



For 10th Anniversary Celebration

**Thoughts on the future of the Disaster
Management Profession**

Kay C. Goss, CEM

A couple of personal comments to start with and then some professional observations:

1. Congratulations upon this enormous undertaking and historic success: I am so proud of the present and past rector of ITU for supporting this program and supporting the team of Dr. Ural, Dr. Boyacıoğlu, and Dr. Okay, as they continue to build this global guiding light in disaster management education!
2. I am so sad that I can't be there, as I am scheduled to be somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean at this time, arriving this afternoon in Istanbul!



My proudest achievement during our administration at FEMA is meeting Dr. Gulsun Saglamer, Dr. Derin Ural, and Dr. Dilek Boyacioglu on the day they came to FEMA to say we have had these earthquakes and we want our nation to form a partnership with you and to be stronger going forward, a most inspiring approach, by these world leaders in disaster management. The hard work they have done over these 12 years since the earthquakes of 1998, have been historic, effective, and most amazing!

Now, for a few professional observations

2010 - a most active year for disasters, in fact the deadliest disaster year in more than a generation:

with more than 250,000 deaths and widespread destruction of property and facilities

+ More people were killed in this one year in natural disasters than have been killed in the 40 year history of terrorism.

+ Hottest year on record, leading to extreme weather events



Earthquake in Haiti

Earthquake and mine disaster in Chile

Floods in Pakistan

Heat in Russian, leading to wild fires

Snow in UK and France

Snow 6 feet deep in Syracuse, NY, "called Snowmageddon," as well as Tornadoes and mudslides in US

Predictions for the coming year, for US Gulf Coast Hurricane season are: 17 hurricanes

Hurricanes have caused the greatest losses on insured properties over the last ten years of \$152.4 billion



While I was at FEMA, ten years ago, when we launched this wonderful program at ITU, we calculated that about

100,000 people died each year in disasters and about \$50 billion dollars were lost in property damage in the US and another \$50 billion around the world;

now, that is no longer true. Both deaths and damages have increased astronomically!



Disasters have increasingly become a devastating drag on the global economy!

The emergency management profession has responded wisely with more robust planning, improved training, enhanced realistic exercises, more higher education degree programs, more textbooks, focused attention to standards, accreditations, certifications, credentials, in short the continued building of the profession of disaster and emergency management!

In the US, we now have 219 higher education programs and degrees in emergency management, a 100 programs in homeland security, another 100 institutions in the process of developing these degree programs.

When we launched the FEMA Higher Education Program in 1994, there were only 2.

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics expects the growth of jobs of about 22% in the profession between now and 2018.

Around the world, we can expect even more!

The salaries for disaster and emergency managers is increasing.

The press coverage of our work is increasing and causes the public to be more aware of our ongoing work.



The principles of emergency management appeal to a wider and wider audience:

+collaborative

+risk-driven

+flexible

+integrated

+comprehensive

+professional

+progressive

+coordinated



The best is yet to come for our profession and a couple of things I would like to see ITU take the lead in going forward to mark this momentous occasion of celebrating the 10th anniversary:

- consider leading a global development effort for the establishment of an international disaster management Ph.D. program
- consider establishing a Istanbul chapter of the International Association of Emergency Managers



Kay C. Goss, CEM

Former Associate FEMA Director
Now, Senior Advisor for Emergency Management
at SRA International and
Adjunct Faculty, ITU