

An Experience Designing a National Research Agenda on Disasters Risk Reduction

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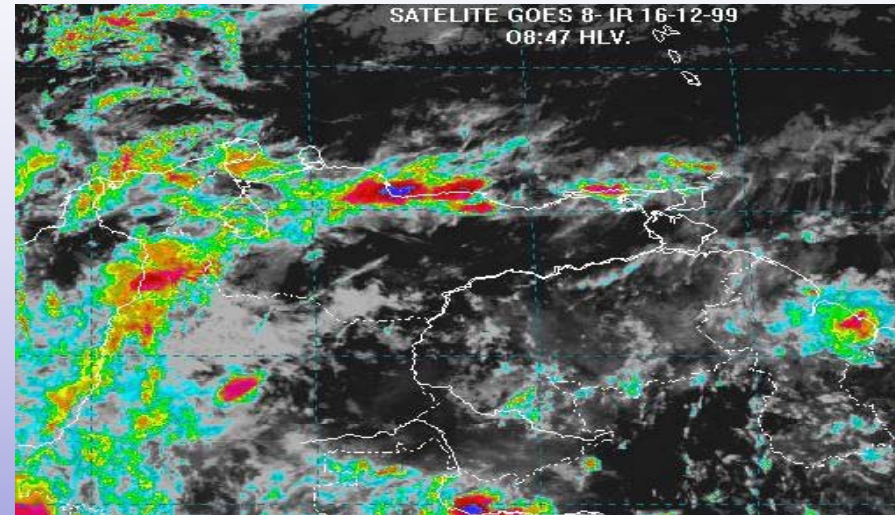
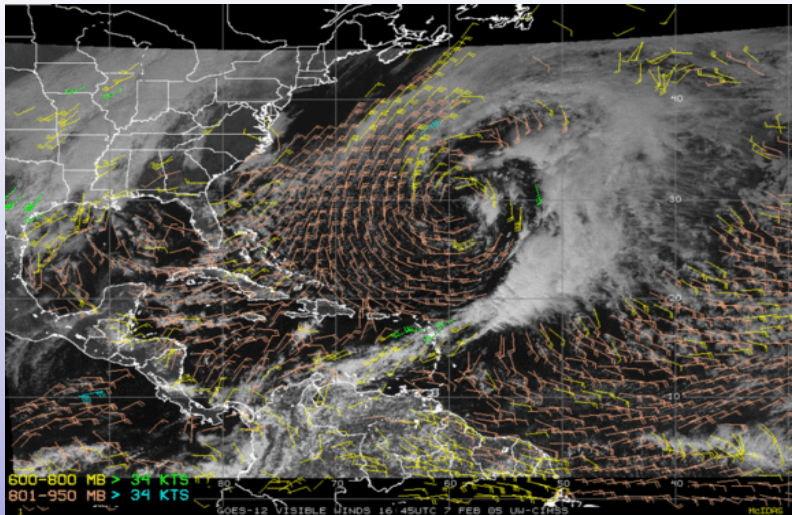
BACKGROUND

In year 2000 the recently created Ministry of Science and Technology of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela promoted the creation of an Applied Research National Program on Disaster Risk Reduction. This program was created under the guidance and participation of some of the most relevant academics and specialists in DRR of the country.

