



Cities and Volcanoes Commission

NEWSLETTER: December 2006



Cities and Volcanoes Commission

The Cities and Volcanoes Commission aims to provide a linkage between the volcanology community and emergency managers, to serve as a conduit for the exchange of ideas, and to provide a means to share experience between “volcano cities”. It also aims to promote multi-disciplinary applied research, involving the collaboration of physical and social scientists, and city officials.

The Commission is open to all IAVCEI members with no charge for membership. We aim to develop a close link with the International Volcano Health Hazard Network (IVHHN), World Organisation of Volcano Observatories (WOVO) and Commission on the Mitigation of Volcanic Disasters.

<http://cav.volcano.info>



Academia, government, the private sector, international organisations, and non-governmental groups are contributing to the topic. Through any sector, volcanologists, emergency managers, educators, and others can assist in making schools and students safer from volcanoes. Children are our future and schools should be places for a safe education.

Volcano-safer Schools

By Ilan Kelman <http://www.ilankelman.org>

The previous newsletter (April 2006) noted that delegates at “Cities on Volcanoes 4” were fortunate not only to see school-related products at the “Outreach Exchange” but also to visit a school near Quito which has recognized the volcano-related threats it faces. Significant strides have been made towards educating the students about volcanoes, volcano threats, and volcano safety, particularly regarding their school’s location.

The students take this knowledge home and spread the message to their parents, extended family, and neighbours. Such risk education and awareness should be emulated. Yet this same school had design elements which, from a fire safety perspective, might need to be reconsidered. Focusing on one peril at the expense of others does not necessarily improve safety.

To tackle comprehensive school safety, the Coalition for Global School Safety (COGSS) <http://www.interragate.info/coggs> was founded. COGSS was launched in April 2006 by collaborating with the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute and Risk RED, a risk education NGO, to produce a freely-available slide show with more than 200 slides highlighting disaster impacts on schoolchildren, near-disasters, safety initiatives, and advocacy guidance. See the website to become involved and to provide volcano-related ideas.

Another example linking volcanoes and school safety is Bridge for Kids <http://www.bridge4kids.com> in Orting, Washington, USA. Residents became concerned that schools did not have appropriate pedestrian evacuation routes in case of lahars from Mount Rainier, so they are creating such routes. Meanwhile, in volcano-studded New Zealand, the government has published documents on emergency procedures for schools and for early childhood services.

Recent Events



Participants at the recently held “Disaster Planning and Response for Key Lifeline Infrastructure Systems” October 19 & 20, 2006 at the Sheraton Hotel Bicentennial Pavillion, Tacoma, Washington. Sponsored by: Pierce County Emergency Management and Puget Sound Energy.

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United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction



Third International Conference on Early Warning: From Concept to Action, March 27-29th, 2007, Bonn, Germany

CaV Commission Secretary Graham Leonard attended as the official delegate for CaV and on behalf of New Zealand.

There was a very high profile for the importance of social preparedness and community integration with warning systems at this conference, which was pleasing to see. The keynote address was given by Ex-president Bill Clinton in his capacity as the United Nations Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery. His speech highlighted the challenges of building and sustaining effective community-based warning systems in the long term (especially as the time following a disaster increases).

Full proceedings and conclusions from the conference, including a 'global survey of early warning systems', a 'checklist for developing early warning systems', and a compendium of over 100 international early warning projects in need of support can be found at: <http://www.ewc3.org/>

Please also refer to the ISDR page for a range of disaster reduction resources and initiatives: <http://www.unisdr.org/>

Partner commissions

International Volcanic Health Hazard Network
www.ivhnn.org

What is IVHNN?

The International Volcanic Health Hazard Network (IVHNN) was launched in February 2003 through a Leverhulme Trust Research Interchange Grant. IVHNN currently involves 31 expert members from 25 international institutions and over 130 corresponding members. Members of IVHNN work in diverse scientific disciplines such as volcanology, epidemiology, toxicology, public health, and physical chemistry with a common aim of trying to determine the health effects of volcanic emissions.

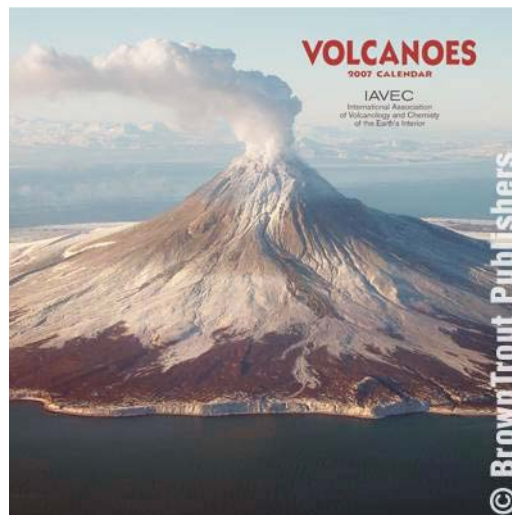
Aims:

The main aims of IVHNN are:

- To promote the expansion of the newly emerging field of volcanic health hazard research.
- To continue existing collaborations and develop new collaborative links between the multidisciplinary international partner organizations.
- To produce and widely disseminate protocols and volcanic health hazard information to volcano observatories, scientists, governments, emergency managers, health practitioners and the general public.
- To encourage collection of geologic and medical data to evaluate health hazards.
- The formation of databases of well-characterized ash and gas samples and literature from volcanoes world-wide, for use by the Network and other workers.

