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"Managing Urban Disasters" is an issue of "Open House International." According to Christine Wamsler; the editor of this issue; the objective of "Managing Urban Disasters" is to focus on "disaster risk reduction" in all scales and with the contribution of all related professions. This objective is realized successfully by showing concrete projects, experiences and best practices from Africa, Asia and Latin America with new integrated approaches, by containing technical, social, economic as well as political aspects, and by categorizing the papers as post and pre-disaster precautions and reports.

There are fifteen articles and four reports in the issue. There are articles about hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, fire, tsunamis as well as more general and theoretical articles about emergency management, legislation, research methods of measuring vulnerability, and designing for risk.

There are three conceptual articles. The first article of Davis and Izadkhah, is about the concept of "resilience" which is studied through two case studies; the bomb explosion in the underground trains of Central London, and Bam earthquake in Iran. The fourteenth article of Pelling's is another conceptual approach to the advantages and shortcomings of various types of research methods about measuring vulnerability. The fifteenth article of Benson and Twigg is also a conceptual study about designing for risk and its cost.

There are four articles focused on the technical aspects of reconstruction projects. The second article of Martirena and Olivera is about the role of building materials in reducing the risk. This article explains the wide reconstruction and risk reduction project after a series of hurricanes in Cuba. The fourth article of Ferradas is about the works of Immediate Technology Development Group in Peru. This group improved the existing construction techniques in order to reduce the vulnerability of people after disasters and the civil war. The tenth article of Gupta, Sharma and Kaushik is about an urban risk reduction project against earthquakes for a very dense settlement on the steep hills of Shimla, India. This paper contains information about risk measurement, organization of people as well as technical information. The thirteenth article which belongs to Gökmen, Yüksel, Erkök, Alkiser and Keskin is about upgrading of squatter settlements against a possible earthquake in İstanbul,

Turkey through a mitigation process. This paper proposes a model for transformation by means of simple reinforcement and contemporary solutions.

There are three articles on various aspects of reconstruction process. The third article of Rhyner is about the Building Advisory Services in Honduras which were active after Mitch. This article focuses on the dangers of reconstruction projects, importance of site selection against floods, and organization of people. The fifth article of Sağlamer, Velioglu, Türkoğlu, Dikbaş, Erkut, and Berk explains the “Respect for Life Project” which is designed for the victims of İzmit earthquake in Turkey. This article gives information about the designerly aspects of this project as well as a social survey which was carried out with the victims. The eleventh article of Morrisey and Taylor presents a research about the fire risk in an informal settlement in Cape Town, South Africa. Within this paper the strong relationship between poverty and vulnerability becomes very clear.

There are five articles about improvement of related institutions and the techniques which they use. The sixth article of Wisner and Walker is about the warning systems in tropical coastal settlements and control systems for the accounting of NGO’s. The seventh article of Zlatanova, Oosterom, and Verbree is about the use of geo-information support in emergency management. The eighth article of Wamsler is about the need of integration of risk reduction, urban planning and housing. The context of this article is the hurricane Mitch in El Salvador. The ninth article of Gavidia, and Crivellari looks into existing urban and municipal laws, regulations and planning guidelines to assess the extend they respond to vulnerability reduction criteria. The twelveth article of Spaliviero is about insecure resettlement operations and strengthening the relationships between different organizational levels. The context of this article is the slums in Mozambique.

The four reports, which are included to this issue give information about experiences of various institutions about improving culture about risk awareness, strengthening of local organizations, a risk analysis network, and another reconstruction project.

The book, which is well illustrated, can be useful for various professionals, such as architects, city planners, civil engineers. It can be useful for the professionals who work for municipality, government offices related to housing, NGO’s etc.. The most important merit of the book is to provide a good collection about the recent knowledge about urban disasters.

**Key Words:** Disasters, Vulnerability, Risk & Poverty Reduction, Mitigation, Reconstruction, Urbanisation, Emergency & Development Assistance