



“RADIUS plus 10” Project **within the context of RTF-URR**

(30 November 2008)

Background:

The IDNDR¹ (1990-1999) Secretariat launched the Risk Assessment Tools for Diagnosis of Urban Areas against Seismic Disasters (RADIUS) in 1996. It aimed to promote worldwide activities for reduction of seismic disasters in urban areas. Nine cities were selected for case studies carried out for 18 months to develop earthquake damage scenarios and action plans to reduce seismic risk, and involved decision makers, local scientific, local government officers, representatives of the communities, and mass media. This initiative was aimed at raising local government awareness and at encouraging policy makers to make necessary policy decisions to reduce seismic risk.

One of the case study areas was Zigong City in Sichuan province in China. Based on the experiences of the nine case-study cities, practical tools for earthquake damage estimation and implementation of similar project were developed so that any earthquake-prone cities might start similar efforts as the first step of seismic risk management. A comparative study to understand urban seismic risk was also conducted. More than 30 cities, all of which had carried out a seismic risk assessment or were in the process of doing so with independent resource joined RADIUS as “Associate Cities” for information exchange and international cooperation. Most of Associate Cities wrote a city report and submitted to IDNDR secretariat.

Objective of the Project:

Further to the Wenchuan Earthquake occurred in May this year, “RADIUS plus 10” project was proposed in the Asia Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction (RTF-URR) discussion as the RADIUS follow up project. “RADIUS plus 10” aims to evaluate the impacts of RADIUS project in Zigong and develop a set of actionable recommendations focusing on critical infrastructure in Sichuan Province and RADIUS Associate and Member Cities in China. Further more, the set of recommendation from “RADIUS plus 10” project will be also beneficial for other cities which are prone to seismic risks in the world.

Update and on-going activities:

An assessment mission of the impacts of RADIUS project in Zigong City was conducted in 27-31 October 2008 in cooperation with the WSSI (World Seismic safety Initiative²) as the technical partner for this project with the below three objectives:

1. Assess the impact of RADIUS project in Zigong City and Sichuan Province;
2. Review and analyze what changed following RADIUS was completed in 1999 and the barriers (politics, power, technical issues etc) that might have prevented some actions post RADIUS;
3. Identify a set of recommendations for future disaster reduction strategies that are actionable in Zigong City and Sichuan Province in general, in particular in relation to the reconstruction of the areas affected by the Sichuan Earthquake.

This assessment mission benefited from interviews with relevant national and local government officials, and experts of seismic risk reduction. Questionnaires are also being sent to other RADIUS cities in China to review the status of disaster risk reduction and the impact of the RADIUS project. The Report with a set of recommendation drawn from the assessment mission and findings from questionnaire will be produced. The recommendations can be applied to other cities for improving their seismic risk reduction measures.

How to utilize these recommendations for other cities, production of updated original RADIUS tool (earthquake damage assessment software), and their possible use for training programme will be explored.

For more information, please contact:
UNISDR Hyogo Office
E-mail: isdr-hyogo@un.org

¹ International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

² The World Seismic Safety Initiative (WSSI) is an undertaking of the International Association for Earthquake Engineering (IAEE). WSSI is a non-profit, non-governmental venture to promote the spirit and goals of IDNDR and ISDR and to act as a catalyst in helping nations improve their earthquake risk management strategies.