

The Last Mile Earthquake Risk Mitigation Assistance in Developing Countries

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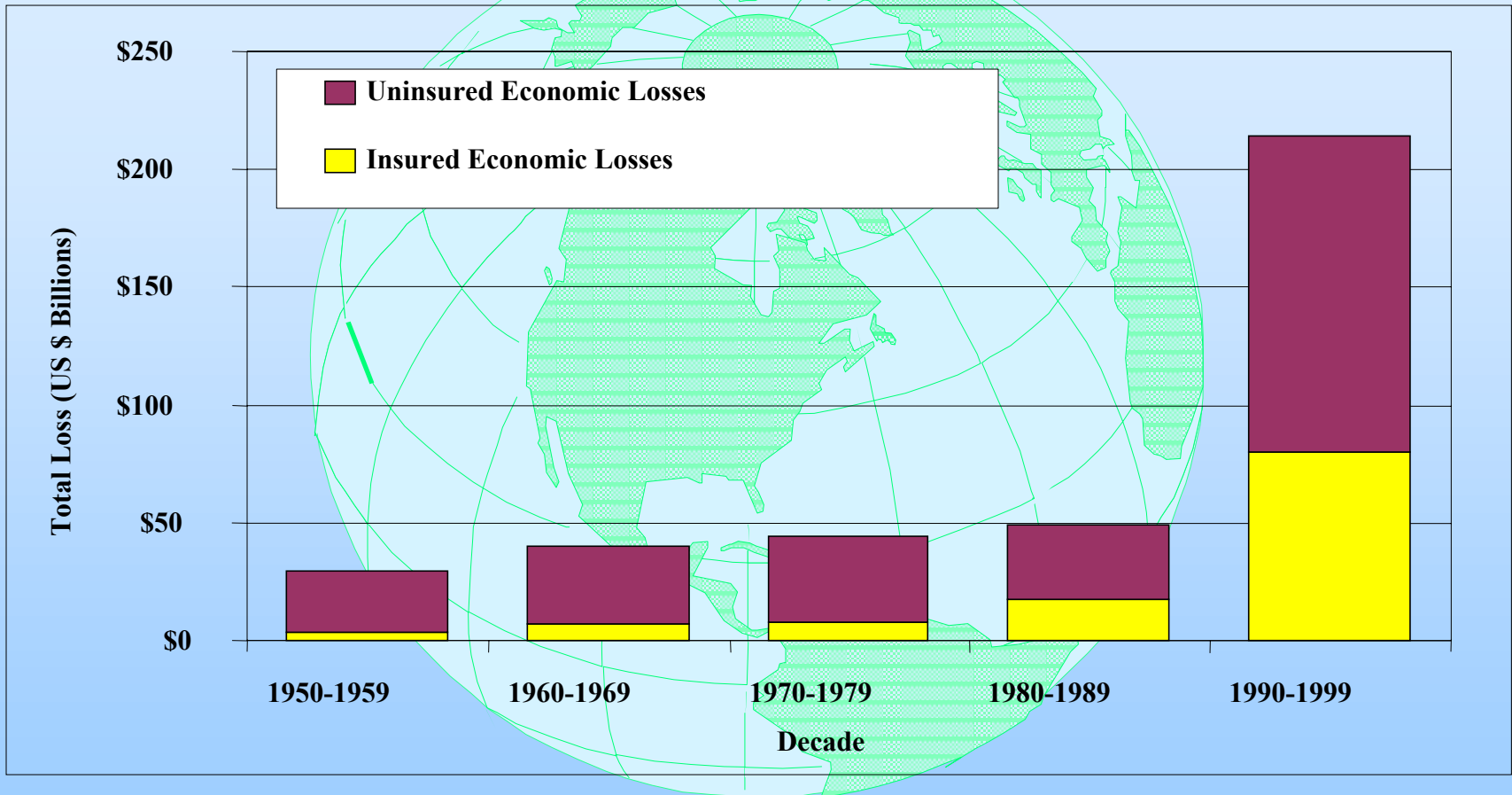
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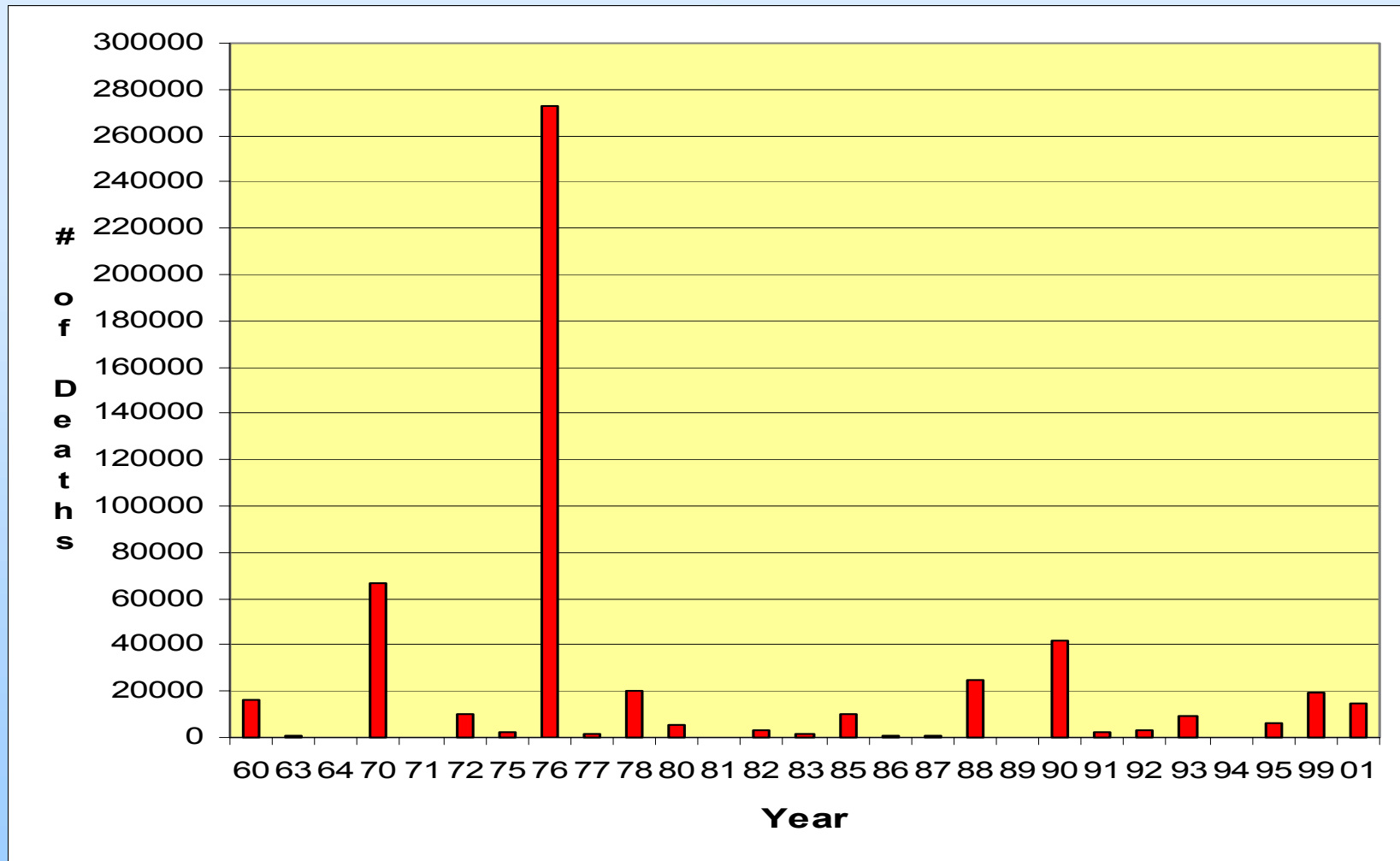
Kobe, Japan

