



Photo: Anne Hutton

## **DERA Board Meeting**

DERA Chairman Howard Pierpont addresses the Board at DERA's Annual Membership and Board Meeting hosted in conjunction with the International Disaster Management Conference in Orlando in February.

The Board Meeting was well attended and conference call-in capabilities were provided for members who were not there in person.

Among the items were:

- Redesign Plan for the Website
- New Name for the Newsletter
- New DERA Logo Graphic
- New Masthead for the Newsletter
- Several Funding Program Ideas

For more information and detail, please see the article on page 4.

## **DERA Website gets a Facelift**

DERA Member Megan Larkins has volunteered to redesign the DERA website and give us a much needed "facelift". With Megan's suggestions, organizational skills and artistic talent, DERA will soon have one of the finest platforms conceivable for our many purposes. I am sure I can speak for the entire Membership to offer a hearty "**THANK YOU!!!!**" to Megan for the generous offer of her talents, time and hard work.



Photo: Dennis O'Quinn

**DERA Web Manager,  
Megan Larkins**



Photo: Anne Hutton

Leadership Photo from Orlando. Conference Front Row: (R to L) Sal Meloro, Howard Pierpont, Catherine Lawhun. Second Row: Megan Larkins, Jay Wilson & Kathryn Dunlevy-Wilson

## **Yamini in the News**

DERA Member Ms. S. Yamini, VU2YAM, AAO, NIAR has received a "Letter of Appreciation" from His Excellency, Shri. Rameswar Thakur, Governor of Karnataka state recognizing her service and outstanding achievements in the field of amateur radio. An article about her achievements in ham radio and her present Winlink success was recently featured in a major newspaper in Andhra Prabha,



Disasters.org is the quarterly newsletter of DERA International. News items and articles are always welcome.

ISSN 1521-1592

Editor: Catherine Lawhun

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 797, Longmont, CO 80502 (USA)

## DERA International

P.O. Box 797  
Longmont, CO 80502

DERA is a Nonprofit, U.S. IRS 501(c)(3) Disaster Service and Professional Association Established in 1962

Incorporated in the State of Wisconsin.  
Newsletter ISSN 1521-1592.

### Officers

**Robert R. Dockery**  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Asheville, North Carolina

**Howard Pierpont**  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Greely, CO

**Bascombe J. Wilson**  
Executive Director  
Denver, Colorado

**Randy Helbach, General Counsel**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Al Manteuffel, Director**  
Wheaton, Illinois

**Stefan Pollack, Director**  
Marietta, GA

**Dr. Marian Olson, Director**  
Golden, Colorado

**Catherine Lawhun, Director**  
Inglis, Florida

**Salvatore Meloro, Regional Programs**  
Jamesburg, New Jersey

**Kevin Sweet, Regional Programs**  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Anne Hutton, Regional Programs**  
Irvine, California

**Robert Rathbone, Regional Programs**  
Tampa, Florida

**Mark Majors, Regional Programs**  
Alexandria, Louisiana

### Partnerships & Affiliations Include

**ARRL**  
American Radio Relay League  
www.arrl.org

**CNA**  
Colorado Nonprofit Association  
www.ColoradoNonprofits.org

**EM Forum (formerly EIIP)**  
www.emforum.org

**EMLRC**  
Emergency Medicine Learning Resource  
Center  
www.emlrc.org

**FAIRS**  
Foundation for Amateur International  
Radio Service  
www.fairs.org

**Florida VOAD**  
Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in  
Disaster  
www.flvoad.org

**NIAR**  
National Institute of Amateur Radio (India)  
www.niar.org



## New Member Roster

**Peter McDonald**  
W. Townsend, VT

**Tim Shivley**  
Aurora, CO

**Carlos Garcia**  
Indianapolis, IN

**Jeffrey A. Page**  
Yerington, NV

**Anas Aloudat**  
Lakemba, NSW, Australia

**Eurico Hermans**  
Oranjestad, Aruba

**Susan Howell**  
Madison Heights, VA

Welcome to DERA!  
*It is our sincere aim to help you  
achieve your professional and personal  
goals!*

### **Attention All Members: 2009 Dues are now due**

*Please check your membership expiration date shown on the mailing label of this newsletter. If you haven't yet paid your 2009 dues, please save DERA the cost of mailing a reminder by making your payment now. You have two convenient methods:*

#### **Express Renewal by Mail**

Just send us your address label with a check for your dues. Dues rates are shown on the last page of this newsletter. Show any changes needed to your mailing address, or update your email or phone if these have recently changed.

