

## A Korean Chapter of TIEMS. From Vision to Reality

By

**K. Harald Drager**  
**President**  
**Norway**  
[khdrager@online.no](mailto:khdrager@online.no)

### Introduction

Catastrophes are not limited by any borders. The Chernobyl catastrophe is a good example of an accident that had enormous consequences in neighbouring countries.

When natural hazards like earthquakes happen, like the one recently in Bam in Iran, the stricken country will most often need international help to deal with the tragedy.

The threat from international terrorism calls for global cooperation to understand the root of terrorism and fight the threat.

The financial scandals of large international enterprises show the need for global emergency management for securing business continuity.

These examples show the need to address emergency management in a global perspective and in a non-political atmosphere.

### Background

The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS) was founded in Washington in 1993, and arranged its 10<sup>th</sup> annual international conference in Provence, France, in June 2003, and the 2004 annual conference will be arranged in Melbourne/Shire of Yarra Ranges in Australia in May this year.

Over these 10 years, the society has been known to be a true international society with participants at its conferences from more than 30 countries, and with papers of exceptional good quality being presented.

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

- 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 document

Since Waterloo, an international TIEMS Board of 17 directors and officers from 12 different countries is in place, with defined working tasks. The TIEMS' Web Site; [www.tiems.org](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 visitors are invited to participate with comments, questions, ideas and views on any matter related to Emergency Management. This will contribute to TIEMS WEB-site becoming an international forum for the Emergency Management Community. More than 30 000 visitors has visited TIEMS WEB-site since its redesign in September 2003.

Membership in TIEMS has been offered since January 1, 2003, with a secretariat to handle both membership and conference registrations in Oslo, Norway. An International Program Committee has been established to be responsible for the professional program at TIEMS conferences, symposiums and workshops. The recruitment of members to the International Program Committee is an ongoing activity.

The professional program has been extended to also include symposiums and workshops, and the first workshop in the history of TIEMS took place in Washington, D.C. 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> January 2003, and this year two workshops are already announced, here in Seoul, Korea and in Moscow, Russia in April. Further workshops are planned in September in Split, Croatia and in October in London, England.

The TIEMS Board also approved establishment of a global organisational infrastructure for TIEMS, consisting of Regional and National TIEMS Chapters as the fundamental elements of the organisation to strengthen and add value to the central core organisation. In order to achieve this, directors and officers on the TIEMS Board have been appointed to serve as representatives for the five world continents, with the duty of initiating the establishment of regional or/and national TIEMS Chapters.

TIEMS' Board vision of establishing world wide TIEMS Chapters is visualized in the following:



### Measures to Achieve TIEMS Global Goal

The main aim when arranging Regional/National workshops is to establish a Regional/National TIEMS Chapter with its own TIEMS Chapter Board, and with the aim of building up a strong Regional/National TIEMS Chapter with members that will support the international TIEMS organisation.

To achieve TIEMS Global Goal, the following ingredients are necessary:

- An active TIEMS member, who takes the local responsibility and acts as the host
- The TIEMS International Task Force, which contribute with international presentations at the workshops
- Local Authorities and Organisations that cooperate with TIEMS in arranging the workshop
- Local and International sponsors which see the opportunity to support TIEMS mission
- Willing and interested professionals which take the responsibility to form the Regional/National TIEMS Board
- A Regional/National interest from emergency management professionals that like to join TIEMS as members

All above ingredients are present here in Korea, which has made this workshop possible, and the first National TIEMS chapter will be established during this workshop.

