

## **Disaster-Prevention Education in Taiwan**

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Over the past decade, Taiwan Residents are insensitive and poorly informed to the risk of natural hazards. Part of the reason can be attributed to the inadequate information provided and the limited access to microzoning data on active faults, subsidence, potential landslide sites, and flooding areas. It is uncomfortable to observe that data are available among expert circle, however, the network for disseminating expert knowledge is not accessible to the public. Education materials have not been intentionally designed to tailor the need of impacted areas on specific natural hazards. Social network has not been effectively established in hazard-prone areas. The prolific NGOs and schools have not been well incorporated into the disaster prevention and hazard mitigation system. The disastrous experience of 1999 September 21 Chi-Chi earthquake will, sadly, enhance the public awareness and change the risk perception structure toward natural disasters. The implementation of disaster prevention education plus information dissemination system will surely be urged under this atmosphere. Traumatic experience breeds anxiety toward future infliction that may incur from uncontrollable natural hazards. It is therefore a good starting point to launch a workable disaster-prevention education program in Taiwan through the aid of this horrible and still vivid earthquake experience. We will therefore suggest a prototype model for developing disaster-prevention education materials in schools. Curricular reform for Grade 1~9 is still undergoing in its experimental phase. It is thus an appropriate time to intervene by providing a selected package of books, guides, and websites for teachers and parents so that they can formulate teaching materials. A demonstration kit will be suggested for future promotion. The education to the hazard-prone area residents is also a necessary ingredient in an integrated effort to promote effective disaster-prevention education in Taiwan. We will also suggest a tentative resolution to complete the coverage.