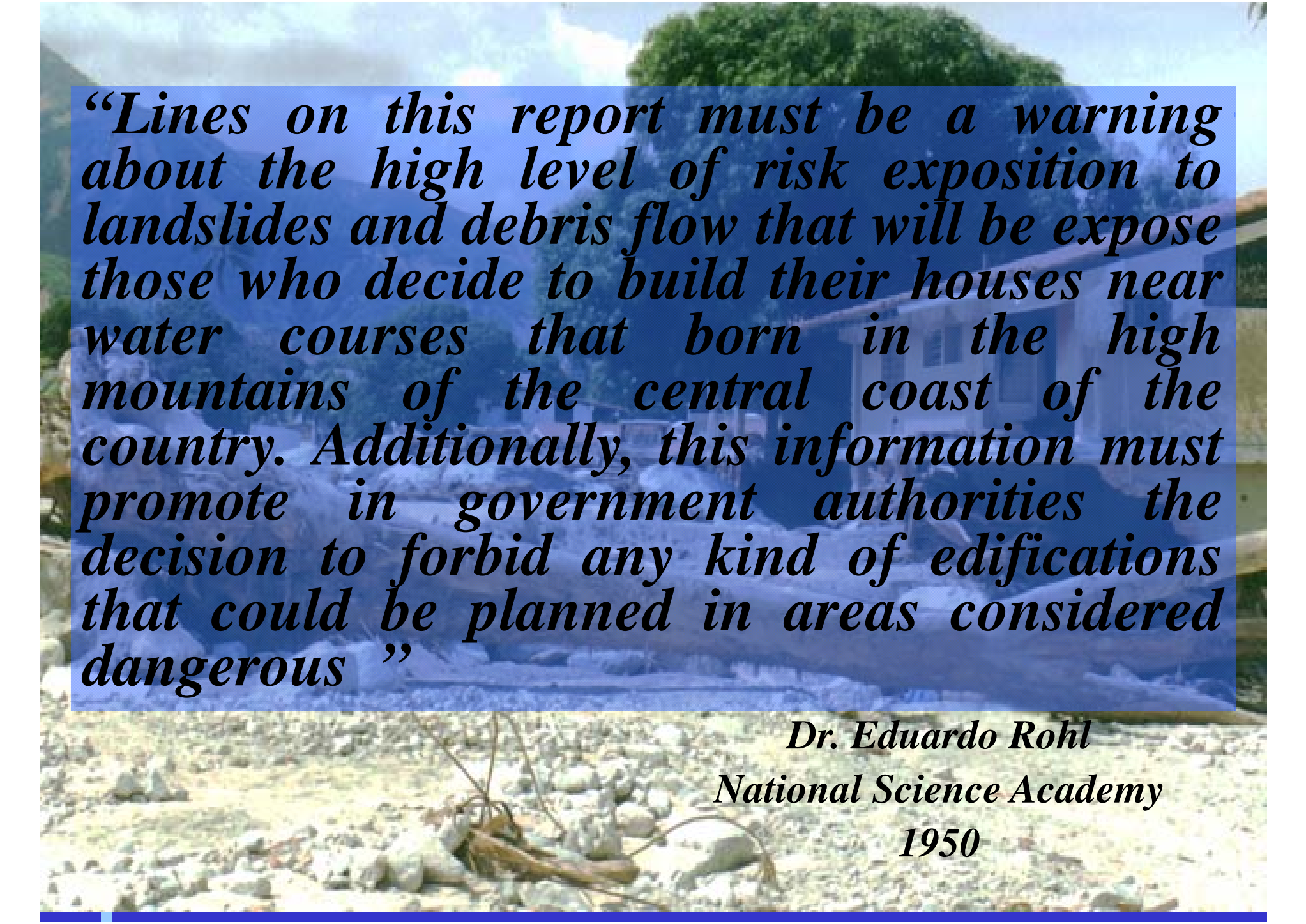
Two crucial circumstances allowed this initiative:

- The occurrence in Dec 1999 of one of the worst social-natural disaster in the history of the country.*
- The consolidation of a new politic for scientific development in the country, that will be leaded by a brand new Ministry of Science and Technology under the slogan of “Science and Technology for the People”*

DISASTER OF VARGAS – DECEMBER 1999



Carmen de Uña, enero 2000
... las lluvias le abrieron al Ávila los canales para desahogarse



“Lines on this report must be a warning about the high level of risk exposition to landslides and debris flow that will be expose those who decide to build their houses near water courses that born in the high mountains of the central coast of the country. Additionally, this information must promote in government authorities the decision to forbid any kind of edifications that could be planned in areas considered dangerous ”

*Dr. Eduardo Rohl
National Science Academy
1950*

An aerial photograph of a densely packed urban area, likely a slum or informal settlement. The buildings are small, multi-story structures with flat roofs, packed closely together. A large, white, multi-story building is visible in the upper left corner. The overall scene is characterized by a high density of structures and a mix of colors, including the reddish-brown of brick buildings and the grey of concrete or metal roofs. The text "¿So what must be done?" is overlaid in a yellow, italicized font across the center of the image.

¿So what must be done?



