



World Conference on Disaster Reduction

18-22 January 2005, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan

ECHO/ISDR good practices for resilient communities

Multinational Andean Project: Geosciences for Andean Communities (MAP:GAC)

Natural Hazard Mitigation in South America's Andean Nations

As the Andean nations of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú, and Venezuela are linked by a common geography, natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and landslides too are common among them. The 7 national Geoscience Agencies of the Andean nations are mandated to work in natural hazards, and as a result they partnered with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), to form the Multinational Andean Project: Geoscience for Andean Nations. The six year (2002-2008) \$36 million CDN (including \$12 million CIDA contribution) project has united the seven countries and Canada around the fundamental goal: "to contribute to improving the quality of life for peoples of the Andes by reducing the negative impact of natural hazards (volcanoes, earthquakes and landslides) by providing updated and integrated geoscience and geospatial information on natural hazards for: 1) land use planning and, 2) natural hazard mitigation."

With "learning by doing" being a major philosophical underpinning of the project, the funds will be used to support a broad range of training relevant to hazard studies, acquisition of software and monitoring equipment, development of technologies for digital data integration using a web based interface (www.GeoSemantica.net), scientific language and methodology standardization, and development of methodologies for communicating the derived hazard knowledge to the relevant non-technical communities. Several of the countries already had strong programs in natural hazards, which has created considerable expertise within the region. The result is a strong commitment to mutually supportive regional capacity building. ... more information on www.agronet.mn