over internet.

A working group under the leadership of the Vice President for Publication & Communication is already established, and volunteers with interest for this subject can join this working group.



Standardization

Catastrophes are not limited by any borders. The Chernobyl catastrophe is a good example of an accident that had enormous consequences in neighbouring countries. Standards for warnings and emergency management systems and operations may reduce consequences and make our world safer.

The international base of TIEMS makes the society an excellent organisation for establishing a working group on emergency management standardization.

Training

TIEMS conferences, symposiums and workshops represent a source of knowledge in emergency management. Some of the papers presented cover subjects of highly interest well beyond the TIEMS conferences, and could form the basis for training courses on different aspects of emergency management.

TIEMS could form a working group with the objective of developing the most actual papers into training courses, which can be run around the world in TIEMS chapters.

Emergency Management Databases

A huge amount of databases with different emergency management data is available over internet from different sources. The data is of various type and quality. However, to develop a TIEMS database link and quality advicers for all these databases would be a tremendous help for those looking for emergency data and using these data in their different research.

The TIEMS associated German WEB Site are already addresses this issue.

Library of TIEMS Papers

The papers from TIEMS annual conference in Oslo 2001 is now beeing distributed from the German TIEMS WEB Site, www.tiems.de as a trial project for offering abstracts and full papers from our conferences over internet.

We have a library of papers only available in Proceedings today, and the results from this trial project will be used to develop TIEMS Library services over internet.

TIEMS Journal

Selected TIEMS papers from our conferences are today published in International Journal of Emergency Management. The Executive Editor is Jean Luc Wybo, who is the host for this years conference in Provence, and several of the Associate Editors are active members and directors of TIEMS.

TIEMS may consider to issue our own international journal, to have a hard copy journal for distribution of papers and news, even if the WEB-site network will be the primary source of information distribution from the society.



Conclusions

TIEMS has a good international foundation, and the development perspective of the organisation is huge and only limited by resources develop the different tasks. It is my duty as President of the organisation to stimulate to increased voluntary work by the society's members such that we can reach our goals of creating an international meeting place and communication and information network, that can serve the international emergency management community, resulting in a safer world.

Acknowledgement

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Bibliography

K. Harald Drager is the Managing Director of A/S QUASAR Consultants, established in 1983, and having delivered software solutions internationally for emergency and risk management. He has a master's degree in control engineering from the Norwegian Technical University in 1966 and a master's degree from Purdue University in industrial engineering in 1973.

His specialisations are international business development, emergency and risk management, chemical hazard communication and project management. He is doing consultancy work amongst others for the World Bank/International Finance Corporation and NATO, and has been project manager of several international research and development projects for software development in risk and emergency management.

He was active in establishing TIEMS in 1993, and was the International Vice President of TIEMS since its inauguration until last year when he was elected TIEMS President.

He has published numerous papers on emergency and risk management.