### **TIEMS Mission Statement**

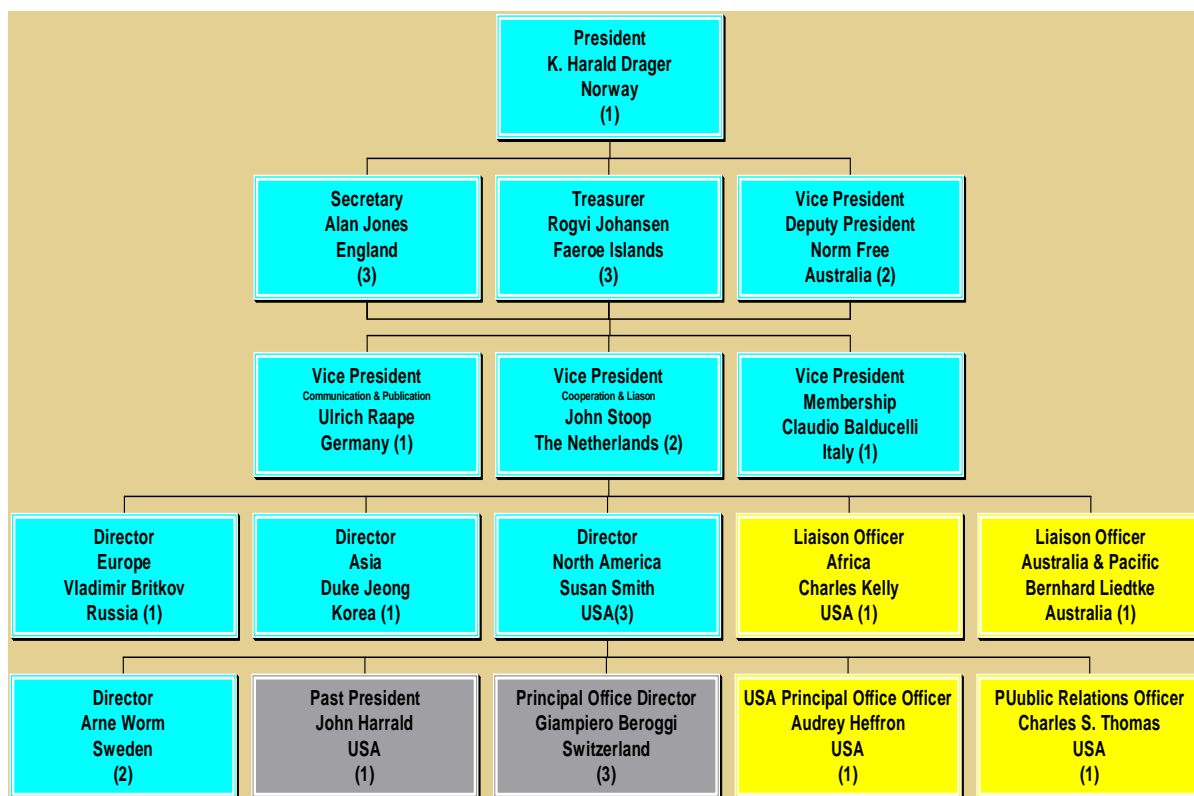
*TIEMS is dedicated to developing and bringing the benefits of modern Emergency Management (EM) tools and techniques to society for a safer world.*

*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 Organisational Structure**

TIEMS Board of Directors and Officers is shown below:



TIEMS Board consists of **TIEMS Executive Committee**; President, Deputy President, Treasurer and Secretary, **TIEMS Vice Presidents**; Communication & Publication, Cooperation & Liaison and Membership, **Regional Directors and Officers**; Europe, Asia, North America, Africa and Australia & Pacific, and **TIEMS Duty Directors and Officers**; Past President, Principal Office Director; USA Principal Office Officer, Public Relations Officer and one Director without special duties.

The Regional/National TIEMS Chapters should have a TIEMS Chapter Board of at least 5 members; President, Vice-president, Treasurer, Secretary and one board member without special duties. An interim TIEMS /Regional/National Board of the /Regional/National Chapter will be proposed by the local host and local organisers and approved by TIEMS International Board, with the duty to have an election of a permanent TIEMS Chapter Board within one year, by the TIEMS members belonging to the TIEMS Chapter.

The President of the TIEMS Chapter will be proposed to become a member of the TIEMS International Board, as a representative of the Region the National Chapter belong to. When more National Chapters are established within a TIEMS Region, an election process or appointing process will be established within the TIEMS region.

Those who want to become TIEMS members, will be member of TIEMS International, with the choice of belonging to a TIEMS Regional/National Chapter, where they participate in Regional/National events and elections.

TIEMS By-laws will also be valid for the TIEMS Chapters with local adoptions. All adoptions shall be approved by TIEMS International Board. A new set of By-laws will be approved at TIEMS Annual Meeting, dealing with the relationship, both organisational, operational and economical, between TIEMS International and the Regional/National TIEMS Chapter.

Regional/National TIEMS Chapters shall be responsible for arranging Regional/National events, and should at least have one event annually, where a Regional/National annual meeting shall take place with a specific agenda, and election of the Regional/National TIEMS Board.

The Regional/National TIEMS Chapter should also be prepared to to arrange TIEMS Annual Conference in cooperation with TIEMS International Board. The Regional/National TIEMS Chapter should also actively promote TIEMS Annual Conference Regionally/Nationally as well as TIEMS International Board will support the Regional/National events with international participation.

The Regional/National TIEMS Chapter shall also establish a Regional/National WEB-site in both English and the national language, which shall be linked to TIEMS International WEB-site; [www.tiems.org](http://www.tiems.org)

### **TIEMS Activities**

In the following is listed some items of importance for TIEMS activities, which are shortly described below:

- 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 Melbourne/Shire of Yarra Ranges, is TIEMS 11<sup>th</sup> international conference. In Waterloo the TIEMS Board 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. The future program for TIEMS looks like:

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

The upcoming annual conferences should from 2006 concentrate on those regions of the world where TIEMS has not arranged conferences before, like for example:

- 2006 Asia?
- 2007 Africa?
- 2008 South America?