*Mail to:*

DERA Membership  
P.O. Box 797  
Longmont, CO 80502

#### **Online Renewal**

[www.disasters.org/renew.htm](http://www.disasters.org/renew.htm)

## From your Editor's Desk

DERA members and Many Waters Volunteer Engineers participated in a virtual round table disaster response exercise entitled: "Fault Found" on February 22, 2009. Engineers, National Guard and State Transportation Officials representing a 5 state region attended the event to discuss and collaborate regarding what could occur following a large earthquake event along the New Madrid Fault. Please see page 5.

Sal Meloro hosted us this year with a spectacular barbeque at his villa in the luxurious Marriott Orlando Resort. It was a wonderful chance for members to meet and discuss the issues that affect our membership in a relaxed and comfortable setting. The food was out of this world and Sal generously donated the gourmet leftovers to feed many scores of homeless in Central Florida!!!! – Thank you Sal- Hope all our members will join us for next year's annual feast.



Yours Truly,

Catherine Lawhun

  
*Many Waters Resource Network, Inc.*  
*Building Teams to Build The Future*

**Linking  
Partners and Personnel  
to Projects  
Nationwide**

**Architects, Engineers,  
Construction Management, and  
Environmental Service Providers  
for Development, Public Works,  
Industry, Federal Contracting and  
Disaster Response**

888-570-1344

<http://www.manywaters.org>

## US Airways Crash Report from the Field

At 3:26pm on 01/16/09 a US Airways Airbus 320 crash landed on the Hudson river with 156 passengers on board. While in the Verizon Wireless (VzW) Disaster Network Operations center (NOC) in NJ the call came across with the "All City Wide Emergency" at this time myself and 4 VzW personal left the office with 1 mobile recovery vehicle and 1-Support vehicle to provide extended bandwidth and communications at the disaster site located in Jersey City, NJ. It's about 20miles from VzW Corp HQ. Local NJ Police provided a police escort to the disaster scene.

Upon arriving at the site it took 15 minutes to startup and activate a mobile communications cell tower. Adding EVDO (wireless internet) support, ensured that all assists on the ground would have enough added bandwidth for all mobile devices and EVDO supplied laptops to access the internet.

- Sal Meloro

## Support DERA with Logo Items

The DERA online store now has a wide range of items such as these:



There is something at the member supply store for every need and budget. Easiest way to get to the store is by our home page at [www.disasters.org](http://www.disasters.org) and click on the "DERA Supplies" link on the right.

## Comments Invited: National Weather Service Strategic Plan



I would like to invite you to participate in planning the future direction of the National Weather Service (NWS).

An essential element to the long-term success of any organization is the design and successful implementation of a strategic plan. More than just a document, a strategic plan provides an over- arching vision and related framework that defines the future path for an organization. In 1999, NWS developed a Strategic Plan to guide the organization into the new millennium. The 1999 plan served as a strategic foundation and was a key to progress in several areas. In August 2009, that plan will be 10 years old. Much has changed since that plan was implemented, particularly in the areas of technology and science that ultimately feed into our operations. The time has come to update the plan and set our course for the future.

Just as our forecasts require input, the strategic planning process depends on high quality input from all NWS stakeholders, including our valued partners and customers. You are invited to be part of the process. Your ideas on where we should be going and what we should be doing are vital to developing a comprehensive and realistic NWS Strategic Plan.

