

A Study from the Questionnaire Result to Youth and Senior Citizens on Preparation for Emergency - Zagreb, Croatia

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This research will study the social survey results on emergency case, especially floods, to the youth and senior citizens in Zagreb, Croatia, in order to find a possible way to build a bridge between past experience and today's life regarding awareness-raising and preparedness in the context Croatian society. The City of Zagreb, the capital of Republic of Croatia, is located between Medvednica Mountain and the Sava River, a tributary of the Danube River. In 1964, the city experienced a huge flood caused by heavy rainfall. Due to the characteristic of its location between the mountain and the river, a large amount of rain water was flowed into the city. The central part of Zagreb city had to be suffered from extensive damage with 17 casualties. Having learned from this bitter experience, a drainage canal (Sava-Odra Canal) and retention dams/flood storage on the rivers from mountain side were constructed. There has been no outstanding flood occurred since then. However, this region in the Balkan Peninsula has some earthquakes and the City municipal government has also been conducting researches on flood simulations of bank/dam ruins caused by a strong earthquake in Zagreb. It was observed from a preliminary social survey that people living in the city know about historical floods event, however, their preparation status is basically individual base as well as they want to know more how to prepare themselves and what to do on emergency cases such as flood and/or earthquakes. Although City Museum did exhibition regarding historical flood events in the city, it seems that there was no sections to encourage interactions of experiences from the past experience and everyday's life. How can flood disaster experiences of the senior citizens be more included and counted for better preparedness and awareness-raising in Croatian context? The social survey result showed that more or less 30% of people answered "I am prepared" in any group and about 70% thinks there will be a flood occurred in Zagreb in future. Received the result, this research tries to answer the above question with seeking a applicability of Japanese experiences. It also tries to study, as way forward, if computational tools such as virtual flood experimental tool can be effective enough as educational tool for awareness-raising.

Keywords: flood, experience, preparedness, educational tool, Croatia