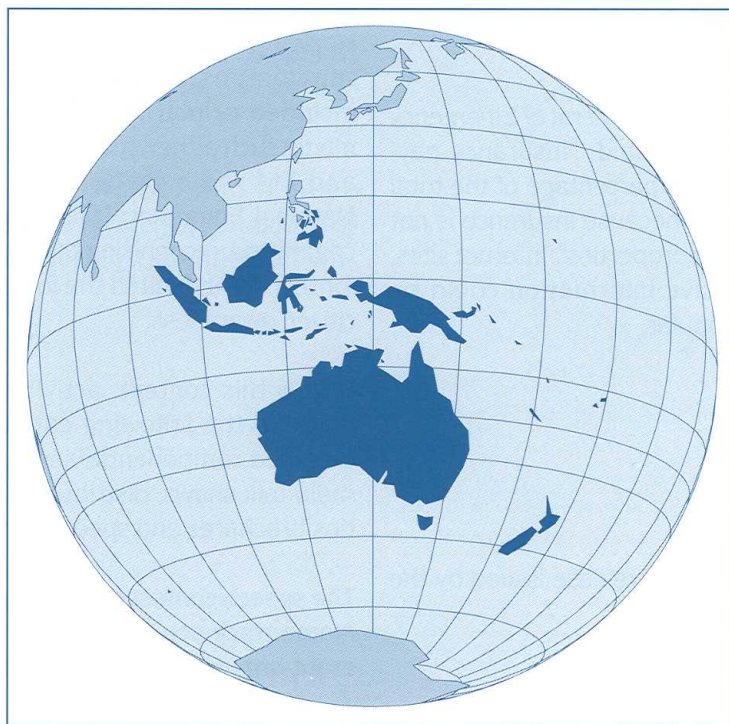


AUSTRALIA & THE PACIFIC STATES



AUSTRALIA

In 1997, the Australian IDNDR Co-ordination Committee sponsored a one-day risk-management seminar and issued a press release for the Day. Drought is Australia's costliest natural hazard in economic terms, but floods can also be severe. In 1990 floods covered more than a million square kilometres of eastern Australia and caused about Aus \$415 million damage.

Mr. Alan Hodges, Director General of Emergency Management, Australia said: "Insurance payouts reflect only a small percentage of the total damage bill for floods because insurance is not available for domestic properties". Internet sites, where more extensive information could be obtained, proved popular.

NEW ZEALAND

Activities included a news release issued by the weather service to all media.

Mr. Bob McDavitt
"Weather Ambassador"
E-mail: Mcd@cybernet.co.nz

REPUBLIC OF PALAU

The Republic's celebration of World Disaster Reduction Day, on 14 October 1998, was a significant success in terms of explaining to the population the need to be aware of potential disasters capable of striking at any given moment.

According to Hazime Telei, Coordinator, National Emergency Management Office, "The

Republic was successful in imparting this year's disaster message, which involved the enlistment of the media as working partners in promoting natural disaster prevention measures".

The Vice-President of the Republic, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr, created a National Disaster Reduction Day Committee, which had the responsibilities of planning activities that would bring attention to the primary topic. Adds Hazime Telei, "1998's theme greatly influenced the composition of the committee, which included primarily representatives from the media such as newspapers, cable television, AM and FM radio stations and, of course, the National Emergency Management Office". The committee, recognising the limitation on funding for this event, limited the focus of its planning to citizen awareness.

Within this context, activities were narrowed down to the following carefully planned and executed components: viewing of disaster films, radio talk shows, distribution of typhoon safety tips brochures and speech contest.

The speech contest targeting public and private elementary school student was the primary event organised on 14 October.

Out of 19 elementary schools in the country, 14 schools were represented in the speech contest. Winning contestants and their schools were awarded with prizes and certificates from the Vice-President of the Republic.

October 14, 1998

Koshiba wins Disaster speech contest

... (text) ...

ESSAY CONTEST

... (text) ...

... (text) ...

Disaster Day declared

October 14 will be observed as National Disaster Reduction Day in Palau, this year and each year throughout the remainder of the decade in accordance with Presidential Declaration No. 21-98.

This declaration was made in response to the United Nations declaration of the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. Vice President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., as Chairman of the National Emergency Committee, will be organizing its own campaign to improve its capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters pursuant to the Presidential Declaration.

To kick off the public awareness campaign, NEMCO has announced a speech contest for students in public and private elementary schools in Palau. Each school is invited to send one representative to compete for cash and prizes to be awarded to all participants.

This declaration is printed on page 4 in its entirety. For more information about the speech contest, contact NEMCO at 480-2249.

TONGA

In 1998, the Tonga Red Cross Society organised a full programme of events to promote disaster awareness and prevention. Red Cross youth worked on road crossings for school children throughout the day, and were highly visible in their Red Cross bibs.

A B-roll was shown featuring Mr. Philippe Boullé, Director of the IDNDR Secretariat, as well as footage on disaster prevention shelters in Bangladesh.

Press kits were distributed and a video programme on disaster awareness produced by the Tonga Broadcasting Commission was broadcast.

LN LOTERIA NACIONAL PARA LA ASISTENCIA PUBLICA MARTES 7 DE OCTUBRE DE 1997

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Special lottery ticket issued within the context of World Disaster Reduction Day in Mexico in 1997.