The International Emergency Management Society - TIEMS

www.tiems.org

MISSION

TIEMS prepares the world for emergencies. TIEMS is a global forum for education, training, certification, and policy for emergency and disaster management. We do not respond to emergencies: we ensure that others are ready to respond. This is important internationally because some parts of the world otherwise have limited support for preparation. As the international community discovers and develops new technologies, methodologies, and best practices, we offer conferences, ongoing forums, and training courses that rapidly and continuously spread the knowledge to every corner of the community. As policy makers grow to understand both the need for preparation and the support TIEMS provides, we expect to influence policy choices that strengthen cooperation among regional communities before disasters strike.

CHAPTERS

Chapters provide a regional focus for TIEMS activities. This is important because every region has unique circumstances and challenges, so there is no planning process that applies everywhere.

Currently TIEMS has 17 chapters representing: Belgium/Netherlands/Luxembourg, China, Finland, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Korea, Middle East and North Africa, Nigeria and West Africa, Romania, United States of America, Ukraine, Philippines, France and South Africa. Australia is under establishment. Each of the chapters is autonomous.

Some chapter members are members of TIEMS international, and others are only members of the chapter, with local rules governing membership. The chapter establishes local activities and coordinates with the rest of TIEMS as needed.

The TIEMS Secretariat, located in Brussels, is available to the chapters for administrative support. The chapters report annually to the Secretariat about chapter activities, plans and finances.

ACTIVITIES

- TIEMS organizes international conferences, workshops and exhibitions, worldwide, with a focus on Emergency Management and Disaster Response topics.
- TIEMS engages in research & technology development (RTD) projects that enable TIEMS members to apply their expertise to international emergency management initiatives.
- The TIEMS International Group of Experts (TIGE) comprises 108 experts from 23 countries with wide ranging expertise and experience available to assist with emergency preparedness planning and response worldwide.
- TIEMS Education and Training comprises TIEMS Academy with courses in Emergency Management and Disaster response and TIEMS International Certification - TQI for experts working with emergency management.

MEMBERSHIP

As a member of the TIEMS, you are part of an international community of leaders, practitioners and academics in emergency management, with diverse backgrounds in engineering, science, government, academics, military, and industry working together to make the world a safer place. Membership affords unique opportunities to learn, serve, and network.

Learn: From the multi-disciplinary, multinational TIEMS community and through special programs.

Serve: By helping us in our mission to reduce the impacts of disasters and emergencies worldwide.

Network: With regional and international colleagues to develop valued personal and professional relationships, and enhanced opportunities.

You are welcome to join us as a TIEMS member.

K. Harald Drager
TIEMS President
Conferences and Workshops

TIEMS organizes conferences, workshops, and exhibitions worldwide covering a wide range of research, best practices, and other topics in emergency management. In recent years conferences have been held in Manila in the Philippines, Kiev in Ukraine, San Diego in USA, Rome in Italy, Niigata in Japan, Aix-en-Provence in France, Erbil in Iraq and Beijing in China, and in 2019 it was held in Korea. TIEMS 2020 Annual Conference is to be held in Paris. In addition, local chapters host local international conferences and workshops throughout the year.

RTD Projects

Because TIEMS is known in the international community for the wide-ranging expertise of its members, and for its ability to network researchers, practitioners, and policymakers, TIEMS is often asked to participate in Research and Technology Development (RTD) projects sponsored by the European Commission and other RTD supportive organizations. TIEMS members who express interest to participate in the TIEMS RTD projects, are selected based on their qualifications, and the expertise needed to staff the projects. Recent RTD projects TIEMS has been involved in were ASSET, a four-year program to improve public health communications during health emergencies, and HERACLES, a three-year RTD program to develop technologies to improve cultural heritage sites in the face of climate change. TIEMS was also a subcontractor to ECORYS for developing an expert HUB on wildfire expertise in Europe for the DG ECHO project “Network of European Hubs for Civil Protection and Crisis Management”. This HUB will serve as an example HUB for other disaster HUBs in Europe.