The Regional/National TIEMS Chapters are encourage to be the host for TIEMS annual conference.

### **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.

### **TIEMS WEB Forum**

TIEMS WEB Forum is established at TIEMS WEB-site; [www.tiems.org](http://www.tiems.org)

The WEB-site is visited by more than 30 000 visitors since September 2003, and is TIEMS most important communication tool with the international emergency management community.

The Regional/National TIEMS Chapters should establish WEB-site in English and its national language, which should be linked to TIEMS International WEB-site.

### **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 the world safer.

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

### **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.

### ***Library of TIEMS Papers***

All papers from TIEMS Conferences and workshops will be available on TIEMS WEB-site shortly, and thus available for the international emergency management community.

### ***TIEMS Journal***

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

TIEMS may consider to issue its 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.

### **Practicle Issues**

In TIEMS effort to become a true international organisation, it is important to recognize the different social and economic situation in the world, and deal with these in a practicle way so that we also can involve those countries not having the economic ability to travel and participate in TIEMS global events. This year TIEMS has a special attention on Africa, and TIEMS Liaison Officer for Africa has taken the inititaive to do a virtual conference prior to TIEMS annual conference, aimed at involving the African countries, where emergency management professional may not have the financial resources to travel to Australia.

The idea is to have a virtual conference as part of TIEMS 2004, to organize an exchange of e-mails around four topics dealing with disaster management in Africa, with one topic covered in each of the four weeks preceding the conference.

The results of the exchange would be summarized each week and shared with participants as well as included in the conferences proceedings in the form of a report posted to the TIEMS WEB-site. A poster-type summary of the exchange would also be provided at the conference itself. This poster would a way to inform TIEMS members about Africa-related issues.

The experience from this effort will be used to repeat this at later conferences for other developing areas or in transition economic areas in the world.

Another important aspect of TIEMS international work and operation, is technology transfer and research exchange. A number of very qualified emergency management experts participate every year at TIEMS conferences and workshops. It should be possible to establish a working group within TIEMS, with the objective of putting together a Technology and Research Transfer Program, which could benefit those countries that would like to use this opportunity to “learn from others”.

### **TIEMS Korean Chapter**

It is an important step for TIEMS, in establishing the first National TIEMS Chapter in Korea. It is fulfilling the goal the TIEMS Board set forward in Waterloo, Canada in 2001, about TIEMS globalisation. TIEMS is very thankful for the effort done in Korea by Young-Jai Lee, and NIDP and BCP Forum. TIEMS is also thankful to the sponsors who have supported this effort and made this workshop possible.

All details how to operate a TIEMS Chapter is not fully decided, and a close dialogue between TIEMS Korean Board and TIEMS International Board is necessary, and this will form the operational environment for TIEMS Chapters and will be a model for the coming chapters to be established.

A TIEMS Chapter is of course not active before TIEMS also have TIEMS Chapter members. Therefore TIEMS international representatives present at the workshop will be very active during this workshop in recruiting local members to join TIEMS.

One of the objective when forming a TIEMS Chapter is also to recruit papers and participants to take part in TIEMS International Events. All participants at this workshop is therefore encouraged to participate at TIEMS Annual Conference in Melbourne/Shire of Yarra Ranges in May this year. The program include presentations from participants from 19 countries, and the full program is found on TIEMS WEB-site. TIEMS Deputy President, who is the host for TIEMS 2004, is also at this workshop and can give you answers to all the questions you may have about the TIEMS 2004 Annual Conference.

TIEMS has also put a lot of effort into developing our WEB-site, and make it to an International Emergency Management Forum. We therefore also welcome all of you to take a look at the web-site and register as a user. A demonstration of the site's opportunities will be performed at this workshop by TIEMS Vice President for Communication and Publication, who also is TIEMS WEB-master.

### Conclusions

The step taken here in Seoul with this workshop and establishing a TIEMS Korean Chapter is historic for TIEMS. It will form a model for later Regional/National TIEMS Chapters, and initiate a rapid global growth for the organisation. The vision of TIEMS globalisation was put forward 2 ½ year ago and it comes into reality today. I am very grateful and optimistic and full of hope for TIEMS future. TIEMS has an international role to fill with its non-political mission in a world full of challenges to deal with industrial accidents, business continuities, natural catastrophes and terrorist threats. The global structure we have started here in Seoul today, will contribute to TIEMS fulfilling its international role.

### References

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