

Trausti Jónsson (IMO, Ice) - The UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) - the WMO method and its application in Iceland

Abstract

Natural hazards have always been a major threat to individuals and the society in Iceland. During a period of optimism after the Second World War it was assumed that progress and modern development would soon marginalize such threats. A series of large natural events in the 1960s and early 1970s showed that this line of thought was at the best wrong, but possibly also dangerous. Since then the need for natural hazard management in the broad sense has become more and more obvious in Iceland. The assessment of Icelandic natural hazards fit very well into the frame proposed by the WMO at the end of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in 1999 and the terminology as defined by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) initiative. The lecture will give an informal overview of the development in Iceland during the last 50 years or so as seen from the WMO-frame perspective.