We have created a Web page dedicated to collecting your input. Please go to:

<http://www.weather.gov/news/stratplan>

From there, you can enter and submit your comments and suggestions on how we can continue to achieve our mission of providing high-quality weather, water, and climate services to the Nation in order to protect lives and property in an ever-changing environment. Please provide your input by May 1, 2009.

Be assured that all comments and suggestions from everyone who chooses to participate in this process— from individuals to CEOs, Directors and other leaders — will be considered. Everyone's opinion matters to us.

We may also post some of your comments to the Web page as a way to share with others in the community.

Thank you for taking the time to help us as we plan the future of your National Weather Service. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Curtis D. Carey at 301-713-0812, or by e-mail at

[Curtis.D.Carey@noaa.gov](mailto:Curtis.D.Carey@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

Dr. Jack Hayes  
NOAA Assistant Administrator for  
Weather Services, and  
National Weather Service Director

## Volunteers Wanted

**Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering for one of the following positions...or if there is a special project you would like to undertake with DERA sponsorship:**

**Board of Directors.** Two Board positions become vacant on the first of July. If you would like to serve in one of these key decision-making positions, please submit a letter of interest and a resume with references. The nominating committee will contact you to set up a telephone interview.

**State Liaison Officers and Assistants.** These are the "front line" jobs in DERA. State Liaison Officers represent DERA to state and local officials, establish good working relationships with agency staffs, VOADs and other NGOs, and provide media relations in time of emergency. Our aim is to have a primary and two assistant liaison officers in each U.S. state and territory, with comparable positions for our international membership. Please submit a letter of interest and a resume with references. The Liaison Coordinating Committee will contact you to set up a telephone interview.

**Regional Planning and Response Coordinators.** These positions coordinate the activities of State Liaison Officers with territorial responsibilities generally following FEMA Regional boundaries. Please submit a letter of interest and a resume with references. The Liaison Coordinating Committee will contact you to set up a telephone interview.

**Newsletter Editor and Assistant.** Our Newsletter Editor, Catherine Lawhun, has taken on responsibilities as Director of Operations for DERA

emergency response missions. She will work with the new editor for an orderly transition over a couple of newsletter editions. Please send a letter of interest and resume.

**Webmaster Assistant.** Design and management of [www.disasters.org](http://www.disasters.org)

**Peer Review for DERA Monograph Publications**

**Speaker's Bureau Coordinator and Assistant**

**Assistant for Financial Development and Grants**

**National Contingency Plans Chief and Assistant**

**International Program Assistant**

**Online EOC Coordinator and Watch Officers.** DERA maintains an online EOC at [www.dera.us/eoc](http://www.dera.us/eoc). The site needs an overall coordinator and several individuals to watch world and national events and post updates. Everything can be done from a web browser at home or even a WiFi hotspot.

**Student Awards and Scholarship Coordinator.** Arranges publicity for the program, coordinates with program sponsors, and presents awards.

**Member Awards and Recognition**

**Professional Affairs Task Force Members.** The task force will explore new opportunities for DERA to better serve its members and the profession.

---

## **DERA Annual Membership Meeting**



This year's annual membership meeting addressed DERA's new face to the community. Megan Larkins presented a slide show depicting the DERA Website changes she

recommends. The new name for the newsletter will be [Disasters.org](http://Disasters.org) and will

feature a new masthead and our new logo also developed by Megan.

Anne Hutton presented a service and outreach project proposal through which DERA would arrange the assembly of shelter comfort kits by local scout groups. The scouts could earn a merit badge, shelters would get their comfort kits and DERA would have promoted its message to the youth as well as service to the community. If undertaken, this would be an ongoing program led by DERA members in their local communities and on an international basis.