IAVCEI volcano calendar for 2007

The 2007 "Volcanoes" Calendar will be available soon! Order from your bookseller or Brown Trout Publishers, PO Box 280070, San Francisco, CA 94128-0070, USA or via the web at www.browntROUT.com.



Schools and Disasters

Promoting Community Resilience In Disasters

The role for schools, youth, and families

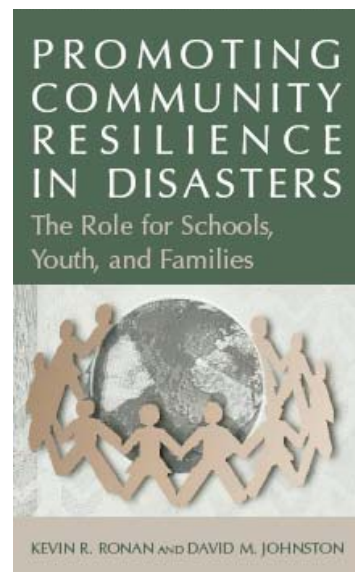
Kevin R. Ronan, Central Queensland University.

David M. Johnston, GNS Science.

When large-scale disasters occur, they typically strike without warning - regardless of whether the cause is natural, such as a tsunami or earthquake, or human-made, such as a terrorist attack. And immediately following a hazardous event or

mass violence, two of the most vulnerable groups at risk are a community's children and their family members. Promoting Community Resilience in Disasters offers both clinicians and researchers guidance on hazard preparation efforts as well as early response and intervention practices. It emphasizes an evidence and prevention-based approach that is geared toward readiness, response, and recovery phases of natural and human-made disasters.

Promoting Community Resilience in Disasters
The Role for Schools, Youth, and Families
Ronan, Kevin, Johnston, David
2005, XII, 212 p. 10 illus., Hardcover
ISBN: 0-387-23820-4



Tea and smiles in the shadow of ash from Indonesia's Mount Merapi

Grant Kaye and Tom Wilson

Why is it that people who have suffered such great loss still manage to always find something to share with visitors? I pondered that question as a third cup of "teh" poured into my glass, which sparkled in the ashy sunbeams that filtered through the cracks in the handcrafted rafters of the brick house and played on the bumps of the packed earth floor. I looked up and smiled, attempting to convey my gratitude for the delicious, hot beverage to our hosts as they continued building wooden furniture for their daughter despite the fact that through the door behind me, Merapi volcano was erupting only a few hundred meters above us.

Outside the house, ash hung suspended in the air, casting a dull grey pallor on the otherwise verdant slopes of Merapi. The eruption had been going on for nearly six weeks, but the people of Stabelan could breathe easier, as the threat of block and ash flows damaging their village had decreased significantly. The 1930 lava domes (which they called the "Geger Boyo", or Crocodile Back due to their resemblance to the spine of a crocodile when viewed from Merapi's lower slopes) had recently collapsed in early June, shifting the threat of flows from the western flank to the south. Seemingly just above us, Merapi was quietly belching small block and ash flows down the south flank from the crumbling base of the lava dome growing at its summit.

We said our goodbyes, and walked on up the road, where we stopped to set up a tripod and a video camera to try and capture images of the fracturing lava dome that was barely around the corner. As Tom set up the camera and showed a crowd of children their first telephoto glimpses of their volcano through a digital viewscreen, I wondered off into an all-but totally destroyed patch of tobacco, laden heavily with the past few days' tephra. The winds had not been blowing in favour of Stabelan, and most of the small patches of tobacco and corn in the village had been devastated by the ash.

At the edge of the tobacco patch, children ran and played, kicking up ash with their bare feet, hiding sheepishly behind the adults and smiling at the two foreigners. We had come from New Zealand to try and learn more about how ash from volcanoes impacts crops and lifeline infrastructures, such as power and water. Here in Stabelan, the power was still on, despite daily accumulations of up to a centimetre of dry ash on powerlines and pole-top transformers. The crops, however, were not faring so well, a grim reality made all too evident by the overburdened plants by which I was now kneeling.

Yet despite the dismal outlook for their crops that season, the people of Stabelan still managed to welcome us with warm tea and snacks, smiles, and a barrage of questions about what we hoped to learn during our visit to their home. Through an interpreter, we had managed to get our purpose across (we

hope!), and once their curiosity was sated, they told us how the ash had come and damaged their crops.

