Disaster Communications

The Broadcasting Perspective

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Broadcasters Capabilities

Radio

- Wide Area Coverage attainable
  - Within communities
  - Within country
  - From neighbouring countries
  - Internationally

- Different ways
  - Local FM radio, AM radio
  - FM and AM radio networks
  - Shortwave broadcasting

- Receiving Messages
  - FM and AM receivers abundant
  - Windup radio option
  - Shortwave receivers common
Broadcasters Capabilities

- **Television**
  - **Wide Area Coverage attainable**
    - **Within communities**
    - **Within country**
    - **From neighbouring countries**
    - **Internationally**
  - **Different ways**
    - **Terrestrially (VHF, UHF)**
    - **Satellite**
  - **Receiving Messages**
    - **Local and national networks**
    - **Mobile TV (longer term)**
Broadcasters Capabilities

- **Mobility**
  - Ability to establish temporary facilities quickly (mostly radio)
    - Low power self contained
    - Radio in a box

- **Emergency warning broadcast systems (EWBS)**
  - Japan leads the way with radio and television based early warning of impending disasters
Broadcasters Capabilities

- **Radio in a Box**
  - Developed by the ABU for UNESCO
    - Radio programme production
    - DAW-based editing
    - Software controlled play-out
    - 30W FM transmitter, dipole antenna

- To be supplied to each UNESCO regional office
- Enquires from many broadcasters
Broadcasters Challenges

- **Pre-disaster**
  - Reliable systems and operations procedures to face emergency
  - Arrangements in place with the national coordination agency for disaster warnings
  - Authenticity of messages issued
  - Emergency warning systems in place

- **Post Disaster**
  - Reliable operations
  - Effective, accurate field reporting
  - Social and relief operations messaging in co-ordination with national agencies
The Asia-Pacific Broadcasters (at their ABU 2007 GA in Beijing) declared:

That ABU MEMBERS will-

1. Support the development of EWBS systems for the Asia-Pacific region
2. Consider the introduction of (EWBS) systems which link with national and international organisations
3. Urge national regulators to enact provisions to implement EWBS systems in the Asia-Pacific region
4. Encourage manufacturers to produce receivers with the EWBS feature
Broadcasters Role

- Asia-Pacific Broadcasters are a key partner in delivering ‘disaster communications’ to the public
  - Wide spread coverage achievable to almost everyone!
  - Receivers widely deployed

- Effective emergency warning systems needed

Thank you