---

## **Random Antenna Arrays Boost Emergency Communications**

[Mar 2 -Gaithersburg MD]—

First responders could boost their radio communications quickly at a disaster site by setting out just four extra transmitters in a random arrangement to significantly increase the signal power at the receiver, according to theoretical analyses, simulations and proof-of-concept experiments performed at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

The NIST work, described in a forthcoming paper,\* may provide a practical solution to a common problem in emergency communications. The vast amount of metal and steel-reinforced concrete in buildings and rubble often interferes with or blocks radio signals. This was one factor in the many emergency communications difficulties during the response to the attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

Antenna arrays have been studied and used for years, but the latest NIST work provides several new twists. Unlike the typical case in which antenna arrays boost signals to or from a distant target, a first responder's radio would be relatively close to the portable transmitters, ideally within the perimeter of the array. More importantly, since disaster sites rarely allow for niceties of design, NIST studied the benefits of a fast and imprecise technique—randomly placed antennas combined with coarse signal matching. The signals produced by the radio and portable transmitters need to operate at the same frequency and roughly in phase, such that the radio waves are fairly well synchronized and thus build on

each other. Phase-matching was performed manually in the experiments but might eventually be possible remotely.

The NIST experiments covered a range of communications scenarios, using up to eight transmitters at different locations as well as objects such as concrete blocks that scatter radio waves. Across all experimental scenarios, researchers observed at least a 7 decibel median power gain—roughly a five-fold increase in the median received power—when splitting the power among four in-phase transmitting antennas, compared to using just a single transmitter. More important, researchers observed a 2.5 to 4-fold increase in the median signal at the radio receiver when using four in-phase transmitters instead of four randomly phased transmitters. More than four extra transmitters offered diminishing returns. (Unlike conventional repeaters, which re-send signals to maintain transmission strength across long-distance networks, the antennas in the NIST scenarios transmit the same signal at the same time to multiply its strength.)

Project leader Chris Holloway envisions portable transmitter devices shaped like hockey pucks, incorporating a small antenna and phase-shifting electronics, which could be thrown on the ground or stuck on a wall with the antenna always upright. "The idea is that someone, or even a robot, would have a bag of these things and would drop them off as they go through a building," Holloway says. Other authors include a guest researcher from Sandia National Laboratories and a collaborator from the University of Colorado at Boulder. The work was funded in part by the Office of Community-oriented Policing Services of the U.S. Department of Justice.

\* W.F. Young, E.F. Kuester and C.L. Holloway. Measurements of randomly placed wireless transmitters used as an array for receivers located within the array volume with application to emergency responders. IEEE Transactions on Antennas and Propagation, (forthcoming.)

---

## **1<sup>st</sup> Annual National Disaster Response Conference**

American Medical Response (AMR) has announced their First Annual National Disaster Response Conference. The event will be held at

the IP Casino Resort in Biloxi, MS July 8-9, 2009. This two-day event will include:

- Keynote speakers from FEMA, U.S. Dep. Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and AMR.
- After Action Reports for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.
- After Action Report for the 2009 Presidential Inauguration.
- Planning activities.
- New systems being implemented including improved reimbursement strategies.
- Network Provider's roles and responsibilities when responding to Federal disasters.
- Question and answer session.
- ...and much more.

Details are still being planned but following is a tentative schedule:

## Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> 2009

**Welcome and opening remarks**  
**FEMA/HHS Opening Remarks**  
**AMR/FEMA Contract Overview**  
**Lunch and exhibitors** - provided  
**Gustav/Ike/Inauguration After Action Review**  
**First day closing remarks**  
**Break with exhibitors**  
**Disaster Network Provider Reception**

## Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> 2009

**Exhibitor display**  
**Panel Presentations and Q & A**  
**Lunch and Exhibitor display** – Lunch on your own  
**Concurrent Break Out Sessions**  
Ground Ambulance  
Air Ambulance  
Para-transit  
**Demobilization**  
**Documentation and Reimbursement**  
**Closing remarks**

This conference is by invitation only and is limited to companies that are contracted with AMR as Disaster Network Providers. The main focus will be to review previous

deployments and prepare for future response at the management and decision-making level. People who should attend are company CEOs, Owners, Managers, Operational Command Staff, others that Owners/CEO deem necessary. Registration price will be \$150.00 per person. A block of rooms has been set aside at the IP Casino at the discounted rate of \$99.00 per night which is not covered by the registration price.



