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## **Editorial**

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### **Jean-Luc Wybo**

This third issue includes nine contributions that demonstrate the width and scope of Emergency Management research and activities.

LIU presents a Malaysian initiative to manage the recurrent floods that damage the country, with an interesting association of modern systems and traditional coping mechanisms. COLARDELLE presents a method to shed light on the root causes of frequent railway incidents by the analysis and sharing of the individual experiences of train drivers and other stakeholders. DYMON addresses the crucial problem of the symbology used in emergency management and its influence on the quality and efficiency of communications and collaboration between people. KINCAID presents simulation techniques that are currently used to train public safety personnel to enable them to respond to disasters.

Two papers deal with the regulations for risk and emergency management. KIRCHSTEIGER presents a review of international agreements and institutions dealing with industrial risk. The European directive to control major accident hazards is discussed. DRANGEID raises the question of the influence of regulations on safety, with the example of the offshore petroleum industry. An introduction to the principle of defence in depth is provided.

The KOWALSKI paper discusses human judgment and decision-making under stress. The authors suggest that a better understanding of individual judgment and decision making activities whilst under stress would yield a better understanding of how people reach the choices they make in emergencies.

Finally, McENTIRE discusses a conceptual framework for emergency management. The concepts of vulnerability, resistant and resilient communities, and sustainable developments are discussed and a new paradigm is proposed: invulnerable development.

Emergency management was mostly concerned with natural and technological accidents until the terrorist attack against the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon. Over a year has passed since this worldwide disaster and many issues have been addressed concerning the description of events and the management of the emergency by the many stakeholders. Some of these matters will be published in the next issues of IJEM, when the controversies, which are still active now about the management of this disaster, will have calmed down.

In order to commemorate this tragic event, we publish in this issue a text from ESQUIVIE, who is a General in the French Gendarmerie and took an active part in the control of terrorism in France. This text proposes an historical perspective of terrorism to help us understand the roots of this new kind of disaster.

During the management of emergencies and disasters, the interface between people and technology is often shown to be a cause of complications in the management of the event or an aggravation of its consequences, even though the merits of technology are acknowledged. The recent collision of two aeroplanes over Switzerland, caused by contradictory orders given by the air traffic controllers and the on-board anti-collision systems, is a good example of such drawbacks. In order to address this important matter in a future issue of IJEM, contributions on this theme will be welcomed.

The annual conference of TIEMS will be held in France, from 3 to 6 June 2003. IJEM readers are welcome to attend this event and to present contributions. Information about TIEMS can be found at <http://www.tiems.org> and pre-registration is available at <http://www.cindy.ensmp.fr/tiems.html>