

# DISASTERCOM

DERA Newsletter

38 Years of Service

April, 2000



## DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP

DERA will host an International Disaster Communications Workshop in Dayton, Ohio on May 21, 2000. The workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will run through noon.

The workshop will include a panel presentation by Dr. Shrikanth Jichkar, former member of the Indian Parliament; Ram Mohan, team leader for the Orissa supercyclone response mission, and Bob Dockery, Chairman of the Board of Directors of DERA. Moderators for the workshop will be S. Suri, Executive Vice-Chairman of NIAR-India, and Jay Wilson, Executive Director of DERA.

The workshop is being held in conjunction with the annual convention of the American Radio Relay League and the Dayton Hamvention. Attendance at the workshop is free, however, there is a nominal charge for admission to Hara Arena for the convention and exhibits.

A key topic of discussion will be the difficulty international response teams have in obtaining professional credentials in host countries during times of disaster, as well as the difficulty in transporting technical equipment across international borders. NIAR will also present detailed information about projects they have initiated to place communications equipment in high schools in high-threat areas and train radio operations teams in remote areas.

As outlined in the December 1999 DERA DisasterCom Newsletter, NIAR was instrumental in providing emer-

gency essential communications in the aftermath of the 1999 Orissa Cyclone, and their presentations at this workshop should prove invaluable to catastrophic event response planning.

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## JULY NEWSLETTER

Deadline for submitting articles for the July 2000 newsletter is June 20<sup>th</sup>.

*Please let us hear from you.*

**We always appreciate field reports and first-person articles.**

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## ANNUAL MEETING

DERA's Annual Membership Meeting will be on the morning of Sunday, November 5, 2000 in Austin, Texas. Full details in the July newsletter.

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## DIRECTOR VACANCY

We have a vacancy on the Board of Directors. Any member wishing to be considered for this position or who wishes to nominate another member is invited to send a letter of application/nomination by June 10<sup>th</sup>. The letter should outline professional

qualifications and reasons why the candidate should be selected. All nominations received by June 10<sup>th</sup> will be given careful consideration. Please send letters to:

**DERA Board of Directors  
Nominating Committee  
P.O. Box 797  
Longmont, CO 80501-0797**

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## DISASTER PUBLICATIONS

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has issued two exceptionally important booklets. Text copies of these publications are available at no charge through the Internet, while a few print copies are available directly from PAHO. The books are: *Natural Disasters: Protecting the Public's Health* (PAHO Scientific Publication No. 575, also available in a Spanish language edition), and *Humanitarian Assistance in Disaster Situations: A Guide for Effective Aid* (also available in Spanish). The second publication outlines in detail the concept and techniques for effective international aid outlined by Dr. Claude de Ville de Goyet in the October, 1999 DERA Newsletter.

Free text versions may be obtained from: <http://www.paho.org/english/ped/pedhome.htm>. Printed copies may be requested through email from:

**disaster-publications@paho.org**  
or by FAX to PAHO at (202) 775-4578.

Their mailing address is:  
PAHO,  
525 Twenty-Third St., N.W.,  
Washington, DC 20037.

**DisasterCom** is the quarterly newsletter of DERA International. News items and articles are always welcome.

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Editor: Kathryn Dunlevy-Wilson

Membership in this Nonprofit Association is open to all who share our commitment to effective disaster preparedness and response.

See Back Page for Membership Application

**The Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association, International**

**P.O. Box 280795, Denver, CO 80228-0795 (USA)**

E-Mail: [DERA@disasters.org](mailto:DERA@disasters.org)

<http://www.disasters.org>

Phone: (970) 532-3362

FAX: (970) 532-2979

## **DERA International**

P.O. Box 280795  
Denver, CO 80228

DERA is a Nonprofit, U.S. IRS 501(c)(3) Disaster Service and Professional Association  
Established in 1962  
Incorporated in the State of Wisconsin.  
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### **Officers**

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# E I I P



## **Director's Comments**

Dear Members:

Please join the Board of Directors in extending condolences to our fellow members who have recently lost close family members:

Dan and Ed Ritchie—two of our most active and most senior members—recently lost their father in Wisconsin.

S. Suri, VU2MY, lost his elder brother in Hyderabad, A.P. State, India. Suri and his brother's family graciously hosted me during my visit to Hyderabad last year, and I sense their loss greatly.

