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## Editorial

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### Jean-Luc Wybo

The *International Journal of Emergency Management* has arrived on the world scene at a most appropriate time and fulfils a unique niche. Emergency management is becoming a key issue, as the complexity of technological and human systems is steadily increasing. Disasters know no ideological, geographical, or political borders.

Emergency management has rapidly moved into the global arena, as natural and man-made disasters have demanded increased attention and greater diversity of creative solutions. At this time in history, the need for knowledge management is crucial amongst the international professional emergency response community, to encourage cooperation and to search for cross-discipline solutions.

The challenge is to share knowledge, throughout the many stakeholder groups, and to make it available to the widest public. Government planners and policy makers, the scientific community, practitioners, first responders, and the business community must work together, understand each others' perspectives and create bridges to facilitate better emergency planning, a quicker, more flexible response, and thorough evaluation. *IJEM* provides a forum for these crucial issues.

In this journal, engineers and planners can learn from social scientists who have studied human behaviour; academics may be guided by problems of workers at the scene; and those in the field may benefit from new academic theory, technology, and training programs. Emergency responders will have an opportunity to determine common tenets in successful disaster management and draw from experiences with hurricanes, forest fires, terrorist events, technological failures, mine disasters, etc. The different perspectives of each discipline will enhance the work in all the disciplines towards a better, safer world.

Our aim is to provide a source of information and knowledge for all professionals and a timely contribution to the field of emergency management. To achieve this goal, we will select the best communications presented in the annual TIEMS [1] conferences, and call for contributions from key professionals and academics who provide relevant ideas and undertake actions in the field. We also plan to include in each issue short 'opinion papers' about recent events or relevant societal issues. In later issues, we also plan to include a 'readers' corner' for people to react to papers or opinions.

With these multiple sources of information, *IJEM* aims at becoming a cornerstone of emergency management knowledge on a global scale.

### Notes

- 1 TIEMS stands for The International Emergency Management Society (<http://www.tiems.org>). Next conference will be held in Toronto (Canada) on 14-17 May, 2002.