Losses Due to Great Natural Catastrophes Worldwide by Decade



Source: American Re (2002) Annual Review of North American Natural Catastrophes 2002

Fatalities due to Recent Earthquakes



Comparison of Decades 1950 - 2002

Decade	1950 – 59	1960 – 69	1970 - 79	1980 - 89	1990 – 99	Last 10 Years
Number of Events	20	27	47	63	91	70
Economic Losses	42.1	75.5	138.4	213.9	659.9	550.9
Insured Loss	-	6.1	12.9	27	124	84.5
Ratio of Insured to Economic Losses %	-	8.1%	9.3%	12.6%	18.8%	16.6%

Factor	70's – 60's	80's	90's – 60's	Last 10 – 60's
Number	1.74	2.3	3.4	2.6
Economic Losses	1.83	2.8	8.7	7.3
Insured	2.11	4.4	20.4	13.9

Observations from Data

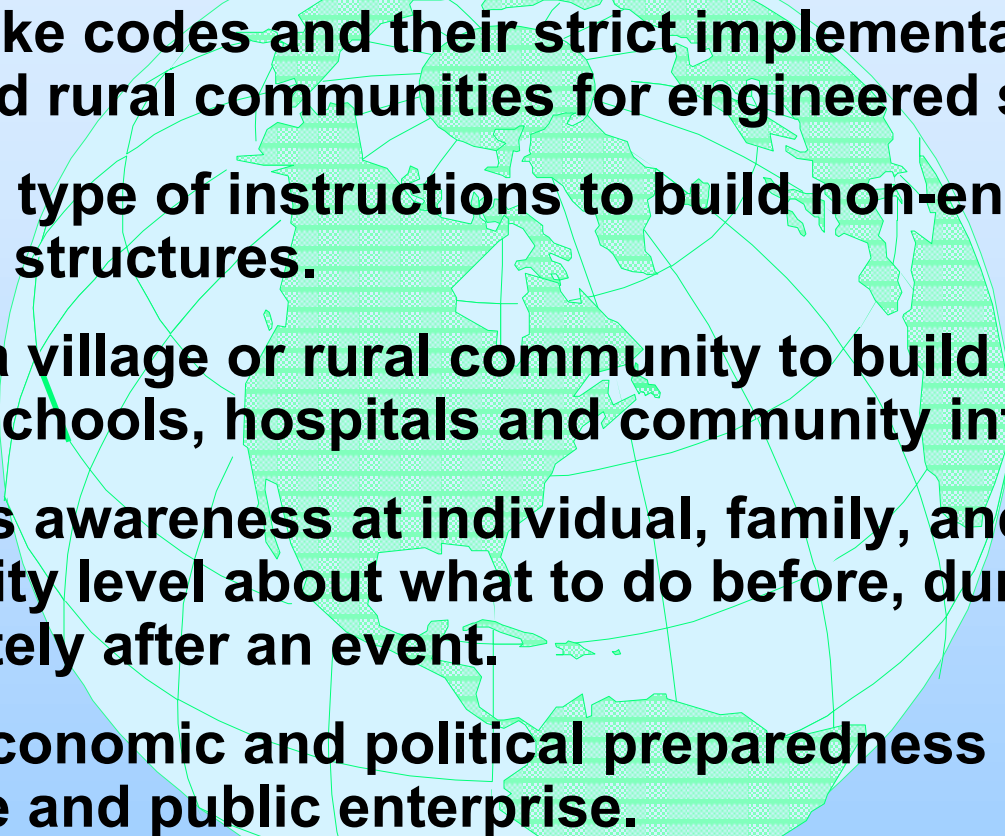
1. **Economic losses are increasing with time**
2. **No progress in fatality reduction**
3. **Developed countries have made progress in reducing fatalities but not in economic losses**
4. **Developing countries have not made any progress in reducing fatalities or economic losses**

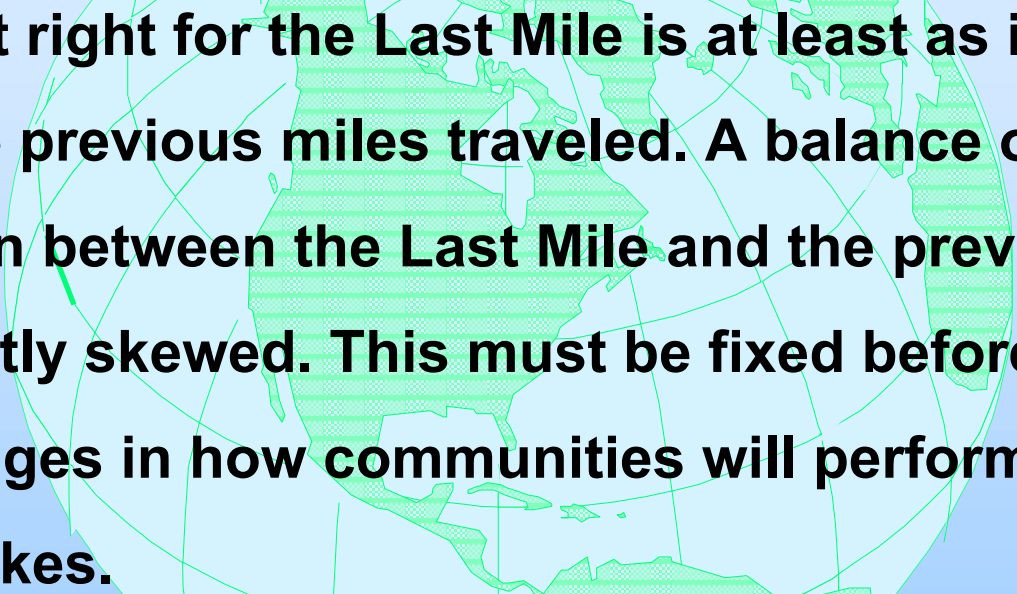


Reason(s) for this Sorry State of Affairs:

