

# The Professionalization of Disaster Management in the Caribbean

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The Professionalization of Disaster  
Management in the Caribbean:  
To Be or Not To Be;

That is the Question

# I am the Proposer

- You are invited to support my view point
- Please help me out later with experiences from your sphere or in your area of work
- To those who oppose, we also welcome your views
- We will use your views to strengthen our arguments

# What is the Caribbean?

Is the Caribbean the 16 or 17 Member States of CARICOM?

- Is Barbados in the Caribbean?
- Is the Caribbean, “The Greater Caribbean as embraced by the ACS?

# POINT

- In any move to create a professional society or association for Disaster Managers in this region, we should seek to be all-inclusive
- We should not practice exclusion
- We should welcome all who wish to assert their *Caribbeanness*

# What is Disaster Management?

- The organization and management of resources and responsibilities for dealing with all aspects of emergencies, in particularly preparedness, response and rehabilitation (ISDR).

# Defining Disaster Management

- *Emergency management involves plans, structures and arrangements established to engage the normal endeavours of government, voluntary and private agencies in a comprehensive and coordinated way to respond to the whole spectrum of emergency needs. This is also known as disaster management.*

# Defining Disaster Risk Management and Reduction

- 'the systematic process of using administrative decisions, organization, operational skills and capacities to implement policies, strategies and coping capacities of the society and communities to lessen the impacts of natural hazards and related environmental and technological disasters. This comprises all forms of activities, including structural and non-structural measures to avoid (prevention) or to limit (mitigation and preparedness) adverse effects of hazards (ISDR).

# DRM & DRR

- *Risk awareness and assessment including hazard analysis and vulnerability/capacity analysis;*
- *Knowledge development including education, training, research and information;*
- *Public commitment and institutional frameworks, including organisational, policy, legislation and community action;*
- *Application of measures including environmental management, land-use and urban planning, protection of critical facilities, application of science and technology, partnership and networking, and financial instruments;*
- *Early warning systems including forecasting, dissemination of warnings, preparedness measures and reaction capacities.*

# Who are Disaster Managers?

- Is the tag line disaster manager limited only to the NDCs, Directors or those in charge of the NGO Offices?
- Are producers of risks and vulnerability map to be included?
- Will there be a place for the environmentalist, the urban, rural and land use planners, engineers, the scientist, microbiologist or the accountant who specialises in organising business continuity courses for the corporate sector in such a professional of disaster managers?

# What is the Professionalization of Disaster Management?

- What should we use to decide who should be called a professional in this field?
- Academic?
- Experience?
- Blend of Both Academic and Experience?

# Examining Existing DM Societies

- 1) What are the aims and objectives of these entities?
- 2) What levels of standardisation do they use for recruitment of members?
- 3) How do members benefit professionally from being involved in such groupings?
- 4) Do members receive professional accreditation through their involvement?
- 5) Which models are best suited for our Caribbean situation?

# The Society of Emergency Planners (Great Britain)

- For professionals dealing with emergency planning, crisis and disaster management the Society offers a unique framework for promoting the interest of its members."

# Aims and Objectives

- The primary aims of the Society are to promote effective emergency planning and management, and to promote the professional interests of its members. To achieve its aims, the Society seeks to:
  - Promote the views of its members in all issues relating to emergency planning and management
  - Provide a forum for the study of the most effective means of planning and managing local emergency preparation and response, and dissemination of good practice
  - Influence policy related to emergency planning
  - Encourage the professional development of its members

# Levels of Membership

- 1) Associate members offered to persons who have had less than two year experience working in an approved field of disaster management or disaster risk management.
- 2) Member for those who attained two years or more experience in the field
- 3) Fellow, awarded to professional with 10 or more years experience in the field
- 4) Student membership
- 5) Retired Membership
- 6) Honorary Membership

# The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)

Benefits to members include:

- Certification opportunities
- Scholarships
- Professional Development Events
- Opportunities for Professional Career Enhancement.

# Conclusions

- 1) That the establishment of such a society or association is an imperative;
- 2) That we have various model from which to fashion this new entity
- 3) That we must ensure professional standardisation requirements for membership
- 4) That this society ensure mechanisms for accreditation of its members

# Conclusions

- 1) That this society offers affiliate membership to existing agencies at work in the region
- 2) That ranks be determine by a blend of experience and academic advancement
- 3) That there are ready and available champions to move this society forward

A Professional Society of Professional Disaster  
Managers of the Caribbean:

To Be or Not to Be;

The Time for Action is NOW

THANK YOU