Registration instructions and further information will be forthcoming.

**David S. Slatten, NREMT-P**  
National Ground Ambulance Disaster Manager

## Fault Found Earthquake Exercise

Based on a mock, but very possible earthquake scenario involving 5 midwest states, DERA Members and Many Waters Engineers collaborated on a Round Table Conference Call during the International Disaster Management Conference February 22.

The scenario, mapping data, and additional resources are available for your review at

<http://www.manywaters.org/exercise.html>



A great deal of good information came forth from the discussion as is presented here as the enhanced minutes from that meeting.

Each of the DOT representatives took turns addressing the question regarding how their missions are coordinated and what regional groups they have assistance compacts with.

**Mike Helpingstine**, with MoDOT said that primarily their organization coordinates it's missions and resources through the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA). He also added that everyone in his department are trained in Bridge inspection and use standardized flagging and tagging protocols.



**Greg Duncan**, with TDOT cited their SEMA but said that they also have a specialized bridge teams and maintenance teams and they are currently working to make those teams self-sustaining in a disaster response setting.



**Mike Smith and Jeff Sams** with KYDOT concurred that KY utilizes SEMA for coordination and all DMAT (Disaster Medical Assistance Teams) requests are run through them



**Tony Evans**, with ARDOT said that while they coordinate with SEMA, they also have their own plan which includes provision for unaffected districts to respond with Bridge Inspectors first. He mentioned his ability to utilize the ASCE response Teams as well as the Tennessee Structural Engineers Association (TNSEA)

### TNSEA - West Region

Please note that **Ryan McDaniel, PE** currently serves as Treasurer of the West Tennessee Structural Engineers Association.

After the exercise, Ryan McDaniel asks an important question:



Will TDOT pull resources from engineering consultants that they work with if the need arises to inspect bridges, especially when that consultant provided design or Engineering and Inspection services on certain bridges?

**Paul Tucker, PE** who is the president-elect of the East Region of the TNSEA.

After the exercise, he wrote, "We would love to help out as much as possible. TNSEA is the Tennessee Structural Engineers Association."

**Catherine Lawhun**, DERA, discussed ESRI as a resource for mapping data as well as their HAZUS software. Information on the Civil Air Patrol's capabilities for both air-borne air traffic control and live video streaming Preliminary Damage Assessment were mentioned.

**Jay Wilson**, Executive Director for DERA and retired Air Force Colonel discussed military resources for rapid repair of bridges, pavements and runways.

It is very important for state agencies, particularly transportation departments, to develop contingency plans in conjunction with their state offices of the Adjutant General (National Guard). This is because the National Guard is in the best position to validate requirements for DOD's national strategic assets, such as combat bridging equipment, rapid runway repair assets, and all-terrain transport, and to help other state agencies determine the likelihood of DOD support at any given time. For example, while DOD has extensive combat bridging capabilities, many of those bridges are now on overseas deployment and are not readily available for stateside use, regardless of the urgency of the need. By staying in close contact with your Adjutant General and discussing specific DOD support capabilities at least twice a year, your agency will not waste time during an emergency requesting assets that may not be available, or expending your limited resources doing something that DOD may have a nearby capability that would be available. Also, as DOD develops new capabilities or retires old ones, your Adjutant General can help you keep your plans current. Some DOD assets that are often overlooked in state transportation contingency plans include rapid runway repair, mobile bridging equipment, and pierced steel planking/pierced aluminum planking (PSP/PAP) for temporary roadway, runway and helipad construction.



**Major Eric Hallstrom**, Ky National Guard's 41st Civil Support Team (CST) spoke of their capabilities. As with every state's CST, they run a rapid response 22-

person team that is typically deployable for WMD and natural disaster responses through the state EOC by requested local

officials/county EOC's. The CST's are self sustaining for multiple days and have two separate mobile Communications trucks that can integrate into a local/county response.



