



## World Conference on Disaster Reduction

18-22 January 2005, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan

Workshops title	<b>Risk Reduction and Indigenous Populations: The Native American Project</b>
Lead organization	<b>GDIN, the Global Disaster Information Network</b>
Speakers, etc.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Dr. Albert Simard</b>, Director of Knowledge Management, Natural Resources, Canada and Chairman of the GDIN Executive Committee</li><li><b>Dr. Reza Lahidji</b>, Administrator SGE/AU, OECD, Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development</li><li><b>Larry Winter Roeder, Jr.</b> Policy Adviser on Disaster Management, Bureau of International Organizations, US Department of State and Executive Director, GDIN</li></ol>
Outline	<p>The panel discussion dealt with how to help indigenous and remotely placed populations to gain access to and learn to use effective disaster information tools and databases. Local Japanese experts discussed Japanese indigenous populations. The US Department of State described a GDIN (Global Disaster Information Network) pilot project with the Navajo and Pueblo Indian populations of Arizona and New Mexico. OECD described their partnership with the Indian Project, an expedition to Indian reservations they recently conducted, and their OECD Futures Projects, which offer a pragmatic approach to focused, multidisciplinary research and policy analysis on future-oriented themes, involving both governments and private sector participants. It is under the Future Projects program that OECD partners with GDIN and the US Department of State. Natural Resources Canada presented a discussion on the disaster information management marketplace, drawing on a similar discussion in a parallel session on new developments in disaster information database analysis.</p> <p>Much discussion focused on a disaster information network being designed in cooperation with the Pueblo Indians, the Navajo Nation, the National Congress of American Indians, OECD, GDIN, the US</p>

	<p>Government, UNICEF, UN WGET and the State of New Mexico. The prototype network will provide native Americans to manage their own disaster information needs in a culturally sensitive way, taking advantage of (and not competing with), local, State, National and international sources of information. Local sensitive information is also protected, yet the clients are also provided access to state-of-the art satellite derived data and other information, as well as training and tools to reduce risks to disasters, as well as more effective early warning and response. The network is in the design phase. If built and successful, the notion is to build a larger system covering all tribes in the United States and Canada, as well as Latin America, then link to Oceania and Africa. Japanese experts in the room who work on Japanese indigenous populations suggested a potential partnership as well. For copies of CD-ROM briefings on this topic, send a letter to GDIN Native American Project, 26128 Talamore Drive, South Riding, Va 20152. CD-ROMs cost \$10 (US) in order to cover processing and postage.</p>
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