



**The International Emergency Management Society
(TIEMS)**

Vision Document

(Dated August 1st 2011)

TIEMS Mission:

TIEMS is a global forum for education, training, certification and policy, in emergency and disaster management. TIEMS is dedicated to developing and bringing the benefits of modern emergency management tools, techniques and good industry practices to society for a safer world. This is accomplished through the exchange of information, methodology innovations and new technologies to improve society's ability to avoid, mitigate, respond to and recover from natural and man-made disasters.

TIEMS provides a platform for all stakeholders within the global emergency and disaster management community to meet, network and to learn about new technical and operational methodologies. It also aims to exchange experience on good industry practices. This will influence policy makers worldwide to improve global cooperation and to establish global standards within emergency and disaster management.

TIEMS Focal Points:

- *Provide a forum for policy guidance to government bodies concerning the management of emergencies and disasters*
- *Raise the awareness on technical solutions involving computers, communication, information technology and social sciences to provide emergency and disaster managers with helpful decision support*
- *Help bring modern tools of emergency and disaster management into the market place and to provide high quality emergency and disaster management industry practices around the world*
- *Address emergency and disaster management in the context of its impact on the environment and society*
- *Monitor the evolution of global good industry practices in emergency and disaster management*
- *Establish a multi-disciplinary "all-hazards approach" to tackling emergencies*
- *Bring together stake-holders such as governments, industry leaders, academics, volunteer organizations and other subject matter experts in emergency and disaster management*
- *Advance awareness of research and future developments concerning technologies from various diverse fields such as simulation, operations research, knowledge based systems, decision support systems, information systems, psychology and other behavioral sciences*
- *Propose, initiate, develop and participate in relevant research activities, contributing to global standards within emergency and disaster management*
- *Contribute to the improvement of educational methods and standards for emergency and disaster managers*
- *Initiate and establish a quality certification process for emergency and disaster managers*
- *Assist and excite students to increase global interest for emergency and disaster management studies*
- *Increase society's common knowledge of risk management, potential hazards and means and remedies to avoid and reduce the impact of, and to assure a speedy recovery from, incidents, crises, emergencies and disasters*

Means to Achieve TIEMS Mission:

- **National and Regional TIEMS Chapters**

TIEMS slogan is *"Think Globally and Act Locally."* This is achieved through the building of a global organization, establishing national and regional chapters worldwide which will enhance and stimulate local emergency and disaster management activities, while belonging to, and receiving support from TIEMS international network. All local members are members of TIEMS International, and belong to TIEMS global network. In this way local, regional and international experience is shared.

- **International Conferences, Workshops and Exhibitions**

On an annual basis, TIEMS holds a comprehensive conference and exhibition. The conference location moves around the world. A local TIEMS chapter hosts the event in cooperation with local organizations and institutions. The conference program consists of invited keynote speakers, as well as presentation of submitted papers and posters and workshops on subjects of interest to delegates. A social program, focusing on the cultural history of the host country and region, provides added value to conference delegates.

In addition, TIEMS Chapters in cooperation with local organizations and institutions arrange workshops and exhibitions annually in their region, focusing on local and national subjects of interest. International speakers are invited to share their experiences with the local participants.

- **Web-site, Library, Electronic Newsletter and Agreement with International Journals**

TIEMS web-site is the main communication channel for its members and the global emergency and disaster management community. All presentations made at conferences and workshops will be stored in an online library, which can be accessed by TIEMS membership. This will be a unique library of emergency and disaster management knowledge, ideas and experience since the first annual conference in 1994 in Fort Lauderdale, USA. Every annual conference and workshop issues a Proceedings either on paper or CD, which is given to event participants.

TIEMS issues an electronic newsletter, 2 – 4 times a year, with information from the TIEMS leadership and presents key papers of interest to the global emergency and disaster management community. TIEMS also has agreements with international journals covering emergency and disaster management issues. Selected papers from the annual conferences and workshops are invited to be published in these journals.

- **Initiate and Participate in Global Research and Technological Development (RTD) Projects**

TIEMS global network of experts is a valuable resource of emergency and disaster management, knowledge, experience and shortcomings. It is important that this knowledge is utilized to establish a formal global research program. TIEMS encourages its network to propose and participate in global RTD programs.

A TIEMS Research and Development Project Coordinator - who is a member of TIEMS Advisory Board - develops TIEMS RTD Plan and coordinates the various RTD programs in cooperation with TIEMS members. The coordinator also approaches international RTD funding institutions to assist with the initiation and funding of proposed research programs.

In order to engage TIEMS members and support to the RTD Coordinator, a TIEMS Advisory RTD Board will be established.

- **Partnership with Relevant Entities**

TIEMS will develop cooperative partnerships with recognized leading industry and international institutions in the Emergency and Disaster Management profession, in order to increase global visibility of the discipline. The goal is to strengthen and corroborate Emergency and Disaster Management recommendations and proposals put forth to policy makers.

Partnerships are formed utilizing the following: Letter of Intent, Memoranda of Understanding and/or Cooperation Agreements.

▪ **TIEMS Global Education Training and Certification Program**

Through TIEMS international education, training and certification program, emergency and disaster management personnel, universities, institutions, industry leaders, certifying authorities and other relevant organizations are invited to take part in developing and enhancing TIEMS global educational and training program. The examination qualification test is the basis for the certification. TIEMS Education Program is intended to have one international part and one national part and the certification is intended to be given by TIEMS in cooperation with a network of national certification institutions and TIEMS Chapters.

