

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
**DIALOGUE ON WATER RESOURCES FROM
RESEARCH TO LIVELIHOOD IMPACTS**

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**UNIVERSITY COOPERATION PROMOTING STRATEGIES FOR
NATURAL DISASTERS MITIGATIONS**



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UNIVERSITY COOPERATION PROMOTING :

- Mitigation of Natural Disasters
- Stabilization and Peace
- Democratization
- Development



DISASTERS CAN BE CAUSED BY THREE TYPES OF PHENOMENA:

NATURAL CATASTROPHES: (earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, floods, landslides, droughts, epidemics, etc.)

TECHNOLOGICAL CATASTROPHES: (explosions, fires, accidents, déforestation, contamination, collapses, etc.)

SOCIAL CRISIS CATASTROPHES: (wars, armed conflicts, displacement of populations and refugees, terrorism, etc.)



The effects of a disaster vary depending on the characteristics of the exposed elements and on the nature of the event itself. In general, the effects can be classified as **DIRECT** and **INDIRECT LOSES**:

The **DIRECT LOSES** are related to physical damage, expressed in the number of victims, in damage to the infrastructure of public services, damage to buildings, especially in urban areas, deterioration of the environment.

The **INDIRECT LOSES** can usually be broken down into social effects such as the interruption of transportation, public services, media. In numerous developing countries often direct and indirect effects cannot be calculated.



**KALUTARA BEACH - SRI LANKA
BEFORE TSUNAMI**

[?] Satellite information provided by:
MSSD Colombo
Remote Sensing and GIS Specialist
International Water Management Institute
Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
January 06, 2005

QuickBird Satellite Image acquired - January 1, 2004
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**KALUTARA BEACH - SRI LANKA
FEW MINUTES BEFORE TSUNAMI ***

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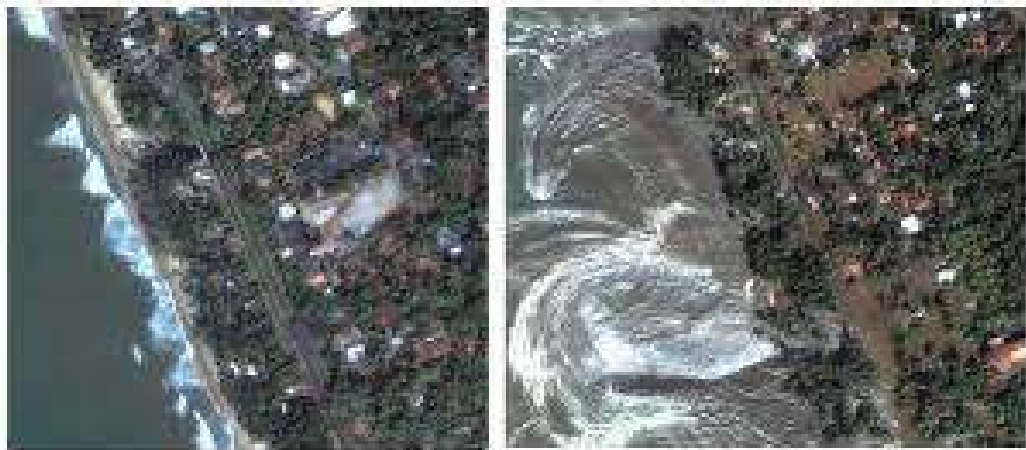
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**KALUTARA BEACH - SRI LANKA
DURING TSUNAMI ***

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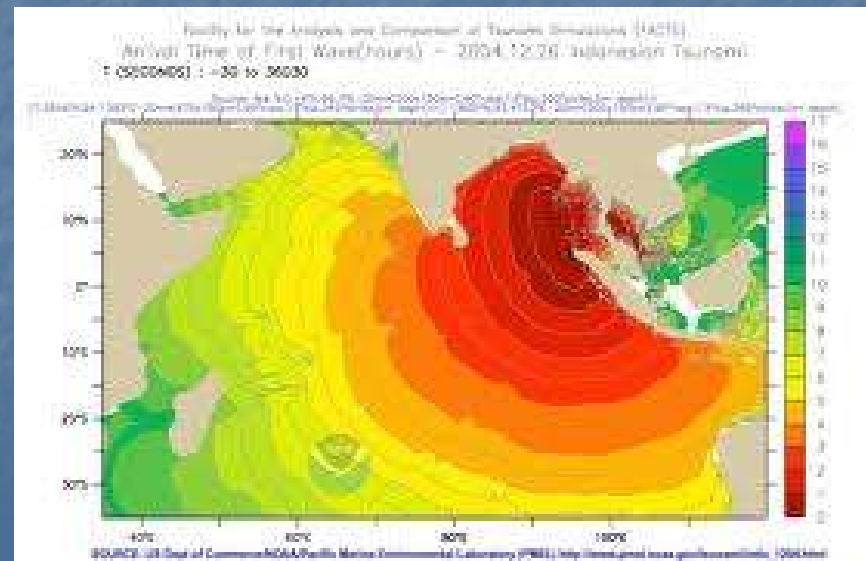
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Before and After Kalutara, Sri Lanka,
Courtesy DigitalGlobe.com



























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- One of the basic challenges for the XXI Century is international peace and development in the light of the new world balance. Today, there are problems that can only be solved by action at the global level. New strategic thinking is required to approach global issues and advance “global public goods”.

- Consequently, international communities must become protagonists of a new strategy to intervene in crisis areas and to promote peace, development, with a strategy based on realistic and effective foreign common policy.

- Such a strategy must include the collaborative efforts of diplomatic, economic and peace forces actions, while being rooted in the common goal of development of a strong cooperation culture of solidarity capable of understanding local needs and providing quick and efficient solutions that are at once professional and respectful of human dignity.

- Such a strategy must rely on cultural expertise and include expert knowledge of the theoretical elements of crisis and development management and the capability to understand the real comprehensive needs of the populations and their historical and cultural roots, in order to give effective answers to them, and to promote peace and development, mitigation of the natural risks, even in the first phases of the interventions.

NEW UNIVERSITY COOPERATION STRATEGY

- A competent and comprehensive response requires a multidisciplinary approach. In every university cooperation programme for peace it is necessary to take into account that the objective of an action aiming to analyse the situations must take into consideration the cultural context, in order to advance the technical and cultural objectives of the cooperation.

- Universities can play a significant role in this new strategy if they build partnerships with other relevant actors, including international organizations, diplomacy, peace forces and NGOs. Universities should not act as an elite, far removed from real problems and challenges. On the contrary, universities and their faculties should be engaged in the field and share their expertise and knowledge as well as learn from other actors.

- The traditional “*academic collaboration*” is distinct from the “*university cooperation for peace and development*” understood as a strategy of action aimed to build a more developed and peaceful society. In fact, *university cooperation* needs to manage and deal with a double problem of independence in order to face the challenges to which it is called: from one side, it has to tackle the problem of research, didactics and operational services naturally built into the academic structure; from the other, it has to deal with the necessity of reconciling technical-scientific interventions, that must be tailored to the real demands of the local populations whose needs become are gradually discovered as the project proceeds.

- When we speak about *university cooperation* we don't refer only to the exchange of lecturers and researchers - which is usually the objective of traditional forms of academic collaboration - although this kind of activity may be very useful. *University cooperation* implies a more general strategy based on both analysis and action, of training and research in the field, of cooperation among the academy and civil institutions, diplomats and international organizations, volunteers and peace forces, in order to provide support in both the prevention and solution of crisis promoting future development.

THANK YOU

