DISASTER MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

20th - 22nd February 2008

Seminar for Experts and Senior Managers on NATO Standards and Project Evaluation Procedures, Focusing on Hydro-Meteorological Aspects

Introduction
Pursuant to RACVIAC’s annual programme for 2008 the Training & Verification Division organized and executed the Seminar on NATO Standards and Project Evaluation Procedures, Focusing on Hydro-Meteorological Aspects. The Seminar was organized in cooperation with the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI) from Sarajevo.

The purpose of the seminar was to present all relevant topics related to introduction of NATO standard and project evaluation procedures, enhancing a joint coordination and cooperation between national disaster management authorities in the field of hydro-meteorological hazards as preparedness and prevention and risk reduction activities in Southeast Europe (SEE).

Seminar Summary
Ambassador Nedžad Hadžimusić, the Director of RACVIAC - Centre for security Cooperation and Mr. Damir Truth, Deputy Director of the National Protection and Rescue Directorate opened the seminar.

Thirty-four participants attended the seminar from: Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3), Bulgaria & NATO SfP (1), Croatia (7), Denmark (2), DPPI (1), Finland (1), The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (3), Hungary (2), Moldova (1), Montenegro (3), Romania (1), Serbia (1), Slovenia (1), SEEBRIG (2), Turkey (1), WMO (2). The participants were senior advisors, decision makers, experts and managers in their national organizations with a large-scale of theoretical knowledge and practical experience, which has enabled most constructive discussion.

Group photo

Through the presentations, experts from NATO Science for Peace program (SfP) and national lecturers have provided us with the recommendations and suggestions as how to proceed with the development of possible project in

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name
accordance with the NATO SfP standards and procedures, but also how to seek possible funds from NATO to support regional project activities. Furthermore, regional experts and scientists from other fields (e.g. seismic) have shared their experiences in development and implementation of some projects initiated and developed within framework of DPPI SEE and implemented by support from NATO SfP or initiated independently in their countries but seeking for a broader international cooperation.

The seminar open a broader area of possible multinational cooperation, where discussions among the participants rise questions and answers how to proceed in a new way. It has provided a valuable environment and atmosphere to encourage focused discussions. Thru it we have provided recommendations and suggestions as how to proceed with the development of possible project in accordance to the NATO SfP standards and procedures. It was presented how to seek possible funds from NATO for regional project activities. Lessons learned were presented in the field of developing and implementing a project developed within framework of DPPI and support by NATO SfP.

The following experts have presented their expertise:

1. Mr. Dusan HRČEK - WMO Activities in Southeastern Europe.
3. Mr. Dimiter SYRAKOV – NATO Program Science for Peace and Security - History, Aims, Objectives and Instruments;
4. Mr. Dimiter SYRAKOV - Development and Current State of Bulgarian Emergency Response System for Radioactive Pollution in Case of Nuclear Accident;
5. Mr. Milan DACIĆ –
6. Mr. Ivan ČAČIĆ - Development and upgrading of hydrometeorological Information and flood forecasting/warning system for the Sava river basin;
7. Mr. Miroslav VUJANIĆ - Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe;
8. Mr. Ion-Victor PESCARU - Romanian contribution on NATO projects in the field of monitoring and forecasting of meteorological, hydrological and air pollution severe events;
9. Mr. Milan ERJAVEC - Cooperation with the strategic partners;
10. Ms. Vlasta TUTIŠ - Regional Strategy for Disaster Preparedness and Prevention With Reference to Mitigation of Hydrometeorological Risk;
11. Mr. Milan ERJAVEC - Cooperation with the strategic partners;
12. Mr. Zoran DIMITROVSKI - Hydrometeorological Service of Macedonia Integrated in
13. Crisis Management and Protection and Rescue System;
14. Mr. Klemen BERGANT – Drought Management Centre for SEE;
15. Mr. Bengt TAMMELIN - WB/UN-ISDR/WMO project in 2007;
16. Strengthening of Hydrometeorological Services in South Eastern Europe;
   Mr. Bjørn THORLAKSEN - Decision Support System for CBRN emergencies.

The Seminar proved as most necessary and very successful and it has contributed to promoting an even closer cooperation between the countries.

**Conclusions**

The chosen topic of the seminar has shown to be a great value thru the eyes of possible multinational cooperation. As a result of this in was proposed to become a traditional seminar. The cooperation between RACVIAC and DPPI ensured the presence of high-level participants, who gave particular information for further consideration and discussion and proposals for projects.

Participants recognized a need for better International Corporation and coordination between the countries, when a disaster accrues. It was proposed to organize a workshop on international responses on a disaster in the field of coordination and corporation.

Good relationship and willingness for further cooperation among the participants has been established. Concrete invitation has been submitted to the countries to join in developing regional projects.

Everyone has agreed that the seminar brought an added value and showed fields and ways as how to work in the future as a platform for co-operation at the national and international level as well as to foster co-operation between the civilian and military sphere in SEE.

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