**Suzi Harkola**, with US Air Ambulance listed 600 ground and air ambulance assets they have available for disaster response.

Their organization currently has assistance compacts with over 500 hospitals and maintains a full and part time staff of 65.

**Sal Meloro**, Disaster Operations for Verizon Wireless nationwide, and DERA Regional Liaison, explained that Verizon Wireless has three major asset types for Disaster Response. COWs, COLTs and NOCs. COWs are large full capacity cell towers on wheels, while COLTs are cell towers on light trucks. The NOCs are mobile Network Operations centers (converted RV capable of bringing entire network capabilities into an affected area). They have a deployment compact with DOD and can get immediate military transport to assist in rapid deployment to bring communication capabilities back online very quickly.

Several of the DOT officials on the call commented on their firsthand knowledge of how well Verizon Wireless was able to restore communications and sung the private firm's praises to the other participants.

Communications issues were further addressed by **Dennis I. O'Quinn**, Electrical PE with DERA, who cited his observance of the gross need for communications in those rural areas that were communications poor by nature. These underserved populations could be best served by implementing and utilization of the Ham radio network facilitated by ARRL, DERA, SHARES, SATERN and MARS.

**Greg Duncan** with TDOT also spoke about his departments experience with limited communications capabilities across state lines except for the capabilities that have been developed through the Memphis Incident Management Office (John Thomas) working to communicate with Arkansas and Mississippi. Alabama DOT Maintenance Engineer has hosted a disaster work group of Southeastern States to disseminate contacts within each state and they are working to facilitate border discussions between

each geographical maintenance manager.

Some Public Works communications issues were cited:

CUSEC has been trying to work to improve communications across state lines. They have been trying to work with TEMA. However, there seems to be no organization in place to get people together and tell them where to go.

Our contact for CUSEC is **Paul Hogue** who can be reached at (901) 544-3570

**Ryan McDaniel** also mentioned that there seem to be a lot of resources in Memphis but no organization in place to coordinate among them. One resource he mentioned was the University of Memphis, Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI)

Contact:

(901) 678-5264 **Gary Patterson**, Executive Director. State of Tennessee. WEST TENNESSEE SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION, glptrsn@memphis.edu

**Howard Pierpont**, DERA Chair and retired continuity manager for INTEL brought up a good point regarding USDOT nationwide transport. He spoke about the unplanned for trucking assets that would become available because of the interruption of the highway network in mid-America. Not only the trucks themselves would be available to assist with the response and recovery but the loads that they were carrying could also be utilized easily and be on-scene quickly.



**Scotty Carroll**, PE and Supervising Electrical Engineer with Emerson

Process Management spoke to the role of power restoration and how many response functions centered around power restoration as a primary driving mechanism for recovery operations. For example getting the power back on (whether generator driven or utility supplied) is always critical as it drives many other things including water, sewage, hospital support systems, air conditioning (hot or cold), etc. Doing this includes not just system re-energization, but the testing of equipment and systems to ensure safety and functionality.

**CROMWELL** architects engineers

**Joe Hilliard**, PE, Principal and Director of Structural Engineering for Cromwell Engineers and Architects is a member of the AR Chapter of ASCE Emergency

Response Team, a volunteer team of approximately 50 engineers that are trained to rapidly evaluate buildings after a seismic event based on the ATC-20 guidelines.

He has had a few discussions with people in his office as to how we would respond to a major seismic event on the New Madrid Fault. Almost all of the 9 engineers in my department have been trained on the ATC-20 guidelines, but probably won't be immediately available to assist communities to evaluate buildings. Our first responsibility will be to evaluate the buildings of our hospital clients in the affected area before we start looking at our other client's facilities. He mentioned his ability to utilize the ASCE response Teams as well as the Tennessee Structural Engineers Association (TNSEA). Joe offered to speak to the ASCE team and retain contact with additional resources from their pool.