Experts

The TIEMS International Group of Experts (TIGE), consisting of 108 experts from 23 countries with different educational background and experience, has been established as a resource to assist the global community in emergency planning, preparedness and response. They are all TIEMS volunteers manning the TIEMS Board, the TIEMS Advisory Board and TIEMS Chapter Boards worldwide. TIGE’s unique worldwide network of experts adds the cultural and national diversity to emergency management and disaster response that makes TIEMS such a valuable international network.

Education Training and Certification

TIEMS believes that Education, Training and International Certification in Emergency Management and Disaster Response is the Key to Improved Resilience Worldwide, and TIEMS is therefore offering a Comprehensive International Education, Training and Certification Program in this field. TIEMS motto is: Preparedness Saves Lives!

TIEMS wants to promote an internationally shared understanding of emergency management elements, systems, qualifications, and terminology, and this is embedded in TIEMS International Certification - TQC - Operations and Good Practise. TQC stands for - TIEMS Qualifications Certification, in “International Emergency and Disaster Management”.

TIEMS Structure

TIEMS is a true international organization, with a structure comprised of a TIEMS Board of Directors and an Advisory Board, totally 20 members from 13 countries. The TIEMS Secretariat is in Brussels, Belgium, where TIEMS is registered as an international not for profit NGO. The members of TIEMS form the Annual General Assembly, which meets once a year during the TIEMS annual conference, during which TIEMS members evaluate the past performance of the organization and lay down plans for the future and elects its board of directors.
SUMMARY of the TIEMS YEAR 2019 - 2020 by TIEMS President

(Covers the period 2019 and until 28th June 2020)

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Reflections in the Covid19 Pandemic

This TIEMS President Annual Report is written while the covid19 pandemic is still spreading rapidly around the world, and the present worldwide situation is felt unrealistic and threatening. Even if a pandemic has been included in most global risk analysis in the past, it seemed like few still believed it would happen. Nonetheless, it is here, and along with it, enormous human, economic and social consequences. The global status when writing this annual report is:

- Close to 10 mill people diagnosed with the coronavirus
- Close to 500 000 dead of Covid-19
- The virus is still spreading and seriously affecting more and more countries

We have definitely not seen the end of this pandemic crisis!

As TIEMS is an international organization, we asked the experts in our global network if they could contribute with facts and findings concerning the spread of the virus in their countries/regions, which could add valuable information to share: What is the present situation? What counteractions have been established and the results of these, etc., and this resulted in the newsletter which you find on the following link, covering situations in 17 countries:


Even if this pandemic is cruel with massive consequences we have not seen since World War 2, it is also coming something positive out of it.

People has discovered that simple life also can work, and family members have more time for each other, and the environment has improved because of less emission of greenhouse gases. The use of internet for communication and other activities have exploded with new applications, and the culture has found new ways through internet to bring its messages and expressions to the public.

- We understand better how fortunate our lives have been before we were hit by the pandemic
- We have gained increased respect for those in the frontline fighting the virus, like the health workers, cleaning personnel, and those keeping the shops open
- We have learned that we were not prepared for a pandemic. There were lack of protection equipment and resources for intensive care equipment in the health sector. We have neither maintained a food storage contingency.
- We also observe that countries where the public has mostly high trust in the authorities and politicians and mostly follow the rules put forward by the government in order to stop and slow down the coronavirus spreading, have been most successful in keeping the numbers of affected and deaths low.

I hope we do not forget this when life is back to normal.