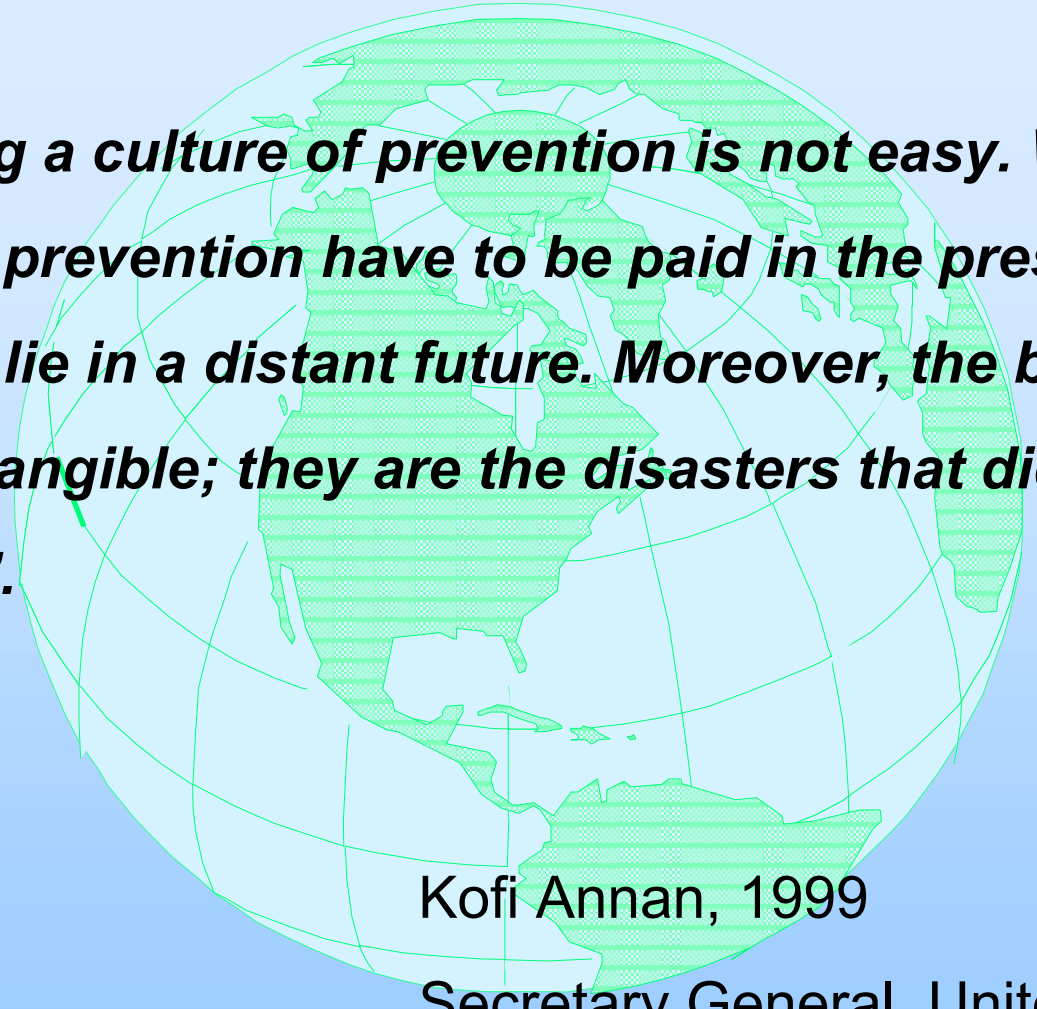


How do we Recognize the Last Mile?

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- Earthquake codes and their strict implementation in urban and rural communities for engineered structures.**
 - “How to” type of instructions to build non-engineered and rural structures.**
 - Helping a village or rural community to build safer homes, schools, hospitals and community infrastructure**
 - Increases awareness at individual, family, and community level about what to do before, during and immediately after an event.**
 - Social, economic and political preparedness at all levels of private and public enterprise.**



Getting it right for the Last Mile is at least as important as all the previous miles traveled. A balance of resource allocation between the Last Mile and the previous miles is currently skewed. This must be fixed before we will see changes in how communities will perform in future earthquakes.



“Building a culture of prevention is not easy. While the costs of prevention have to be paid in the present, its benefits lie in a distant future. Moreover, the benefits are not tangible; they are the disasters that did not happen”.

Kofi Annan, 1999

Secretary General, United Nations