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IP 2024 – Summit

Final conclusions and recommended actions

Vienna, 12 June 2024

The large number of contributions to the conference INTERPRAEVENT 2024 shows that natural hazards and associated risks considering a world in change and an environment, which faces us the limits of control against natural hazards, will continue to generate major challenges in future. These challenges must be faced by researchers and practitioners - both from public bodies and from private consultancies – as well as by the policy.

Around 300 contributions were submitted and the content was presented in lectures, posters, panel discussions and workshops. Numerous contributions used case studies and results from applied research to show possibilities, in which experts and as well the society can deal risks posed by natural hazards in future in the context of global warming.

Based on the summary of the main findings of the conference INTERPRAEVENT 2024, the experts network INTERPRAEVENT can state and recommend the following needs:

1. Promote adaptation and resilience to a changing environment (in terms of global change, climate change, demographic change) in order to manage remaining risks and to avoid new risks.
2. Strengthen risk governance by raising awareness, support the ability to prepare for and respond to emergencies and promote and improve civil protection mechanisms.
3. Foster information to the population, communicate with those affected and advise political decision-makers on risks and economic effects of climate change in natural hazard management.
4. Recognize increasing natural hazards in a changing climate - including forest fires - and therefore improve monitoring, forecasting and now-casting systems and protection measures with advanced technology.
5. Communicate residual risk for extreme events and develop new, easily adaptable mitigation approaches that include both structural and non-structural measures.
6. Improve and strengthen the cross-sectoral, international and interregional transfer of knowledge, experience and technology and share “best practice” among not only INTERPRAEVENT partner countries for risk reduction.



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7. Provide standards for the definition of general risk levels adapted to the long-term development perspective of the country, region or municipality, which the state/country can sustainably preserve. The acceptable level should be defined within the society concerned.
8. Maintain and improve security systems that are adapted to changing environmental and social conditions, including sediment-related issues in watershed management.
9. Develop sustainable land use concepts to create more space for natural hazard processes and reduce the sealing of soil surface.
10. Reduce the vulnerability of buildings and seek synergies with climate adaptation measures on buildings.
11. Support the protective function of forests and restore natural floodplains.
12. Promote the next INTERPRAEVENT conferences in Sapporo City (Japan) in 2026 and in Bergen (Norway) in 2028 as established forums for science, practice and policy bridging generations.