TIEMS Main Focus in 2019 - 2020

The main focus of TIEMS the past year has been:
1. TIEMS 2019 Annual Conference in Korea
2. TIEMS International Certification - TQC
3. TIEMS RTD Projects
4. TIEMS New Chapters
5. TIEMS Events worldwide
6. TIEMS Newsletters

TIEMS 2019 Annual Conference

TIEMS 2019 Annual Conference took place in Seoul, Korea, 12 - 15 November 2019. It was attended by more than 100 experts from 15 countries. It had a comprehensive program comprised of important presentations of papers on international emergency management issues, workshops addressing details of selected different topics, and a guided tour in Seoul, visiting the safety control centre at Lotte Tower and Songpa
Safety Experience Education Center. The technical program was blended with social events displaying the best of Korean culture. I am sure all participants left with a good impression of both Korea and TIEMS.

The Conference Motto this year was: “Toward the Bright Future of Safety”, and the topics included:

- Disaster risk reduction
- Climate change
- Education in crisis and emergency management
- Technology for first responders
- Volunteers in disaster relief and armed conflict zones
- Human factors and organizational aspects for disaster-resilient societies
- Best practices
- Standards and certification
- Natural disaster analysis
- Environmental effect of disaster and emergency
- Health and welfare aspect of disaster and emergency
- Social and economic impact of disaster affected by the coronavirus and emergency
- Emergency response
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive materials (CBRNE)

With the hard work of the excellent organization of South Korea organizers, we concluded the conference as follows:

1. The main topics of the conference were concerning TIEMS International Certification - TQC, capacity building, high tech applications, NGO roles in SAR and emergency responses, Horizon 2020 planning on civil protection, comprehensive SAR in-country and at a regional level, disaster monitoring and alerts, resilience of the city and regions and new comprehensive emergency management systems.

2. During the conference, experts discussed:

**TIEMS international certification - TQC.**
- Experts suggested that TIEMS can practice TQC step-by-step with different modules and groups of courses. As a result, a series of certification programs can be created.

**NGO roles in SAR and emergency responses.**
- Many experts from different countries were interested in creating a NGO platform on SAR and emergency responses for acting when a catastrophe strikes. They suggested establishing the TIEMS NGO Emergency Response and Rescue Task Force Group/Committee. This could strengthen the relationship with UNOCHA and the INSARAG Secretariat and increase the global capacity to act when a catastrophe occurs. Some experts from China, South Korea, South Africa, France, to name a few, hope to assemble this committee.

**TIEMS Regional Chapters.**
- Two regional chapters were proposed during the conference: (1) The Great Bay (South China Sea) Regional Chapter and (2) The Northern Asia Regional Chapter. During the conference, experts from China, Mongolia and South Korea expressed that they hope to form “The Northern Asia Regional Chapter” in collaboration with Russia, Kazakhstan, Japan and other nearby countries. Regarding “The Great Bay (South China Sea) Regional Chapter”, experts from China and Hong Kong hope to form a Chapter including Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao, The Philippines, Taiwan, and other Asian countries along the South China Sea owing to the similarity of the disasters in the region.

**The EU’s Horizon 2020 projects.**
3. The annual AGM was held during the conference with the following agenda:
   a) Elections results:
      ▪ TIEMS President: K. Harald Drager
      ▪ TIEMS Regional Director for Europe: Jean-Paul Monet
      ▪ TIEMS Regional Director for Australia, New Zealand and Oceania: Desiree Beekharry
      ▪ TIEMS Regional Director for Asia: Ramil “Mel” Cabodil (Philippines)
   b) The budget for 2020 was approved.
   c) The 27th Annual TIEMS Annual Conference is to be held in Paris, France in November 2020.

4. A tour was arranged following the Conference with the following visits:
   ▪ Songpa Safety Experience Education Center
   ▪ Lotte Tower (Safety Control Center
     Lotte Tower is a newly constructed building, the highest in Korea and the 5th highest in the world, standing at 555 m with 123 floors. The safety control center and escape floors in Lotte Tower were of particular interest. The emerging risks for safety in cities are in these supertall skyscrapers (or high-rise buildings) and more attention needs to be paid to this.