RISK REDUCTION
Risk conditions

- *Amenaces*
- *Vulnerability*

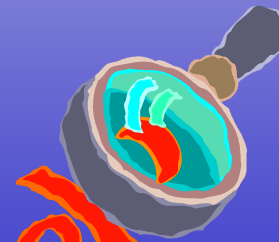
**Disasters are NOT naturals...,
 Disasters are the “natural” result of
 non-managed risks...,
 It is necessary to move from disaster
 administration to an a risk
 management aproach based on the
 idea that disaster risk management is
 in fact a matter of sustainable
 development management**



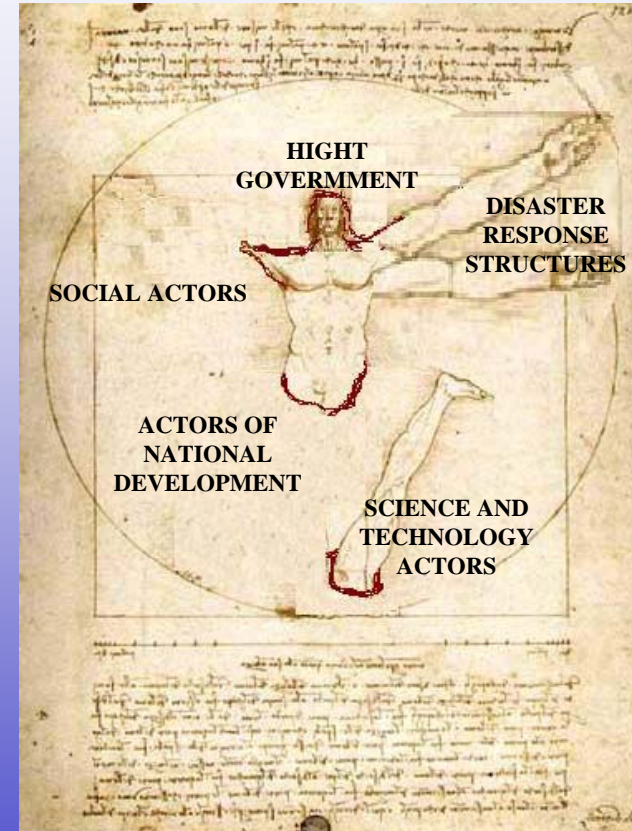
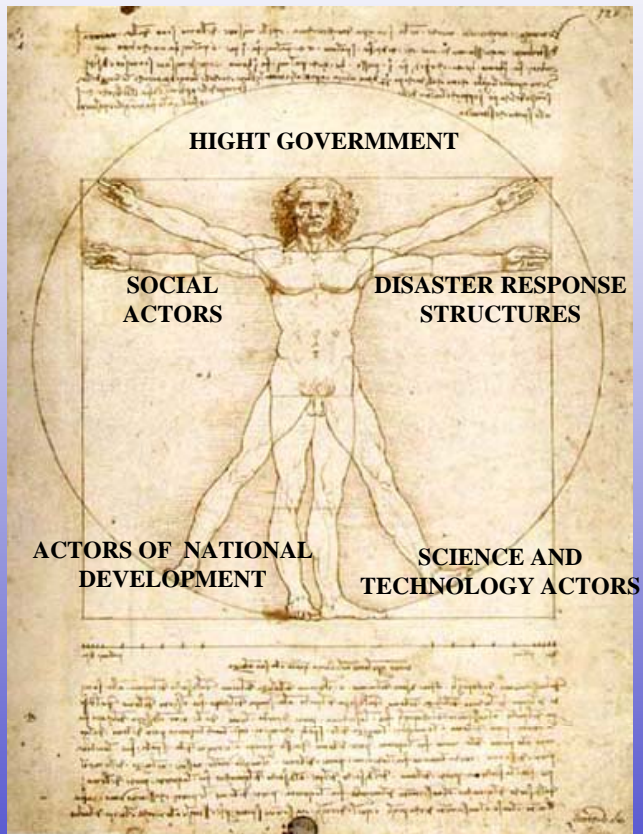
RISK



DISASTER



From Disaster Administration to Disaster Risk Management



COMPLEXITY OF APPLIED RESEARCH ON DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

¿What are the causes of our permanent construction of potential disaster risk scenarios?

Land use

Buildings and urbanisms

Polític

Education

Idiosincracy

Culture

Development model

Institutional capacity

ABOUT THE DESIGNING PROCESS

One of the most important activities implemented under this national program was the design and implementation of an agenda of priority research projects that were promoted to improve national institutional and social capacities on disaster risk reduction. This research agenda was the result of an 8 months process of negotiation between multiple academic, scientific and institutional actors from the most diverse knowledge areas.

