



World Conference on Disaster Reduction

18-22 January 2005, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan

Workshops title	Applied Research Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction for Young Professionals from Developing Countries
Lead organization	ProVention Consortium
Speakers, etc. (Please give their job titles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Schramm, Director, University of Wisconsin - Disaster Management Center • David Peppiatt, Manager, ProVention Consortium Secretariat • Bilgen Sungay, Bogazici University, Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute, Turkey • Avanish Kumar, Centre for Environment Education, India • Aloysius Rego, Director of Partnerships, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center • Amy Mintz, Senior Officer, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Outline of content	<p>Research on disaster risk reduction in developing countries is often scattered amongst different disciplines and sectors, networking between disaster risk management professionals in the South is limited and financial, material and human resources allocated by national governments and donors to disaster risk reduction research and professional development is in most cases largely insufficient. However, strengthening local expertise is key to the development of effective risk reduction strategies in developing countries.</p> <p>In order to build up local research capacity, support innovative disaster risk management projects and encourage young professionals to become more involved in disaster risk reduction, the ProVention Consortium in collaboration with the World Bank's Hazard Management Unit (HMU) launched in December 2002 an "Applied Research Grants Program for Disaster Risk Reduction". Sixty-five projects from 27 countries were awarded grants of up to US\$ 5,000. Grantees came from a mix of institutional affiliations: universities, government, local and international NGOs and private sector. Projects were completed in January 2004. Fifteen projects were selected as representative of the most innovative and sustainable project activities and team leaders from these projects presented their findings at the "Global Symposium for Hazard Risk Reduction", July 26-28, 2004 at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC.</p> <p>Two of those selected young researchers attended the World Conference on Disaster Reduction and presented their projects at</p>

	<p>this Public Forum Workshop. Along with other colleagues, they also reflected on the significance of the grants program and invited others to participate in the future.</p> <p>In 2005, the ProVention Consortium will again sponsor a competitive forum to support innovative disaster risk management projects and encourage competent researchers and professionals in developing countries dedicated to reducing disaster risk. Students and young professionals from developing countries are invited to propose creative projects. These proposals may include research projects or professional development programs. Applications will be screened by a jury consisting of ProVention Consortium partners. Awards will be made to proposals with the potential of making a significant contribution to the field.</p>
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