5. Conference sponsors include:
   ▪ Dorapower Company from China
   ▪ Association of Slope Disaster Mitigation of South Korea
   ▪ CASK from South Korea
   ▪ Kangwon National University
   ▪ Peaceland Foundation from China

TIEMS International Certification - TQC

TIEMS believes that Education, Training and International Certification in Emergency Management and Disaster Response is the Key to Improved Resilience Worldwide. TIEMS has therefore launched a Comprehensive International Education, Training and Certification Program in Emergency Management and Disaster Response. TIEMS motto is:

**Preparedness Saves Lives!**

**TIEMS OVERALL EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION GOALS**

▪ Put International Focus on the Profession of Emergency Management and Disaster Response (EMDR)
▪ Contribute to an International Shared Understanding of Elements, Qualifications and Terminology in EMDR
▪ Contribute by Promoting the State-of-the-Art in Technology, Systems, Solutions and Methods in EMDR
▪ Contribute to Education in EMDR at all Levels, from Policy Documents to Courses in Primary School Education
▪ Establish an International Certification of EMDR, named TIEMS International Certification - TQC
▪ Contribute to Capacity Building in Countries where little or no Education and Training in EMDR is Available

**TQC = TIEMS Qualifications Certification “in International Emergency and Disaster Management”**
The scope of International Emergency and Disaster Management (IEDM) is as wide as the globe is round. TIEMS encourages TQC candidates to gain exposure to the many aspects that comprise the field. For the TQC certification process, TIEMS has focused on seven competence areas in international emergency and disaster management as shown in the figure below.

This TQC Competence Focus was informed by a TIEMS survey, which asked international emergency management and disaster response community experts to give their opinion on the content and structure of the TQC Certification. The report with the conclusions of this survey is found at the following link: [TQC Survey Findings](#).

**TIEMS ACADEMY AND TQC LEARNING MATERIAL**

TQC Applicants may acquire required Competencies anywhere they wish - past coursework or experience, independent study, or they may take on-line or in-person courses. As time goes by, **TIEMS Academy** will be providing access to an increasing number of courses relevant to TQC Competencies. **TIEMS Academy** will guide the TQC Certification Candidates to relevant teaching material for their preparation for the TQC Certification.

**TQC CANDIDATE STUDY AND EVALUATION GUIDE**
The TQC Candidate Study and Evaluation Guide, will be available for the TQC Candidates, when they are logged into the TQC Web Platform. It provides the requirements and steps the Candidate has to go through on his/her way to TQC Certification, and include a wide range of references, together with a list of acronyms, covering many aspects of IEDM. Although the TQC exam will not cover all this material, it will help the candidate broaden their knowledge and better understand the exam topics. They also find references to the seven TQC Competence Areas, which the TQC Candidate needs to demonstrate knowledge in.

**TQC ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE**

Below figure show the TQC Application, Compliance and Examination process and relevant TQC Boards involved in the Candidate’s TQC Certification process.

- Chair of TQC Certification Board, (Present) TIEMS President, *K. Harald Drager*, Norway
- Chair of TQC Compliance Board, (Present) TIEMS Regional Director for North America, *Thomas Robertson*, USA
- Chair of TQC Examination Board, (Present) TIEMS International Program Committee Chair, *Sandro Bologna*, Italy, assisted by (Present) Colonel (Retired) *Larry Porter*, USA

These Boards are complemented by:

- Chair of TIEMS Academy, (Present) TIEMS Director for Membership and Chapters, *Snjezana Knezic*, Croatia, assisted by (Present) TIEMS Regional Director for Africa, *Roman Tandlich*, South Africa
- Development of TQC WEB Platform, TIEMS WEB developer: (Present) *Gerry Kyle*, Canada

**TQC EXAMINATION AND TQC CERTIFICATE DIPLOMA**

In order for the TQC candidates to take the TQC exam wherever they are worldwide, TIEMS has implemented on-line proctoring of the TQC candidates during their examination by using the ProctorFree solution. ProctorFree is an on-demand, automated proctoring solution designed to help institutions of higher learning and commercial organizations add layers of security and academic integrity to the online learning environment experience. ProctorFree provides an accurate identification and authentication of the TQC exam candidate. This proctoring solution is scalable, user-friendly, and cost-effective. For more information about ProctorFree, please, visit [www.proctorfree.com](http://www.proctorfree.com).