The organizational structure of TIEMS Education, Training and Certification Program is comprised of a TIEMS Development Board, a TIEMS Development Group, an International Advisory Board of Experts, a Chapter Advisory Board, a Sponsor Group and a Pool of Teachers and Trainers.

▪ **TIEMS Student Support Program**

TIEMS Rohrmann Student Scholarship Fund was initiated by Bernd Rohrmann, who donated the funds for TIEMS to support graduate students and enable them to participate in the annual TIEMS conference. TIEMS encourages donations to this Fund, as it will help research students who wish to attend the TIEMS conferences to present their research. This financial support will make it possible for students who are lacking in financial resources to participate. Students are the future leaders in emergency and disaster management and should therefore be encouraged to join the TIEMS' network as early as possible.

▪ **TIEMS Awards**

It is important to recognize excellence in the emergency and disaster management discipline and to stimulate continuous improvement of methodologies, techniques, operational procedures, etc. TIEMS has established the following annual awards to contribute to the above. These are in addition to the TIEMS Rohrmann Scholarship Fund Award:

- TIEMS President's Outstanding Achievement Award
- TIEMS Award for best practise paper
- TIEMS Award for best research paper
- TIEMS Award for best host country paper
- TIEMS Awards for best student papers

The different awards are supported by a small monetary grant to each winner by the various TIEMS chapters.

▪ **TIEMS Young Scientist Network**

TIEMS is establishing an international young scientist network in order to recruit young scientists to the organization to stimulate a global dialogue between young scientists and established experts. TIEMS invites young scientists to play an active role in TIEMS, contributing with ideas and proposals, and influencing TIEMS policy and activities related to emergency and disaster management.

▪ **TIEMS Special Interest Groups**

TIEMS encourages its members to form Special Interest Groups (SIG's) for discussing and developing conclusions and recommendations on special topics within emergency and disaster management, and to recruit SIG participants from TIEMS international network of experts.

▪ **TIEMS Council or Advocacy Forum**

TIEMS is establishing a Council or Advocacy Forum to become a global centre of excellence that can influence policy makers on global emergency and disaster management good industry practises. The Forum shall be an all stakeholder forum where policy makers, industry leaders and users can network and discuss important global issues in emergency and disaster management.

TIEMS global network of Chapters should recruit from the membership within their own region. TIEMS International shall form the Secretariat of the Forum, issue the conclusions of the Forum to the media, etc. Conclusions could be in the form of Globally Harmonized User Requirements, RTD Roadmaps, White Papers, Press Releases, etc.

- **TIEMS Annual General Assembly (AGM)**

The General Assembly is formed by all TIEMS members and is the highest body of the TIEMS organization to which the Board of Directors and Officers report. The AGM normally meets once a year during TIEMS Annual Conference.

- **TIEMS Board of Directors and Officers**

TIEMS Board of Directors and Officers reports to the AGM. TIEMS Board suggests the organization's policy and strategy and performs administrative tasks in cooperation with the TIEMS Secretariat; presenting information in relevant forums, acting on behalf of the organization, either as a group or as individuals.

- **TIEMS Advisory Board**

TIEMS Advisory Board comprises of appointed officers and forms a forum of experts, advising the TIEMS Board on different issues in emergency and disaster management. They will also coordinate and lead different TIEMS activities. One TIEMS Board member is elected as Chair of the TIEMS Advisory Board by the AGM.

- **TIEMS Financial Committee**

TIEMS Financial Committee, under the leadership of TIEMS Treasurer, shall address and secure TIEMS short and long term financial stability, and see to it that TIEMS has sufficient operational funds and sufficient long term finances, such that TIEMS can develop successfully towards its goals without serious financial constraints and limitations.

- **TIEMS Secretariat**

TIEMS Secretariat maintains TIEMS registration in Belgium, and takes care of the administrative and juridical functions of TIEMS, supporting TIEMS Directors and Officers. The Secretariat holds all TIEMS archives and membership registers. The Secretariat also maintains TIEMS contact with the European Commission. The Secretariat is the responsible web-master, and is responsible for posting the latest news on the web-site and the distribution of TIEMS newsletter. The secretariat also performs all administrative tasks with TIEMS Annual reporting and accounting under the supervision of the responsible Directors and Officers. The Secretariat also manages the administrative relationship with all TIEMS chapters.

- **TIEMS International Program Committee**

TIEMS International Program Committee is a global network of emergency and disaster management experts, guiding TIEMS in its focus on scientific programs at TIEMS annual conferences and workshops. TIEMS International Program Committee Chair is a member of TIEMS Advisory Board.

- **TIEMS Paper Review Committee**

TIEMS Paper Review Committee reviews submitted papers and poster presentations for the annual conference and workshops. They provide guidance and editorial assistance to authors to ensure only high quality papers and presentations are attributed to the conferences and workshops. TIEMS Paper Review Committee Chair is a member of TIEMS Advisory Board.

- **TIEMS 5 Year Development Plan and Annual Action Plan**

TIEMS Board shall develop a 5 year development plan, stating the 5 year specific goals and the necessary activities in order to reach the goals in the plan period. A one year action plan shall state which of the goals are to be reached and the activities necessary to reach those goals within 1 year. Both plans shall be updated and put before the AGM for approval every year. The TIEMS Annual Report, comprising reports from all directors and officers, shall report on progress according to the 5 year development plan and the annual action plan. The annual report shall be sent to all members and is reviewed and approved by the AGM annually.