



## **NATECHs: A Common Challenge for Segregated Scientific, Engineering and Management Societies**

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There is much experience, awareness and knowledge accumulated regarding risk assessment, management and communication of disasters triggered by natural events (the so called natural disasters). Nevertheless many challenges still lay ahead, one of them been to approach the issue in an integrated manner keeping in mind the hole of a disaster circle, that is prevention and mitigation, response and aid provision, recovery and reconstruction.

It seems that the scientific, engineering and management societies dealing with these different phases have a long way to go till they come together. A typical example in many countries is that agencies dealing with the built environment and spatial development rarely collaborate with organizations dealing with emergency response and civil protection.

In present complex urban contexts natural events can trigger multifaceted and difficult to predict chain effects resulting to coupling natural with technological disasters. There are several examples of this type the recent years i.e. the damage caused by fire to the massive Tüpras refinery after the 1999 Izmit (Turkey) earthquake and the damage to oil and gas production system in the Gulf of Mexico after the 2005 Katrina hurricane.

The new challenge that emerges is to understand and manage risks without building barriers associated with the typology of disasters. For this it is necessary to bring into the game of natural risk management also the parties dealing with safety and technological disasters. For the most part, the two societies are separated. Parties dealing with technological risks are associated with the private sector and are self-reliant in principle while parties dealing with natural disasters are mainly public.

It is essential therefore to explore means and tools to bring together not only agencies dealing with different phases of a disaster circle but also with diverse types of disasters. For this NATECHs offer a common suitable ground.