TIEMS International Certification - TQC Certificate Diploma to be Awarded after the Candidate’s successfully completion of the TQC Certification Exam.
TQC Description Document for download!

Details of TIEMS International Certification - TQC is found at the following link: https://www.tiems.info/index.php/education/overview, or if you already are ready to apply for TQC Certification, Click Here!

HOW DOES TIEMS COLLECT AND USE YOUR PERSONAL DATA?


See TIEMS Privacy Policy how TIEMS protect your personal data according to above EU Regulation.

Concerning the online proctoring during TQC examination, TIEMS cooperate with the company ProctorFree. ProctorFree is an authorized agent of TIEMS for purposes of receiving, storing and distributing personally identifiable information (PII) and education records under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), see: https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html

See also ProctorFree Privacy Policy.

TIEMS RTD Projects

TIEMS is invited to participate in new proposals of RTD projects each year, and in 2020 TIEMS is participating in six new proposals. TIEMS international network and presence with chapters in 17 countries makes TIEMS an attractive partner for RTD projects in EU.

In 2019 TIEMS was partner in two EU projects, HERACLES, which was terminated 1st of May 2019 and Network of European Hubs for Civil Protection and Crisis Management.

The HERACLES EU project’s main objective was to design, validate and promote responsive systems/solutions for effective resilience of cultural heritage sites against climate change effects, considering as a mandatory premise of an holistic, multidisciplinary approach through the involvement of different expertise.

TIEMS participated in the project with a team of four TIEMS members, from Croatia, USA and Norway, and was responsible for adding value with expertise on end user requirements, risk and vulnerability analysis, guidelines and datasheets for virtual training courses, risk management procedures for end users, demonstration and result analysis, dissemination and communication and an impact, exploitation and business model.

The HERACLES project had three cultural test sites, the medieval city of Gubbio in Italy, and two cultural sites in Crete: the Minoan Knossos Palace and the Heraklion Fortress. HERACLES was a fascinating project with high ambitions, and it showed that emergency management and disaster response expertise is of importance in different settings.

At the beginning of 2019 TIEMS got involved in another EU project as a subcontractor to Ecory’s Company, in the Netherlands, for developing an expert HUB on wildfire expertise in Europe for the DG ECHO project “Network of European Hubs for Civil Protection and Crisis Management”. This HUB will serve as a prototype/example for establishing other HUBs with special expertise on other disaster types. The project was a one-year project, with the following objectives:

- To formulate a concept for an expert HUB for Civil Protection
- To propose a generic expert HUB model based on the experience of a HUB on wild fire expertise

The project was successfully terminated in April 2020.

1st of September 2020 a new EU project is starting up with TIEMS as a partner, IMPETUS
IMPETUS will provide city authorities with new means to address security issues in public spaces, and so help protect citizens. Using data gathered from multiple sources, it will facilitate detection of threats and help human operators dealing with threats to make better informed decisions. The IMPETUS approach addresses three complementary but overlapping areas:

- **Technology**: Leverage the power of internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data analysis to provide powerful tools to manage physical and cyber security in cities.
- **Ethics**: Balance potentially conflicting needs to collect, transform and share large amounts of data with the imperative of ensuring protection of data privacy - all in the context of ensuring benefits to society.
- **Processes**: Define cognitive processes and deployment guidelines supporting decision making and coordination, fully aligned with the needs of multiple city stakeholders involved in security operations.

IMPETUS will detect potential threats by using AI techniques to search social media and the deep/dark web for unusual and suspicious activities, and to analyze available smart city data. Threats will be classified and assessed to determine an appropriate response using a human-in-the-loop approach to combine the strengths of AI and human judgement.

The project will receive financial support of 8 M€ from the Horizon 2020 program for research and innovation of the European Commission. The project starts 1st of September 2020 and will last for two years.

