

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS ANNOUNCES OCEANIA REGION XIV



“I strongly urge you to consider joining IAEM as a way of assisting the further development of the emergency management profession in the Oceania region.”

Tony Pearce
Director General – Emergency Management Australia
President – Oceania Region XIV IAEM

The International Association of Emergency Managers was founded in 1952 as the U.S. Civil Defence Council, it was also formerly known as the National Coordinating Council on Emergency Management. It is a not-for-profit registered Association that brings together emergency managers and disaster response professionals from all levels of government, the public and private sectors, and volunteer organisations around the world. Since 1998, memberships have grown to over 3000 registrants from over 47 countries.

Unprecedented growth in the non-US membership base over the past 4 years has resulted in endorsement of two new regions by the parent association (ie. Region XIV, Oceania and Region XV, Europa). Of most interest to the readers of AJEM is the development of the Oceania region which is the amalgamation of 121 members across Australia (92) and New Zealand (29).

After a significant membership drive in Australia in October 2006, the national representative (Tony Pearce) canvassed the idea with the membership to apply to IAEM in the US to form an Australian region having surpassed the 75 member minimum requirement. A discussion with the New Zealand national representative (Kristin Hoskin) resulted in both countries' members being canvassed to form an Oceania region that not only includes Australia and New Zealand but facilitates membership of Pacific Island nation colleagues. The countries have been grouped into the following sub regions:

Australia/New Zealand - Australia (AU),
Norfolk Island (NF), New Zealand (NZ)

Melanesia – Fiji (FJ), New Caledonia (NC),
Papua New Guinea (PG), Solomon Islands (SB),
Vanuatu (VU)

Micronesia - Federated States of
Micronesia (FM), Guam (GU), Kiribati (KI),
Marshall Islands (MH), Nauru (NR),
Northern Mariana Islands (MP), Palau (PW)

Polynesia - American Samoa (AS), Cook
Islands (CK), French Polynesia (PF), Niue (NU),
Pitcairn Island (PN), Samoa (WS),
Tokelau (TK), Tonga (TO), Tuvalu (TV),
Wallis and Fortuna Islands (WF)

The Australian and New Zealand national representatives have spent the past 4 months progressing creation of Region XIV Oceania. Activities resulted in a live website (see www.oceania-iaem.com), development of: a region structure; by-laws; fee structure options and a call and answer for nominations for Office Bearers (1 nomination for President, 2 for Vice-President, 6 for Secretary and 2 for Treasurer). These results represent 10 per cent of the eligible membership nominating for positions.

The voting period occurred on the web site between 19 and 23 February following which all by-laws, organisation structure, fees and Office Bearers were declared accepted or filled. The results were presented to the IAEM parent body at their March Board meeting and the new region was ratified and endorsed on 14 March 2007. Successful endorsement of Oceania also provides for the President of the region to fill a seat on the US IAEM parent body Board, this in turn will facilitate opportunities for the emergency management membership of this part of the world to input into IAEM's future initiatives in a truly international sense.

Prior to the process of developing the new region, the Australian national representative held initial discussions with IAEM in the US regarding development and implementation of an Australian Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) program that could be an adaptation of the already well regarded IAEM CEM®. These discussions are on-going and now involve discussions with New Zealand on development of an Oceania CEM.

Whilst important, membership growth is not the only focus of the new region. A large membership base is redundant if the members and the broader emergency management sector do not develop and grow in both the individual professional and sector/industry senses. Professional recognition of the emergency management sector (including volunteers and paid staff) and government/ community recognition of the service that the sector provides is important if we are to deliver enhanced community safety outcomes.

IAEM Oceania will give the EM profession in this part of the world an opportunity to interact as a professional body with our government structures, with industry and with the community. It will also be an excellent forum to advance the profession through sharing best practices and lessons learned.

To join, please access the membership area at www.iaem.com or contact your national representative (A list of national representatives is located under the Region XI (International) heading on the web site).

EMA Update

Emergency Management Australia provides national leadership in the development of measures to reduce risk to communities and manage the consequences of disasters. EMA Update keeps AJEM readers abreast of the activities that assist this aim.

