



January 29, 2010

Upcoming Events

- **February 11** – PADF/AMCHAM Roundtable in Venezuela

Director's Note



Dear Colleagues,

We are so grateful to all who collaborated with our successful Regional Integration Conference: Driving Effective Partnerships for Disaster Preparedness & Business Continuity in Guatemala January 19 - 21st!

Response to Haiti's devastating earthquake became a central theme of the conference. We applaud the solidarity and efforts of all the DMA partners to assist Haiti during this difficult time.

Please visit the DMA portal for the conference presentations, interviews and pictures available. More will be posted soon.

Since the earthquake in Haiti I have personally been in contact with specialists from various disciplines. Given the growing concern over future earthquakes in Haiti and the Dominican Republic I wanted to share the following information confirmed as of Jan. 29 2010 by Dr. Carol Prentice, Dr. William McCann and Dr. Eric Calais:

1. There is no way of knowing when the next major quake will be. It could literally be tomorrow or in 20 years. The after shocks will continue and grow weaker.
2. The fault from Petionville out west to Azua (in the DR) has not moved and is under slightly greater stress than before the earthquake on Jan. 12, 2010. There has not been an earthquake on the stretch of fault between Petionville and Azua since 1751.

Sensible next steps are to have a structural engineer assess the buildings. Take necessary precautions to repair and prevent future damage as feasible.

Please visit the Haiti and DR sections of the DMA portal: Planfordisasters.org for access to information, links, maps, blogs, upcoming meetings with international specialists and more.

I am glad to take questions via e-mail: cherridge@padf.org, and speak with you by video conference on Skype, c.herridge, with web cam!

Best regards,

Christine Herridge
Director, Disaster Management Alliance

Announcements

The DMA Regional Integration Conference took place on January 19-21, 2010 in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Documentation about the event can be found on Planfordisasters.org under [Regional Integration Conference](#). Additional information will be added as it becomes available over the coming weeks. Check back often.

EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN HAITI

The DMA is sharing lots of information about the relief effort in Haiti through Planfordisasters.org:

- Relief coordination effort ([click here](#))
- Information about the earthquake and seismic activity ([click here](#))
- Latest news ([click here](#))

Have you heard about the AskDMA hotline?

Help is only an e-mail away. To find information and tools related to disaster preparedness and business continuity topics just e-mail [AskDMA](#) or call (202) 458-6351. Assistance is available in English and Spanish.

Stories from the Field

ANDI, Merck, and AmCham Develop Two New Alliances in Colombia

ANDI (Responsible CARE of Colombia), Merck, and the American Chamber of Commerce of Colombia have developed two corporate alliances to take advantage of the synergies between the member companies and other related stakeholders.

The goals of the identified alliances are the following:

Corporate Alliances for the Safe Transport of Hazardous Materials

- Implement a working group with the transportation unions to promote adoption of technical standards enabling a higher degree of specialization within the hazardous materials transportation sub sector.
- Strengthen technical competencies, with the support of the methodology developed by OFDA, of the members of government agencies, rescue organizations, and others involved in emergency response.
- Develop a web platform to provide access to information of interest to truckers, cargo handlers, government agencies, and other interested parties involved in emergency response on the national highway system.
- Develop an emergency simulation during the transport of hazardous materials on the highways with the support of municipal highway safety workers, Mitigation and Emergency Response Regional Committees (CREPAD) and the Emergency Control Centers and Health Emergency Coordinators (CRUE).
- Develop other stakeholders specializing in emergency response during HAZMAT situations.
- Elaborate and maintain a national directory of experts in the management of hazardous materials and structuring an academic program to develop national capacity.
- Implement municipal level reserve centers with the necessary equipment and materials to manage HAZMAT emergencies with the support of CREPAD, DGRPAD, and other interested parties.
- Implement a web page to manage national and international lessons learned derived from post-emergency response and organize an annual, countrywide event, with all the parties interested in technological risk management, to analyze and diffuse the lessons learned.



Corporate Alliances for Managing Safe Neighborhoods

- Create of a national network of Mutual Aid Committees (CAMs) and develop web-based tools (blogs and forums) to share information and take advantage of regional synergies, and enable the creation of the first National Congress of CAMs.
- Develop standards for articulating the emergency plans of the member companies of the CAMs with the purpose of capturing how a company can reduce risks, access government resources, and understand the activation protocols of national and local response units.
- Develop synergies between companies and local authorities for trainings, develop community driven simulations (industrial, commercial, and residential), and create outlets to share information and gather concerns related to risk management in each local area.
- Strengthen company based risk management programs aimed at communities and train community leaders in the development and implementation of Community Emergency Plans.



[Disaster Management Alliance](#)

[Pan American Development Foundation](#)

1889 F Street, NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20006
202.458.3969