

CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

6th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management

"CDM: Reflection, Introspection, Moving Forward"

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to announce the staging of the 6th **Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management** to be convened at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad hotel in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad from 5-9 December, 2011.

The Annual Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management is the region's premier event on disaster risk management. Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) is the Caribbean's regional contribution to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, a blue print for global actions in Disaster Risk Reduction. In that regard, the Conference is a regional event of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) global platform and is structured to promote good practice, share ongoing research and chart the way forward for the advancement of CDM in the Caribbean.

The overarching concept of CDM incorporates the management of all hazards, along all phases of the disaster management continuum and includes all sectors of society. The regional CDM Strategy has been developed by CDEMA and its partners and aims to enhance institutional support and capacity building; establish a mechanism for managing CDM knowledge; mainstream disaster risk reduction management at all levels and in all sectors of national economies and enhance community resilience in the CDEMA Participating States to be able to mitigate all natural hazards.

Recent events in the Bahamas, Haiti, Chile, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan reflect the growing vulnerability regionally and globally to the frequency and intensity of hazard events including those associated with changing climate patterns. These trends made it necessary for the region to break the cycle of destruction and reconstruction and address the root causes of vulnerability, rather than merely treating its symptoms when disasters happen.

In moving ahead with the mission to reduce disaster risk in the Caribbean, it is imperative that we take a moment to reflect, appreciate, and learn from our past, as we look towards the future. Using the lessons learned, we will formulate strategies and actions that will sustain our past gains and propel us to become a more disaster resilient society.

THEME

This year's conference will therefore be convened under the theme **"CDM: Reflection, Introspection, Moving Forward"** in celebration of the achievement of 20 years of institutionalized disaster management in the region and moving beyond the current regional 2007-2012 CDM Strategy.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Organized by the Coordinating Unit of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Conference is our region's largest gathering of disaster management practitioners and those from sectoral and

thematic fields who have specific responsibilities in this area. Delegates include personnel from national and regional institutions, international agencies, scientific and academic community, public and private sectors, risk insurance and financial institutions, community based organizations and donor and development partners.

Attending this event is an excellent opportunity to improve disaster risk management awareness and exchange information on good practices, while building stronger professional networks.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The major objectives of an exciting week of activities from Monday, 5th December, 2011 to Friday 9th December, 2011 are as follows:

- i. To celebrate achievements and successes within the CDEMA System 1991 – 2011 and identify gaps
- ii. To facilitate exchanges and lesson learning among CDM Stakeholders in related practice, research, products and tools
- iii. To assess progress in the implementation of the 2007-2012 Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy
- iv. To identify strategic opportunities for the management of disaster risk beyond 2012
- v. To identify opportunities for mainstreaming disaster risk management at the level of decision and policy makers in Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning.

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE

The Conference programme is built around three sub-themes linked to the overall conference theme:

1. ***CDM Reflection: Retracing Steps, Celebrating Achievements and Distilling Gaps:*** An opportunity to look back at the genesis of institutionalized disaster management in the Caribbean region, celebrate successes and give careful consideration to those gaps which remain
2. ***CDM Introspection: Examining Perspectives, Learning Lessons:*** A space to examine thoughts and perspectives on where we are today in the agenda of disaster risk management
3. ***CDM Moving Forward: Seizing Opportunities and Repositioning:*** Distilling opportunities and repositioning of the Comprehensive Disaster Management agenda (including its role in advancing the climate change agenda).

Presentation format

The Conference will feature the following sessions and events:

- i. Professional Development Sessions
- ii. Concurrent Sessions built around thematic presentations
- iii. Opening Ceremony
- iv. Plenary Sessions
- v. Panel Discussions
- vi. Poster Presentations
- vii. Conference Exhibition
- viii. Youth Session
- ix. Conference Tour
- x. Film Festival

GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACTS

Abstracts of **not more than 250 words** are requested for papers and posters.

TOPICS

Presentations should be based on the Conference theme and relevant to one of the following areas:

- Civil Society - A force of change in disaster risk management
- Innovation in development practice to upscale disaster risk management
- The role of science, education and research in advancing disaster risk management
- Climate smarting disaster risk management programmes
- Innovation in information and communication technologies: Applications for managing disaster risk
- Competencies and skills for effective implementation of Comprehensive Disaster Management

ABSTRACT FORMAT

1. All submissions should specify consideration for a paper or a poster presentation and **clearly identify the Conference focus area** as listed in the section "Topics"
2. All submissions must be no more than 250 words or less than 200 words, submitted in electronic format and sent to cccdm@cdema.org. Submissions received by fax or hardcopy will not be accepted.
3. A presentation summary outlining major points and benefits to delegates
4. Brief biographical sketch on professional training and experience of the author(s) must accompany the abstract. A photo must accompany the abstract.
5. Submissions must be in English.
6. Abstracts must be titled and include the author's name, institution/agency and full contact details.

Confirmed speakers will be required to submit a power point presentation along with their paper or poster.

PRESENTATION FORMAT

- Concurrent Sessions
- Poster Presentations

Concurrent Sessions

Each presenter will have a maximum of 15 minutes for presentation. There will be 10 minutes for questions and discussion after the last presentation.

Poster Presentations

Poster Presentations will be scheduled during the lunch break each day and allow for delegates to engage in one-on-one discussions with the presenter. Each presentation will be for ten minutes. There will be 10 minutes for questions and discussion after the last presentation.

Commercial presentations will not be accepted.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The **Conference Programme Committee** will review all abstracts. Selection will be based on the following:

- Topic and relevance to the theme and objectives of the Conference
- Relevance to the targeted audience
- Focus on key sectors, current trends, lessons learned and any recommended solutions
- Presenter's knowledge and expertise
- Demonstration of good practices
- Absence of commercial sales content for services or products

ABSTRACT FORMAT

Important Dates:

- Deadline for receipt of Abstracts: **Friday, October 7, 2011**
- Notification of Selection: **Friday, October 21, 2011**
- Submission of Final Papers: **Friday, November 18, 2011**
- Submission of Final Presentations: **Friday, November 25, 2011**

Special Conference Package for Presenters**

Limited support may be available to presenters from CDEMA Participating States to attend the Conference. These must be made through the local Disaster Office and reach the Conference Secretariat no later than Friday, October 28, 2011. Requests for support may be for full or partial funding.

*** This note in no way constitutes a firm offer for funding.*