**TIEMS New Chapters**

TIEMS is building an expert network worldwide, where chapters play an important role in establishing local TIEMS activity. 16 chapters are now in operation, because last year 2 new chapters were establishment, in France and South Africa. Australia chapter is under establishment. With the new established chapters, TIEMS International Group of Experts, comprises now 108 experts from 23 countries, see the following link:
With the support of Health Commission of Yunnan Province and Kunming Medical University, hosted by The International Emergency Management Society Emergency Medical Committee (TEMC), Beijing Huatong Guokang Foundation (BHGF), and undertaken by The First Affiliated Hospital of Kunming Medical University, The First People’s Hospital of Yunnan Province, the 2019 TEMC & BHGF International Medical Forum & The 8th Harvard—China Program Experience Exchange Conference was successfully held in Kunming, China, from the 16th to the 17th of November 2019.

The conference invited foreign experts from top international medical institutions, including The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS), Harvard Medical School, hospital associated with the University of California, to name a few. There were more than 100 leaders of health administration departments and hospital presidents from all over China attending the conference. Wang Kunhua (president of the First Affiliated Hospital of Kunming Medical University) and Jiang Lihong (president of The First People’s Hospital of Yunnan Province) were the hosts of the conference.

During the conference, Wang Canping (Secretary of Health Commission of Yunnan Province) introduced development of medical and health services in Yunnan and reported on the condition of international medical exchange and cooperation that has happened in recent years. Secretary Wang indicated that it’s a great chance to hasten medical exchange and international cooperation and promote the medical and health services of Yunnan province through this event. In order to implement the Health China Program to ensure people’s health, he stated that the scope of exchange and cooperation needs to be broadened, advancement in medical technology need to be made, and improvements in management also need to be made in the future. Secretary Yuan Bin of Kunming Medical University made a basic introduction on the construction of the university’s Double-First Class disciplines and the training of international health personnel.

TIEMS worldwide events are important meeting points for networking and discussing relevant topics in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). TIEMS arranged some international events last year, and here are some highlights of three events:

**2019 TEMC & BHGF International Medical Forum & The 8 th Harvard China Program Experience Exchange Conference was Successfully held in Kunming 16 - 17 November 2019.**
and encouraged the strengthening of foreign exchanges and learning.

Chen Ran, Director of TEMC and Chairman of BHGF said that, during the past few years, with support from all the administrative departments, TEMC & BHGF have closely focused on the Health China Program policy.

The main idea of this policy entails caring for medical personnel, followed secondly by helping the poor, and lastly, from the perspective of the hospital, charity activities should be positively carried out by medical personnel and patients, thus empowering the development of Chinese health services. The successful completion of the forum aims to build a high-end sustainable and joint communication platform.

At the meeting, K. Harald Drager, president of The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS), sent a congratulatory message to the conference organising committee and delegates, and shared his experience on the topic of “the status and challenges of emergency search and rescue”. Qu Guosheng (member of the Standing Expert Group of the Ministry of State Emergency Management, head of the Rescue Expert Group of the China Earthquake Administration and vice president of The International Emergency Management Society [TIEMS]), Wang Kunhua (president of The First Affiliated Hospital of Kunming Medical University), Dr Jie Zhou (Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School), Dr Charlie Abraham (California University Hospital), Wang Yonghong (chairman of the Committee of Education and Health of the CPPCC of Jiangsu Province and president of Jiangsu Provincial Medical Association), Yu Kaijiang (president of The First Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University), Dong Jun (vice president of Tianjin Taida International Cardiovascular Hospital) respectively delivered lectures and shared experiences on topics such as “The Trend and Task of Emergency Management In the New Era”, “Clinical Application of 5G Smart Medical”, “Establishing a Patient-Centred Medical Environment”, “Hospital Leadership in the US Healthcare System”, “Medical Revolution in the 5G and AI Era”, “AI and Medicine” and “Lean Daily Management for Healthcare Field Book”.