He also mentioned that the next course in their state was going to be ATC-45 which covers wind damage. Please see [www.atccouncil.org](http://www.atccouncil.org)



Paul Hogue, The Central US Earthquake Consortium Exercise & Training Officer, reviewed our Scenario and provided useful insights and feedback prior to the event.

His organization further reports:

On April 18, 2008, a magnitude 5.2 earthquake struck near Mt. Carmel, Illinois. This earthquake was felt in 16 states by over 40,000 people, according to the USGS. Since January of 2008, there have been nearly 300 earthquakes in the central United States, some of which were also felt over a large area of the region. When and where the next one will occur, and how large it will be, are questions which are difficult, if not impossible, to answer with any certainty, but reducing the vulnerability from damages is possible.

A one day Non-Structural Mitigation Workshop is being hosted under a grant from the Motorola Foundation. Call Brian or Jennifer Brumley at CUSEC (901) 544-3570 if you are interested.

## **UN agency trains communications experts for rapid global disaster response**



For crises where minutes can make a difference between life and death, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has graduated its first class of emergency telecommunications team leaders after an intensive two-week training course to ready them for rapid deployment to difficult and dangerous disaster zones.

"The ability to communicate within hours of a crisis – whether it's an earthquake, a tsunami or a war – is key to the coordination of relief efforts," WFP Information & Communications Technologies Division Director Ernesto Baca said today at the end of the training course, the inaugural session of a new programme for information and communications technology (ICT) managers.

"Through this programme, we have developed a specialized training that specifically addresses the unique needs of ICT 'first responders,'" he added. WFP has the largest ICT emergency response capacity among UN humanitarian agencies, and is the lead UN agency for communications in support of humanitarian workers' safety and security.

The programme, funded by a partnership between the Vodafone Group Foundation and the UN Foundation, focuses on three core outcomes: an emergency communications deployment guide, a software application and a cadre of ICT leaders trained to operate in grave security conditions.

It aims to double the number of ICT managers on standby for deployment to the next disaster. These include staff from UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government stand-by partners.

"We learned from the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that a dollar spent in preparation

for disaster goes much further than a dollar donated after the disaster," the UN Foundation's Senior Director of Technology Partnerships Paul Margie said.

Twenty-one ICT experts participated in the programme, bringing combined emergency response experience that includes dozens of recent crises such as the Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 South Asian earthquake, the 2006 war in Lebanon, and the ongoing crisis in Sudan.

"Effective communication is critical in enabling humanitarian assistance when disaster strikes," Vodafone Group Foundation Director Andrew Dunnett said. "Our aim is to provide training and technology to ensure aid workers can deliver effective humanitarian relief as quickly and efficiently as possible irrespective of the environment they have to work in."

The two-week course was held at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, among the most prestigious universities in Italy, which specializes in humanitarian training programmes.

## **Information Sharing**

*With the aim of promoting easy access to information on the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA) throughout the region of the Americas and the world UNISDR-Americas provides you with an interactive online tool called "HFA-Pedia".*

This website seeks to be a complementary tool to other initiatives related to the implementation of the HFA while permitting local, national, regional and international actors, academics, scientists, researchers, the NGO and private sector as well as civil society to get involved and share information, experiences, tools, lessons learned, information resources and to disseminate relevant materials on the implementation of the HFA.

We invite you to use and contribute contents to HFA-Pedia. Go to <http://www.eird.org/wiki> for more information. The Wiki format makes it easy to edit, contribute and share information freely.

Best regards from the UNISDR team in Panama.

<http://www.eird.org>  
<http://www.unisdr.org>

# WANTED

## Members

Add your strength to ours!

*Join our international network of prominent leaders, professionals and volunteers active in all phases of emergency preparedness, community safety and disaster response.*

## Speakers

Whether you are a well-known subject matter expert or just have interesting experiences to share, organizations around the world are looking for program speakers.

