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## Welcome from the Host of the 2006 TIEMS Conference

I sincerely welcome every participant, attending the 13th TIEMS Annual Conference in Seoul from 25 countries and hope each can share in the professional knowledge of TIEMS participants, who are not only from far located countries as Africa but also China, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, and many more. In addition, I would like to express my thanks to the keynote speakers, who play major roles in their fields of emergency management.

My thanks are also given to the Korean co-hosts for the Conference, such as the Korea BCP Association and Electronic Times, with the governmental support of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) of Korea. Furthermore, I appreciate the authorities of business enterprises, including IT and construction business, who by exhibiting advanced technologies and other products and supporting the event financially, have helped to ensure the successful progress of the Conference.

Over the past few years, we have seen a series of disasters in all corners of the world. These have included both natural disasters such as the South East Asian Tsunami, Indian Earthquake, Hurricane Katrina, and several major flooding and wildfire events. There have also been a number of man-made disasters including the London Bombings, and the accidental release of chemicals from a factory in China leaving millions without the most basic commodity of drinking water. These disasters as well as the continued threat of terrorism and the new, evolving and growing threats to our safety such as bird flu and climate change to name but a few also remind us all of the need for a globally co-ordinated and integrated approach to emergency management.

Transport, communications and power supply networks have also demonstrated their criticality and vulnerability and fighting the consequences of such vulnerability requires pre-planned resource allocation on a large scale, based on robust emergency management strategies. With respect to the global consequences of these and many other new threats, a global approach to the understanding, mitigation and response is required. New and existing technological advances are capable of helping, but may also be a cause of risks themselves.

This conference on the advances in the global emergency management and the support they offer, it is hoped will encourage beneficial discussion to shape the future of emergency management, and ensure that the world is prepared for these threats and resilience is developed in the following areas:

- Global approach to new threats, such as contagious diseases, terrorism and critical infrastructures. These threats have to be identified, their transmission mechanisms have to be modelled and defence strategies developed and prepared
- Developing new methods, knowledge and organisations in order to better understand their nature by scientific research and major event investigation. Training needs in order to enhance skills and practices for professionals and volunteers are identified, improving the resilience after major events
- Cooperation and communication across scientific disciplines and practitioners in order to effectively deal with these threats in practice. This challenge covers engineering design and social sciences, various world regions, stakeholders participation before, during and after major events on a collaborative and knowledge based approach

- Application of technologies to support knowledge management, monitoring, notification and decision support in emergencies.

With this in mind, I re-emphasize that international experts from all over the world will gather together, discuss a variety of issues, and share their own experience and knowledge with others.

I strongly hope that each delegate of the conference will enjoy the wide and varied programme that has been put together including the several tours of Korea and welcoming reception, the Korean ceremony of the National Disaster Prevention Day and much more, and thus, will remember this event as an unforgettable one.

Dr. Young jai Lee,  
TIEMS Vice President and Conference host  
[yjlee@dgu.edu](mailto:yjlee@dgu.edu)  
8<sup>th</sup> May 2006 – South Korea

## Foreword from the TIEMS President

The power of Mother Nature and the damage that it can cause has been demonstrated to us again in the last year with hurricane Katrina, and the earthquake in Pakistan. And it is these catastrophes along with other terrorist atrocities of the past years that unfortunately serve to illustrate the importance and increased need for global cooperation in emergency management. TIEMS are therefore continuing our global focus, and the society has made measurable developments in the last year towards our goals and will continue with the help of our members and supporters to create stronger links and networks for information sharing on emergency management worldwide.

Our annual conference in Seoul, Korea, is such an opportunity to create these links and is more important than ever with nearly 60 international papers for presentation at the conference, (the ones published in these proceedings, those delivered in due time for printing). Overall the papers, it is felt give a broad international view of emergency management in an international perspective, and with these proceedings TIEMS like to stimulate a continuous international dialogue and debate on the many varied elements of the profession and its practice.

The number of participants this year is expected to be close to 600 from more than 20 countries, and representing a variety of emergency management areas, clearly illustrating a good international foundation for TIEMS, and that the program is of wide interest. We feel that such open international gatherings like this, give an excellent opportunity for exchange of ideas and discussions on ways and means to make the world safer, and hope will lead to increased international cooperation in this highly non-border problem area.

TIEMS is an international non political and not for profit society and subsequently has limited financial resources. TIEMS 2006 would therefore not have been possible in the form it is presented without the financial support and help of the participants and sponsors and we are thankful to you all.

Special thanks go to Young-Jai Lee, Kyoo-Man Ha and Alan Jones, who have all worked closely with the proceedings and all details of the arrangements and Ulrich Raape, who has been responsible for the TIEMS WEB-site, and many elements to improve our services to participants of the conference. Following the conference the proceedings will also be published on the TIEMS web site, [www.tiems.org](http://www.tiems.org)

Finally special thanks go to Korean NEMA, Korea Business Continuity Planning Association and the TIEMS Korean Chapter, who have all supported the conference forming a local organising committee, preparing all the practical arrangements. HANATOUR Service Inc. has also assisted by arranging travel and accommodation for participants and tour events during the conference, which they have made an excellent job of making the conference a professional event.

Organising of the conference has been hectic at times, but seeing the fruitful result of the work, is very satisfying, and we hope that you will all enjoy your time in Seoul.

K. Harald Drager  
TIEMS President  
[khdrager@online.no](mailto:khdrager@online.no)  
30<sup>th</sup> April 2006 – Oslo



## Editors Introduction to the Conference Proceedings

With each year that goes by, we face new challenges and emergencies, which seem to push the boundaries of which we work one step further, and demand new solutions to ensure they are dealt with as quickly and efficiently as possible. This peer-reviewed collection of papers provides details of many of the emergencies that have faced the world in the past year and also those developments, which have been made to manage them. Rather than simply expressing heroic tales they provide a forum for critical evaluation of responses and reporting of new approaches to encourage debate and further develop the profession of emergency management.

The papers as always convey what has become a hallmark of the TIEMS conference over the years, to provide an interchange between theory and practice with papers from practitioners, researchers, industry and policy makers, which we hope will provide the reader with a balanced and objective view.

One important element underpinning many of the papers is that of the importance of disaster prevention, which is particularly pertinent as this year's conference coincides with the Korean National Disaster Prevention Day. Many of the papers appear to express strong opinion for increased focus on prevention, and although it is recognised that we will almost certainly never be able to prevent all emergencies occurring by building more resilient communities we will endeavour to reduce the critical impacts.

A further key theme which seem to be brought to the fore in many of the papers is that of the importance of disaster prediction, an important lesson which the world learnt from the Tsunami of 2004. Many go on to discuss new developments in this area and others examining the best ways of conveying this information to populations likely to be impacted.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank the paper review committee for their time and support in reviewing the papers for these proceeding, though I am sure they will all agree with me that it has been a pleasure and has provided an insight into many new and developing areas.

Alan Jones  
TIEMS International Councillor  
Chair of Paper Review Committee  
[Alan.Jones@tiems.org](mailto:Alan.Jones@tiems.org)  
10<sup>th</sup> May 2006 – United Kingdom