The Releasing Ceremony for the Learning Report Album of the 10th Session Hospital Presidents Education Program in Harvard was witnessed by the participants of all session programs. After competitive election speeches by representatives from hospitals in various provinces and on-site voting, the 2021 TEMC & BHGF International Medical Forum & the 9th Harvard—China Program Experience Exchange Conference will be held in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, China, and undertaken by Nanfang Hospital of Nanfang Medical University (date to be determined).

Over the years, TEMC & BHGF have adhered to the establishment of a public welfare-support platform and an international high-end resource platform to help Chinese medical institutions build cooperation with world-renowned universities and hospitals. The successful completion of the 2019 TEMC & BHGF International Medical Forum & 8th Harvard—China Program Experience Exchange
Conference has effectively consolidated the medical exchange achievements between China and foreign countries, responded to the One Belt and Road initiative, established a regular communication mechanism and continued international high-end dialogue, facilitating the cooperation between China and western countries in medical exchange and cooperation.

TIEMS Italy Chapter Workshop
Prevention and Preparedness in Emergency Management: How to improve Infrastructure Resilience

TIEMS South Africa Workshop in cooperation with Rhodes University
The 1st Eastern Cape workshop on Ethics in Disaster Situations

Every action that humanity takes in the current context of 21st century has knock-on effects on the socio-ecological systems that humanity is part of. These systems have human and non-human components, i.e. humans are integrated into their surroundings. As humans interact and drive the main changes in their surrounding environment, humans ultimately have a strong influence on the factors that control the variables governing the disaster risk. These variables include hazard, vulnerability and capacity. Exposure, resilience and preparedness are also important factors in this context. As humans take actions that have direct and indirect impacts on their surroundings, human positionality is at the core of all considerations in disaster risk management (DRM).

Disasters are a shock to the socio-ecological systems, i.e. sense of normalcy of the functioning of these systems is disrupted. Specific challenges can include breakdown for services delivery, e.g. breakdown in provision of water and sanitation. Challenges that a disaster risk management practitioner
(DRMP) will face, will also be affected by the breakdown of lifelines, e.g. interruptions in communications, which might lead to the delays in the mobilisation of the resource and assistance in the affected area. These interruptions often have major knock-on effects on the most vulnerable segments of the disaster-affected population. In addition, non-human components of the environment are also impacted by disasters, e.g. decimation of livestock and the potential for human contact with carcasses and the spread of disease. As DRMPs are generally at the centre of the planning and execution of the activities during the disaster management cycle, they are commonly faced with many challenges in the scope of their professional practice. Balancing needs of various stakeholders, the time-sensitive nature of the unit operations of disaster management activities and other considerations demand that DRMPs commonly make difficult choices and take decisions with wide-reaching implications.

Conduct of DRMPs must therefore be driven by a strong, locally centred and culturally relevant sense of “right” and “wrong”. In the scope of DRM, the “right” and “wrong” ultimately drive the conduct of a DRMP which needs to adhere to acceptable and avoid unacceptable behaviour in their professional conduct. These principles and guidance on the DRMP conduct are standardised by various organisations and institutions in the DRM space. Examples of such codes of conduct include the Professional Conduct of Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa (DMISA, 2019), Standards of Conduct for International Civil Service (UN/UNESCO, undated) and the Sphere Handbook (Sphere, 2018). Disaster management systems must be ethical in nature, i.e. must be based on the core ethical principles of DRMP behaviour in the disaster zones or in the disaster-prone areas.

Currently, TIEMS is in the process to establish an international platform for certification of emergency managers and DRMPs. One of the elements of this strategy is the establishment of the courses on ethics in disaster situations. These courses will be spearheaded by the TIEMS chapters and stakeholders across Africa. The process of course development is currently under-way and its first pinnacle was the 1st Eastern Cape Workshop on Ethics in Disaster situations.