PLANNING & COORDINATION

International Engagement

EMA recently managed the Solomon Islands' Disaster Risk Management Institutional Strengthening Project. The project has achieved a range of successes leading to improved capacity and capability across all aspects of PPRR among the community, senior government and NGO levels within the country. Key outcomes were the legislative review highlighted in the Vol. 21, No. 4, November 2006 edition of AJEM; a review of the national disaster plan; improved equipment and facilities; improved disaster management skill levels across a range of sectors and agencies; and the implementation of a number of risk reduction activities at community level.

EMA has entered into a partnership with BAKORNAS PB, the Indonesian national equivalent to EMA, for a twelve month period aimed at raising Indonesia's national and provincial disaster preparedness and response capabilities. Activities to be undertaken through the partnership include developing training packages in the Indonesian context across a range of disaster management skills and delivering these courses, evaluating and advising on Emergency Coordination Centre processes, conducting a range of development workshops and hosting training and learning visits by BAKORNAS officers to Australia.

Medical capability in Turkey

EMA is working with the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) and visited Turkey to undertake a medical capability assessment in February 2007. The visit focused on gathering information on the health emergency response management systems in Istanbul and the Gallipoli Peninsula. This information will assist Australian government planning and response in the event of an incident during the ANZAC Day commemorations period.

For further information on the above two initiatives please contact Paul McAlonan
Phone: 02 6256 4613
Email: paul.mcalonan@ema.gov.au

Exercise BIG SPLASH

EMA in partnership with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) conducted Exercise Big Splash in Canberra on the 4-5 Dec 2006. The aim of Exercise Big Splash was to enhance the preparedness of Australian Government agencies to respond to a significant aviation disaster occurring within Australia or its area of responsibility. Twenty-six agencies from the Australian Government, NSW Government and the private sector attended. The exercise scenario was based upon a fictitious commercial airliner ditching in the ocean off Australia's coastline. The first day of the exercise focused on the aviation and maritime resources necessary for the rescue, whilst the second day tested on-shore coordination procedures across many agencies. The organisations involved in the discussion exercise will now evaluate their participation and examine ways of enhancing the current arrangements for any such aviation disaster.

For further information contact Malcolm Purcell
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APEC 2007

The Australian Government is hosting a series of APEC economies meetings in 2007. These meetings will occur in various jurisdictions around Australia with the APEC Economies Leaders' Meeting (AELM) occurring in Sydney in September 2007. Internationally, the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting will be second only to the G8 in significance and profile, and will surpass both the Sydney Olympic Games and the 2002

PLANNING & COORDINATION

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in scope and complexity.

Emergency Management Australia (EMA) is the lead agency for national coordination of the emergency management arrangements, in consultation with the States, Territories and other Australian Government departments. EMA involvement is currently being coordinated through APEC Security Working Groups held monthly in each State and Territory. The official meetings schedule began in the ACT on 15 Jan 07, and will conclude with a Leaders' Week in Sydney on 9 Sep 06. The APEC schedule includes 100 days of senior official and ministerial meetings in all states and territories, excluding Victoria who hosted the G-20 summit in Nov 06.

For further information contact Damien Sanford
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National Emergency Management Coordination Centre (NEMCC)

The NEMCC recently conducted the following activities:

- A COMRECEPLAN 'lessons learned' review
- An Emergency Management Liaison Officers Workshop including attendees from Australian Government Agencies and private sector agencies
- An Emergency Coordination Centre forum including representatives from Australian States and Territories
- Provided Australian Government assistance for the Victorian bush fires

For further information contact Janelle Keyes
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

Community Education

The Community Development Branch, in conjunction with the Bureau of Meteorology, undertook a review of the existing EMA flood brochure. The revised A3 fold-out colour brochure containing information on floods, and tips on preparing for and recovering from flooding was reprinted.

Copies of the brochure are available from EMA or State and Territory Emergency Services offices.

For further information contact Jenny Trewin
Phone 03 5421 5225;
email jenny.trewin@ema.gov.au

Australian Emergency Manual Series

EMA also recently published the fifth edition of General and Disaster Rescue manual. This manual is part of the skills for emergency services personnel stream and provides emergency

service personnel with the foundation skills and underpinning knowledge to perform safe and effective rescues in most situations.

The manual covers basic and general equipment, systems and techniques rather than any specialised skill, and is designed for use by emergency management personnel in planning, training and operations. General and Disaster Rescue also provides the fundamental skills and knowledge for undertaking other specialised skills covered in the skills for emergency services personnel series.