Also, Jim Lucas from Grand Junction, Colorado, one of our hardest-working and most dedicated members, needs your thoughts and best wishes at a most difficult time.

With great pleasure, we welcome the following new members:

**Major Janet L. Hlavaty-LaPosa**  
Snohomish, WA

**Chris Alger**  
Emeryville, CA

**Dr. J.K. Pathak**  
Nainital, U.P., India

**George E. Pusey**  
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**A.J. Grey**  
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**Jason Shear**  
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**Jose Gregorio Reyes Atencio**  
Maracaibo, Venezuela

**Richard Choularton**  
Greenwich, CT

**R.K. Pande**  
Nainital, U.P., India

**United Methodist Committee on Relief**  
New York, New York

As the devastating famine grows even worse in Ethiopia, I am reminded how focused the world community is on *responding* to disasters, and how difficult it is to gain the support and backing needed to *prevent* disasters at home and around the world.

There will certainly be an outpouring of money, food, and manpower from all over the world once images from the Ethiopian tragedy are featured prominently on television news shows. Yet this disaster has not come about suddenly. Decision makers around the world have all been watching this situation get worse by the month for nearly five years, but they will predictably swing into action soon to "save the starving children." The real tragedy here is that our leaders will have waited until people indeed are starving to death before deciding to take action.

Ask any fire chief in the world, and they will tell you it's cheaper and less dangerous to prevent fires than to try to put them out once they start. Let's make it our mission to educate our leaders to this important lesson as it applies to all disasters, everywhere.

- Jay Wilson, Executive Director

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**DERA**  
**Disaster Emergency Fund**

**Please help us provide emergency relief and assistance to victims of catastrophic disasters.**

*DERA funds vital emergency relief efforts and critical preparedness projects, often when there is no other source of funds.*

**Disaster victims are depending on us. Please don't let them down.**

**Tell us how to use your donation:**

- Orissa cyclone relief
- South America     Africa     Asia
- Russia     Central America
- Only within \_\_\_\_\_ (Location)
- Where needed most

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail To:**

DERA Disaster Emergency Fund  
P.O. Box 797  
Longmont, CO 80502-0797

Tax Deductible Charitable Contribution.  
DERA is an IRS 501(c)(3) Organization. FEIN 39-1777651.

**Lecturers Wanted**

The Civic Education Project (CEP) is a nonprofit organization supporting higher education reform in Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia. CEP is now accepting applications for lecturers in Public Administration for the 2000-2001 academic year.

English will be the spoken language in the classroom. CEP Visiting Lecturers will also collaborate with local colleagues on curriculum development.

Assignments are for one year, with renewal possible. Visiting Lecturers receive housing, stipend, round trip airfare, and health insurance.

**To apply, please contact:**

Civic Education Project  
1140 Chapel St, Ste 2A-7  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Phone: (203) 781-0263

FAX: (203) 781-0265

Email: cep@cep.yale.edu

**Low Travel FARES**  
**Save Money - - Help DERA**

*Frontier Airlines makes a generous donation to the DERA Disaster Emergency Fund for all personal or business travel booked directly with them under the "Care Fares" program.*

1. Call the special reservations number: **800-432-1359** (303) 371-7000 in Denver
2. Tell the agent this is a "Care Fares" reservation
3. Get the best rates available, make your reservation, and ask Frontier to credit DERA:

**D.E.R.A. -- Care Fares Account # S-600202**



**Reminder to Members:**

Please check your mailing label on this and other newsletters.

The mailing label shows your membership classification and the expiration date of your membership.

Prompt payment of membership dues helps DERA keep down administrative and mailing costs, meaning that we can serve all our members better.

We appreciate your membership and support. You are welcome to upgrade or prepay membership dues at any time... you are always given credit for the remaining portion of your current membership, and classification upgrades are retroactive to the beginning of the current year.

And don't forget to recommend DERA membership to your friends and professional associates.

Many thanks!

**DERA DisasterCom**  
P.O. Box 797  
Longmont, CO 80502-0797

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Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association

***Membership Application***

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Radio Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Select Membership Category:**

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Executive / Management  
\$50.00 per year

Gov't Agency or Small Business  
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*Include appropriate exchange rates for foreign currency. All c checks or bank drafts must be negotiable through U.S. Banks. FEIN 39-1777651*

Charge Card Transactions will be billed to your account through MTC Management Service, Berthoud, Colorado.

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P.O. Box 797  
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