Back in New Zealand, as we make adjustments to our models of how crops and infrastructure interact with ash based on what we saw in Stabelan, we wonder how we would feel if a foreigner came through our homes during a time of volcanic disaster here, full of questions and wonder at the root cause of our woes. We're grateful to the people we talked to in Indonesia, and certainly hope that the information they shared with us can be put to good use in helping people learn what to expect during an eruption, and perhaps even how to plant different kinds of crops to better withstand future ashfall events.

Our own eruption might be just around the corner - better stock up on some tea.



Photo: G Kaye

Grant and Tom's trip was supported by the New Zealand Earthquake Commission, the New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, and the University of Canterbury. Their trip and subsequent research was made possible through the kind assistance of Dr. Sutikno Bronto and Dr. Sri Mulayningseh in Yogyakarta. Tom and Grant are currently working on several papers on the impact of tephra from this eruption of Merapi to agriculture and infrastructure.

Volcanic Impacts Database: web site

Ash-Impacts Website

<http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/ash/>



New Zealand Mt. Ruapehu eruption, June 1996

Photo by Lloyd Homer. GNS Science Photo Library, www.gns.cri.nz

Protocol for selecting venues for the CoV 6 meeting

Background

To date there have been four "Cities on Volcanoes" meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to bring together volcanologists, city authorities, sociologists, psychologists, emergency managers, economists and city planners to evaluate volcanic crises preparedness and management in cities and densely populated areas. In 1995 the "Volcanoes in Towns" meeting was held in Rome, Italy. From that developed the first "Cities on Volcanoes", held in June-July 1998 in Rome and Naples, Italy with over 100 people attending. This was followed by the second in February 2001 in Auckland, New Zealand with 220 people attending and the third in Hilo, Hawaii in July 2003 with 300 attending. The fourth meeting was in Quito, Ecuador in January 2005, with the largest attendance to date. The fifth meeting is planned for Shimabara, Kyushu, Japan, November 19–23, 2007.

Future Planning

The venue for the next "Cities on Volcanoes" meeting (likely to be held in 2009 or 2010) will be selected by a Committee of the Cities and Volcanoes Commission. Formal written proposals are called for and must briefly outline:

- dates
- venue for conference
- locality (e.g. volcano characteristics, activity, exposed population, vulnerability, etc)
- transport options for international attendees
- programme ideas (e.g. speakers, field trips)
- logistics and handling of these by the host country
- potential sponsorship
- preliminary estimates of the intended registration fees.

The Commission will consider the initial proposals and may seek further details from those countries with the most suitable venues.

The Commission will likely announce the next venue at the 2007 "Cities on Volcanoes 5" meeting in Shimabara.

The Commission will assist the hosting country where possible but organisational and financial responsibility rests with the host.

Important dates for the selection of Cities on Volcanoes 6:

January, 2007

Formal call for nominations for hosting CoV6

July 31, 2007

Deadline for nominations for hosting CoV6

October 1, 2007

Deadline for written proposals for hosting CoV6

October 14, 2007

Deadline for further information requests by Commission

November 1, 2007

Deadline for further information submissions

November 20, 2007

Meeting of the executive committee of the Cities and Volcanoes Commission to decide venue of CoV6

November 23, 2007

Venue for CoV6 announced

Upcoming Conferences

El Chichón Volcano: 25 years later

20–25 March 2007

San Cristobal de las Casas

Chiapas, México

Contact: website:

www.geofisica.unam.mx/vulcanologia/chichon/

IUGG 2007

in Perugia, Italy, 2–13 July, 2007

www.iugg2007perugia.it

VS012 "Cities on Volcanoes: looking at the links between volcanology and community issues around volcanoes"

Conveners:

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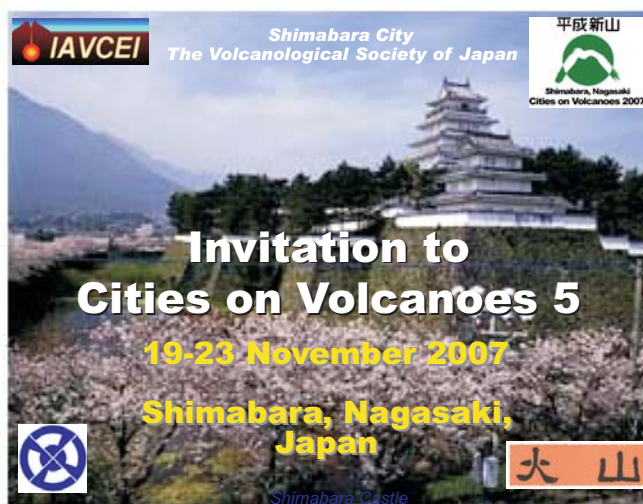
Email: orsi@ov.ingv.it

For additional information on the IUGG general assembly 2007 visit <http://www.iugg2007perugia.it/>

The abstract deadline is **31 January, 2007**

Cities On Volcanoes 5

Shimabara, Nagasaki, Japan, 19–23 November 2007



Next newsletter

April 2007: Please send short news items or information to david.johnston@gns.cri.nz by 15 March 2007.