Some activities developed as part of this process included:

- 52 workshops and meetings.*
- Conversations with more than 150 experts.*
- Contacts with 90 institutions and organizations.*

THEMATIC LINES INCLUDED

- | | | | |
|---|--|----|---|
| 1 | <i>EDUCATION AND CAPACITATION</i> | 7 | <i>MEDICAL AND PSICOLOGYCAL DRR ASPECTS</i> |
| 2 | <i>IDENTIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF HAZARDS.</i> | 8 | <i>APPLIED COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCES & TELEMATIC</i> |
| 3 | <i>TECHNOLOGY FOR BUILDINGS AND URBAN VULNERABILITY ASSESMENT</i> | 9 | <i>LEGAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS</i> |
| 4 | <i>RISK AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT</i> | 10 | <i>SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS</i> |
| 5 | <i>VULNERABILITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND LIFE-LINES</i> | 11 | <i>NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR DISASTER REHABILITATION PROCESS</i> |
| 6 | <i>APPLYED TECHNOLOGY FOR DISASTER PREPARATION AND RESPONSE SYSTEM</i> | 12 | <i>RISK, ECONOMY AND PRODUCTIVE STRUCTURES</i> |

Research Agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction

ACTION LINE 1: EDUCATION AND CAPACITATION ASPECTS:

- **Methodologies for the sustainable incorporation of disaster risk management in the official program for basic education.**
- **Curricular strategies for the incorporation of DRR in university programs (strategic programs).**
- **Methodologies for measuring the impact of education/ training programs on DRR**
- **Technologies to promote distance education on local risk management**
- **Curricular strategies and technology to promote the academic professionalization of the national system for disaster management.**

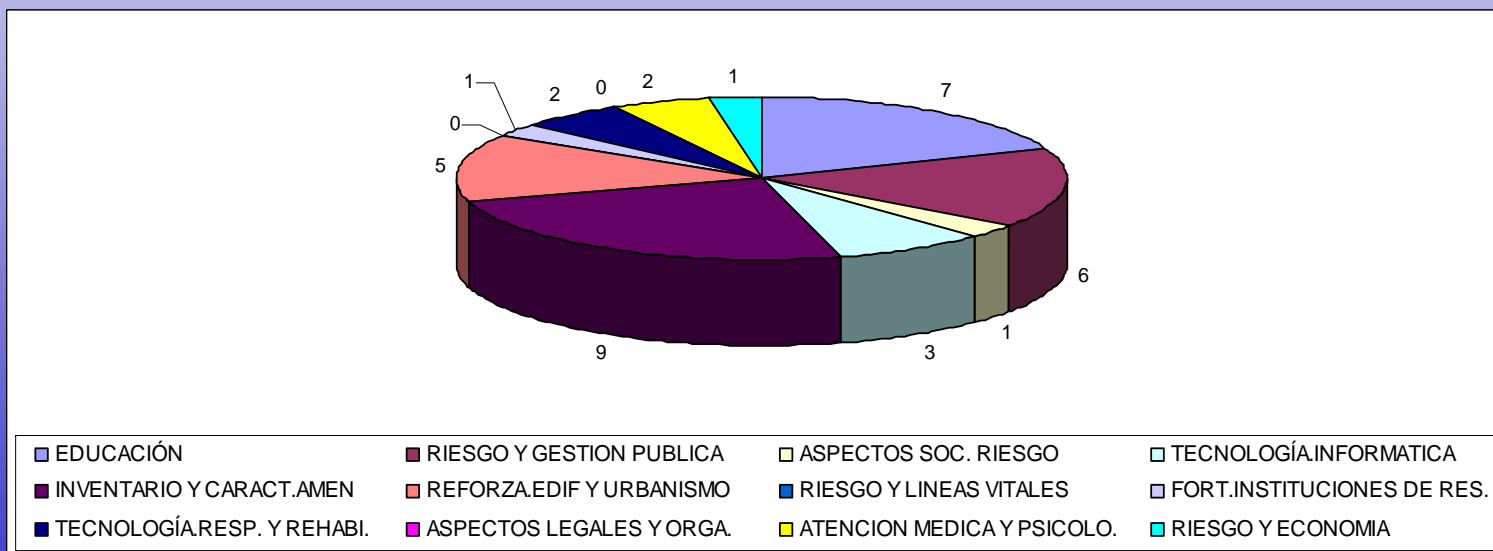
SOME RESULTS OF THE EXPERIENCE

Duration of the program: 2000-2007

Received solicitudes: 240

Approved projects : 55

Estimated investment: 4,5 millions \$ (today)



FOR ADITONAL INFORMATION

***[http://www.crid.or.cr/digitalizacion/pdf/spa/
doc12759/doc12759.htm](http://www.crid.or.cr/digitalizacion/pdf/spa/doc12759/doc12759.htm)***

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