Program for the 1st Eastern Cape Workshop on Ethics in Disaster Situations

Venue: Gavin Reilly Postgraduate Village
Date: 20th September 2019

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<td>To be announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean Rusere</td>
<td>Antimicrobial resistance and disaster management ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocktail function</td>
<td>Provost Café</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TIEMS Newsletters**

TIEMS issued five newsletters in 2018, three regular newsletters and two special issue:

(Click on the pictures and get access to the full newsletter)
Membership, donation packages and journals available through TIEMS membership are as follows:

1. Standard Member
2. Standard Member "Transition Economy Country"
3. Professional Certified Member
4. Student Member
5. Institutional Member
6. Platinum Donation
7. Gold Donation
8. Silver Donation
9. Bronze Donation
11. International Journal of Risk Assessment and Management

In addition, local chapter membership is available, which is governed by each chapter, within TIEMS guidelines.
Details on TIEMS membership can be found at:

http://www.tiems.info/index.php/membership/become-a-member

**TIEMS Secretariat in Brussels**

The TIEMS Secretariat in Brussels, Belgium started its operation for TIEMS 1st November 2010. Most administrative TIEMS activities have been transferred to the Secretariat so the board members will concentrate on the long-term planning of the development of TIEMS. The Secretariat office can be found at the following address and phone, fax and e-mails:

**TIEMS Secretariat**  
**Rue Des Deux Eglises 39, 1000 Brussels, Belgium**  
**Phone:** +32 2 2286 80 38  
**Fax:** +32 2 2286 80 39  
**E-mails:** secretariat@tiems.info

**TIEMS Asia Secretariat**

The activity level has increased considerably in TIEMS China Chapter, and the TIEMS Board approved at the end of 2013 the establishment of a TIEMS Asia Secretariat in Beijing. First of all, it will take care of the increased TIEMS activity in China. In addition, it will also serve as the liaison with the International Emergency Industry Alliance on Technological Innovation and Strategy:


The TIEMS Asia Secretariat is also prepared to assist other chapters in Asia and worldwide with professional administrative and expert assistance in emergency management and disaster response.

**TIEMS Financial Situation**

Accomplishing TIEMS’s mission on a limited budget is a continuous challenge, as with many other non-profit and international NGO’s. However, volunteers working for TIEMS around the world in TIEMS chapters, recruiting members and sponsors and arranging events, have made it possible to arrange many events around the world. Having professional administration and legal advice at a permanent registered address for TIEMS has proven worthwhile and beneficial. The Secretariat is the primary regular budget item for the society financed by fees collected by the society.

TIEMS participation in RTD projects has had a good impact on TIEMS financial situation, as well as being a benefit for its members. Members can apply for being on TIEMS team in RTD projects where TIEMS participate, given that they fulfill the projects qualifications requirements.

**TIEMS Members, Officers and Directors**

Of course, the main assets of TIEMS are its members, officers, directors, and TIEMS Chapter board members (See TIGE). They contribute their expertise and volunteer their time to develop and promote the society worldwide, and they carry out activities on TIEMS behalf. Members of TIEMS Board of Directors are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which takes place at the TIEMS Annual Conference every year. The delegates to the AGM are TIEMS members, and they elect TIEMS Directors, and vote on decisions proposed by TIEMS Board.

The Chapters elect their own Boards, and when the TIEMS Board of Directors wants to focus on a special task, a TIEMS Officer is appointed by the TIEMS Board to lead this task and report to the Board.

I would like to thank them all for the work they do, and their dedication and loyalty to TIEMS and its mission. Without them and their efforts, TIEMS could not exist.
TIEMS Future Plans

TIEMS progress is in line with the AGM’s expectations, expressed in TIEMS AGM. Our international success sends a message to TIEMS members and the international emergency management community that TIEMS has a promising future, in which all with interest in emergency and disaster management can participate, and they can work together towards the TIEMS goal of contributing to more resilient societies worldwide.

Oslo 28th June 2020
K. Harald Drager
TIEMS President