

PACIFIC DISASTER CENTER

In 2004 the Pacific Disaster Center developed partnerships and technologies supporting comprehensive disaster management and promoting sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region.

Working with regional, national, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental organizations, PDC helps decision makers understand and address economic and societal vulnerabilities that are exacerbated by natural and human-induced disasters. Many of these vulnerabilities impact sustainable development. The East-West Center is the managing partner of PDC, which is based on the island of Maui.

Highlights of 2004 include:

n Provided critical information to relief workers, national governments, and the public in the immediate aftermath of the Sumatra-Andaman Islands earthquake and Indian Ocean tsunami through a geographic information systems service and “Map Viewer.” Direct support was also provided to organizations including the U.S. Pacific Command, the World Health Organization, and the governments of Indonesia and Thailand through field deployments to Banda Aceh, Bangkok and Phuket. PDC continues to work with organizations at the state, national, regional and international levels on this tragedy.

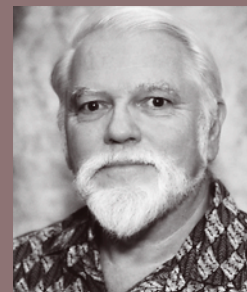
n Launched the Asia Pacific Natural Hazards Information Network (APN-HIN), allowing disaster managers to tap into high-quality geospatial data to reduce disaster risk and vulnerability in the region.

n Completed a project with Marikina City in the Philippines to develop a multi-hazard risk and vulnerability framework to lessen the impact of urban flooding and earthquakes. The project was designed to help the city achieve its goal of sustainable economic development.

n Coordinated with the Mekong River Commission (MRC) to better understand flooding risks in the Mekong River region and assess risk on a regional and community scale.

n Facilitated the exchange of disaster-related data among the 10 Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries. PDC and the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) collaborated on the establishment of the Disaster Information Sharing and Communication Network project. The project was officially endorsed at a December 2004 ASEAN ministers meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

“Recent natural and human-induced disasters have shifted the basic paradigms of disaster management and humanitarian assistance from the traditional focus on single-event response and recovery to multi-hazard preparedness and mitigation. Governance and transparency in dealing with such disasters must be dramatically improved.”



n *Senior Fellow Allen Clark is director of the Pacific Disaster Center.*



PDC supports disaster-response volunteers at the Maui County Emergency Operations Center.



The PDC team in Kihei, Maui.

n Participated with the East-West Center on the *Leadership Seminar for Pacific Island Disaster Managers*, attended by executives from 17 Pacific Island nations and states. PDC also worked with the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) on a joint initiative to implement a risk reduction framework for governments of small island developing states in the Pacific Islands.

n Provided support to state and county governments for the first phase of the Hawai'i HAZUS Atlas; a Critical Infrastructure Protection database for Hawai'i State Civil Defense; a Remote Information Services project for Hawai'i County; and a number of state and county-level fire-related projects.