



## Agenda Item 8 Operational Aspects of Environmental Emergencies



8th meeting  
of the Advisory Group on  
Environmental Emergencies

6 - 8 May 2009  
Brussels, Belgium

## Introduction

- AGEE 7 through JEU commissioned a study examining **operational aspects of providing and receiving international environmental emergency assistance**
- Development of **Best Practices Guidelines** that would build on other procedures, guidelines and mandates
- A tool for mobilization, deployment, receipt and provision of international environmental emergency assistance

## Challenges

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- Lack of knowledge among states
- Global system of National Focal Points have not been successful
- Wide variety of procedures among states
- JEU the *de facto* initiator rather than facilitator
- Lack of flexible official request-procedures
- Development of routines founded on a network of contacts without written procedures
- 142 questionnaires – 14 replies

## Approach

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- A desktop study of seven international response systems with well tested operational procedures:
  - EADRCC
  - EC MIC
  - IAEA
  - IFRC
  - INSARAG
  - IHP
  - UNDAC

## Approach

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- A comparative analysis of:
  - National Focal Points
  - Emergency Alerts
  - Requests for international assistance
  - Receipt of international assistance
  - Provision of international assistance
- Bruch Report
- IDRL Guidelines

## National Focal Points

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- Majority of defined responsibilities directed towards provision of assistance
- Alerts and facilitation of incoming assistance are typical responsibilities of recipient countries' NFPs
- Cooperation with UNDAC/INSARAG
- EC MIC remains the main focal point in Europe, and, where possible, the existing NFPs for the EC-MIC also serve as the operational NFPs for environmental emergencies
- OCHA Regional Offices should assist countries with establishment of NFPs

## Emergency Alerts

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- The intangible nature of environmental emergencies
- Proactive approach and combination of alerts and requests
- Rapid information exchange through web based platforms, i.e., Virtual OSOCC
- Advocacy through OCHA Regional Offices

## Requests

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- The “Assistance Request Report” is not used extensively
- Existing practice should be formalized
- Phone number for 24-7 duty officer, e.g., OCHA Emergency Duty Officer
- Guidance with technical aspects and “Assistance Request Report”

## Receipt

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- How to enter with staff and equipment in as smooth as way as possible?
- International and domestic legal instruments, e.g., “Model Customs Facilitation Agreement”
- IDRL Guidelines
- Detailed manifests according to international standards, e.g., ATA Carnets, including compliance with IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations
- NFPs should facilitate the receipt and departure of international environmental emergency assistance.

## Provision

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- Existing best practices with regard to provision of assistance should be maintained, e.g., UNDAC Missions, cooperation with EC MIC
- Providing countries facing challenges with internal organization should look to countries with which to compare themselves for practices that could be duplicated

## Conclusion

- A “system” that works
- Guidelines should build on existing procedures
- A merge between the real and the ideal
- Closer ties with OCHA Regional Offices
- Similar procedures and exchange of knowledge and resources across sections within OCHA Emergency Services Branch

## Process of Emergency Planning



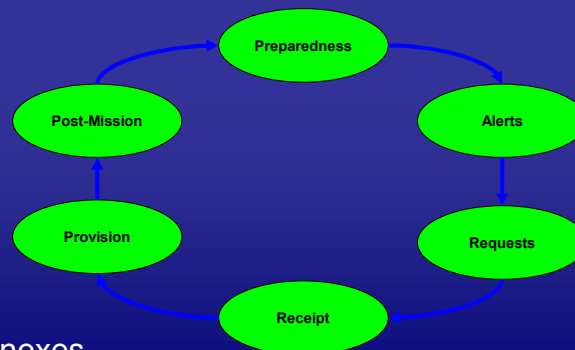
## Overall Recommendations

- Recommendations formulated in

“Guidelines for Environmental Emergencies”

## Guidelines for Environmental Emergencies

- Introduction
- International environmental emergency response system
- Tasks and responsibilities in a cycle of stages



- Annexes

## Overall Recommendations

- Recommendations formulated in  
    “Guidelines for Environmental Emergencies”
- Endorsement, updates and technical annexes/tools
- Overall revision ahead of AGEE 9
- Overarching legal/political framework according to the Bruch report



THANK YOU!