*DERA links members with an interest in speaking to audiences through our Speaker's Bureau. We also produce Podcasts, Webcasts and preparedness teleconferences which require little or no travel.*

## Writers

DERA offers numerous opportunities for publication: Our highly regarded Monograph Series is a peer-reviewed special publication for stand-alone research papers, field reports and preparedness guides, normally 12-36 pages in length. Our quarterly newsletter, Disasters•Org, gives members the opportunity to publish either a regular column or special articles.

*DERA provides members with the opportunity to gain professional recognition through high-quality publications.*

## Watch Officers

DERA operates an online Emergency Operations Center at [www.dera.us/eoc](http://www.dera.us/eoc)

*We need additional Watch Officers to keep the site updated with breaking news and situation reports. Watch Officers can post updates from anywhere they have access to the web. Even if you only have limited time and irregular schedules, you can be an important part of this program.*

## Regional and State Coordinators

Network where you live and work! DERA program coordinators and assistants attend key meetings in their state or region and network with all who might have an interest in DERA programs.

*DERA aims to provide every state with a program coordinator who provides liaison between governmental agencies, other nongovernmental organizations, and DERA members in the area.*

## International Program Coordinators

Since our founding in 1962, DERA has been very active in supporting international preparedness and relief efforts and we have sponsored emergency response teams throughout the world.

*DERA international program coordinators represent DERA within each country where DERA members have a presence and seek opportunities for cooperation, mutual assistance, and program development.*

**Learn more about DERA at [www.disasters.org](http://www.disasters.org)**

Please join us: We'd be honored to have you as a member.  
You may apply for membership online or use the form on the reverse.

## **Membership Invitation**



Founded in 1962

### **MISSION**

#### **Preparedness - Response - Recovery - Professional Association**

#### **DERA is a Nonprofit Disaster Service and Professional Organization.**

***Our members work together as an active, world-wide network of disaster preparedness specialists, response and recovery teams, trainers, consultants, technical experts, researchers and project managers.***

We help disaster victims by improving planning, communications and logistics, reducing risks and mitigating hazards, conducting community preparedness programs, and by sponsoring emergency response missions.

***We sponsor a school awards program that encourages students to study the effects of disasters and to conduct projects that reduce local hazards and improve community preparedness, safety and environmental protection.***

As a prominent international professional association, our membership is composed of key leaders in the field of emergency management from around the world, including key government officials, volunteers, consultants, business managers, researchers, educators, students and wide range of charitable groups.

***Our quarterly newsletter, DisastersOrg, brings current information about developments in emergency management and reports on the activities of our global membership.***

We sponsor research projects and the publication of emergency management guides, case studies, technical assessments, and preparedness materials.

***If you share our vision of commitment and service, we would welcome you as a member.***

*Please complete the application that follows or contact us for further information.*

**DERA  
P.O. Box 797  
Longmont, CO 80502**

**[www.disasters.org](http://www.disasters.org)**

**Professional Affiliation**  
**Membership Application**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country, if not USA or Canada: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Radio Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Select Membership Classification**  
**Enclose Check or Money Order for Dues Payment**  
**Amounts are in U.S. Dollars**

**Individual Membership - Professional**  
\$50.00 per year  
\$25.00 for Student, Retired or Unemployed

**Nonprofit Organization**  
\$75.00 per year

**Individual Membership - Management Level**  
\$75.00 per year

**Governmental Office**  
\$95.00 per year

**Lifetime Individual**  
\$450.00

**Small or Startup Business**  
\$125.00 per year  
*Please contact us for corporate membership*

**Foreign currency and drafts are credited at commercial exchange rates. All checks must be payable through a U.S. bank.**  
*Add \$5 per year if you wish newsletter sent by Airmail, or \$20 for Global Priority Mail. Rates good for 2008-2009.*

**Join online with any major charge card at [www.disasters.org](http://www.disasters.org)**

or mail this application with check or money order to

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

Please tell us if a member referred you so we can thank them: \_\_\_\_\_