

Santa Catarina Flood Disaster

Case for Post Disaster Reconstruction Project Management Methodology

During all the month of October, and even more intensely in November of 2008, it rained in the southern States of Brazil. On the 22nd of November the Governor of the State of Santa Catarina – Mr. Luiz Henrique da Silveira - decreed emergency situation in all the State counties for 180 days. This measure gives exceptional powers to the authorities to bypass public procurement regulations to fast track contracting and burrow vehicles, equipment and manpower from the private initiative to face the disastrous situation caused by the Force Majeure.

Local authorities of 14 counties decreed an even harsher measure called “state of calamity” which demonstrates the worst cases. Among these is a major city – Blumenau - with 300 thousand inhabitants suffered by inundation, land sliding causing 3.000 to lose their home and more than 18 thousand residences were damaged forcing 20.000 citizens to quite temporarily their houses.



Figure 1 - Blumenau City

Figure 2 - Itajai Port Facilities



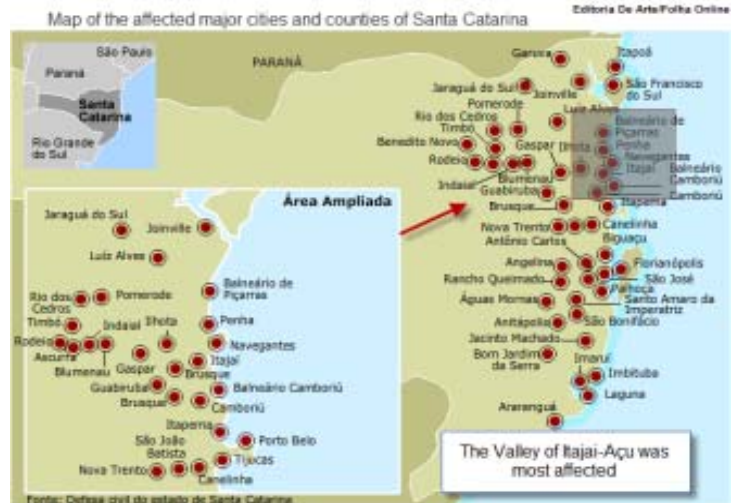
Figure 3 – Landsliding

Figure 4 - Highways and roads blocked by debris

The federal government, through the highest authority – the President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva himself – joined forces with the local authorities supporting them by funds, armed forces and other federal resources. On his first visit the President authorized a R\$ 350 million (approximately US\$ 150 million) budget for reconstruction of the port of Itajai deeply affected by the inundation of the same river. This major Brazilian foreign trade facility has a turnover of more than US\$ 40 million daily, however only 25% is operational. On his second visit in early December, he authorized by decree the homeless to have exceptional access to their unemployment/retirement insurance fund (so called FGTS).

Highlights and Numbers

- 128 fatal casualties and hundreds more wounded
- 1.5 Million people affected
- 16 counties registered fatal casualties
- More than R\$ 23 million (roughly US\$ 10 million) were donated so far
- More than 78.000 homeless
- 63 counties have decreed emergency situation
- R\$ 120 million loss in tourism industry alone



Current Status

Although the local authorities such as Civilian Defense and firemen are focusing on emergency activities, such as saving marooned rural inhabitants or those in risky urban areas, reconstruction planning is already underway.

PMI-SC Chapter organized on December 10th, a “Train-the-Trainers” pilot workshop and Farhad Abdollahyan, PMP, facilitated the evaluation of both PMI Post Disaster PM Methodology and UN Sphere Project framework. The participants concluded that both approaches are valid and not only can, but also and should be applied in the above described situation.

Indeed some major projects such as port facilities, highways and bridges reconstruction need a more robust and specialized PM methodologies. But innumerable small and medium projects that are needed can get advantage of the PMI simplified approach.

On January 1st new mayors elected during October and November elections took office. The majority had to review their government plans as a consequence of the disaster. The reconstruction is on the agenda.

PMI-SC Chapter Initiatives

The first “train-the –trainers” session took place at Federal university of Santa Catarina and the participants were (from left to right):



Carolina Eberhardt, Farhad Abdollahyan, Jislaine Santi, Daisy Ruiz Diaz Lovera, PMP and PMI-SC Officer, Myriam Barbejat, Artur Santa Catarina, Alexei Dimitrii Albuquerque, Liliana Alvez, Nikolai Dimitrii Albuquerque President of PMI-SC.

During the evening, PMI-SC organized a donation event, in which Farhad Abdollahyan, PMP presented Strategic Value in portfolio, program and project management followed by a panel where Nikolai Albuquerque and Marcelo Teixeira Soares – one of the PMI-SC founders from Joinville – joined the discussion on new trends of project, program and portfolio management in 2009.

Next Steps

The workshop generated a series of next step initiatives that form a program that Everaldo Artur Grahl Vice-Presidente of Regional Relationship of Itajaí Valley (the most affected region) is sponsoring:

- (1) Finish the material translation supporting initiative under Pilar Sanchez Albaladejo, PMP coordination.
- (2) Contact State authorities and offer methodological support and also establish same kind of approach at counties most affected by the calamity;
- (3) Contact the Civil Defense, Firemen Corps and other agents involved with emergency initiatives and offer the Sphere Project framework trainings;
- (4) Train the volunteer PMPs of the chapter (PMI-SC has 220 members) to not only disseminate the methodology at local levels but also stimulate each of them to chose one or more projects and coach their respective Project Manager's after they are trained;