General and Disaster Rescue – fifth edition is available in PDF format on the EMA website, www.ema.gov.au, or through the print-on-demand facility accessed via EMA's website. Limited print copies are also available to emergency service personnel via the State Training Manager for the State Emergency Service in each jurisdiction.

For further information contact Kate Keane
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email kate.keane@ema.gov.au

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BRANCH (CONTD)

EMA Library

Australasian Libraries in the Emergency Sector (ALIES) is a co-operative network of libraries which supports the information requirements of the Australasian emergency management community by promoting and facilitating the sharing of information across the 37 diverse member agencies within Australia and New Zealand. Recent new members include the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

The annual Australasian Libraries in the Emergency Sector workshop will be held at EMA Mt Macedon from 1-5 April 2007. The theme of the 2007 workshop is "Mapping knowledge: where in the world are we?". Guest speakers will include Luke Naismith (Department of Justice, Victoria), Chris Pigram (Geoscience Australia), and Amanda Credaro, (NSW Department of Education).

For further information contact Troy Watson
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Australian Safer Communities Awards – 2006

The 2006 Australian Safer Communities Awards ceremony was held in the Mural Hall at Parliament House, Canberra on 6 December 2006.

The Awards recognise best practices and innovations that help to build safer communities. They cover organisations and individuals working in risk assessment, research, education and training, information and knowledge management, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Details of the awards including information on all entrants and the winners for 2007 are available on the EMA website at www.ema.gov.au

The Attorney General, the Hon Philip Ruddock, announced at the ceremony that EMA would be conducting a 'first principles' review of the Australian Safer Communities Awards during 2007 to ensure that the awards continue to meet their objectives in a changing emergency management environment. The review will be conducted concurrently with the 2007 awards.

For further information contact Chris Jenkinson
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USEFUL INFORMATION

Australian Journal of Emergency Management

The Journal is published quarterly and is disseminated throughout the emergency management community and related disciplines, in Australia and overseas. Articles identifying and discussing issues, policies, planning or procedural concerns, research reports and any other information relevant to the emergency/disaster management community are welcome.

Refer to the EMA website (www.ema.gov.au/ajem) for current and past issues and information on how to subscribe and contribute.

Letters to the Editor

The Journal welcomes Letters to the Editor. Please note that letters should be no more than 300 words. Letters exceeding this limit may be edited or refused. Letters must be in good taste and focus on issues of emergency management or past AJEM content.

Letters must contain a name, address and daytime phone number of the author. Unsigned letters or those submitted without a phone number will not be considered.

Regular contributors should submit letters on varied subjects. Letters by the same author that reiterate opinions previously expressed may not be published. The editor reserves the right to reject or edit any Letter to the Editor.

Advertising in AJEM

Display and classified advertising may be accepted for publication with the agreement of the Editor-in-Chief. The editor reserves the right to insert the word "Advertisement" above or below any copy.

Conference Diary

Full details of local and international conferences relating to emergency management are available from the EMA website. For information, please visit www.ema.gov.au.

interesting websites



Australia's first national emergency information portal

www.ausdin.gov.au

The Australian Disaster Information Network (AusDIN) portal is a multi-agency initiative to establish a national knowledge and information network of people and systems to serve the emergency management community in the Australian region. The AusDIN portal aims to facilitate access to data, information and knowledge for all phases of emergency management. The portal is being delivered through a planned program of updates. Each update will incorporate content, functionality and/or design enhancements.

The portal provides:

- public access to emergency information across Australia
- links to emergency management organisations in every state and territory
- weather reports
- spatial information
- warnings and alerts
- information on preparing for disasters and what to do in times of evacuation
- links to recovery organisations, charity and support groups; and
- international links.

The Attorney-General, Philip Ruddock, launched the site at a meeting of emergency services ministers recently saying AusDIN will assist the Emergency Management community to quickly and easily share vital information on natural disasters.

AusDIN is the outcome of the (multi-jurisdictional, Australian Government funded) Working Together to Manage Emergencies project announced by the Attorney-General late last year.

AusDIN is the first whole-of-government emergency management initiative to use the internet to link and share information relevant to the sector.

The portal can be accessed at <http://www.ausdin.gov.au>.

