LIVING WITH EXTREME NATURAL EVENTS; AVOIDING DISASTER

"There are no natural disasters. There are only natural extreme events and human disasters. The former is not within our control but the latter is"

Time advancement, finer details of spatio-temporal event distribution and effectiveness of information reaching the target public play a vital role in the forecasting of natural extreme events to minimize human casualties. Thus, the R&D should focus on the technological enhancement and improvisation of sensing and monitoring devices, coordination & communication, prediction models and information dissemination modes. However, even with the best forecasting techniques, one can hardly prevent the property and socio-economic losses. The evacuation, maintenance and resettlement of the affected public incur a heavy toll on the government. Thus, it is the high time for the scientific community to give the utmost prominence to focus on technologies that develop disaster--resilient systems affordable to the mass public. These may come in various forms such as amphibious housing structures, flood-proof town planning, smart tunnels, retention-wall techniques, draught-resilient water supply, rainwater harvesting etc. A collective effort at both national and regional level should be made in this line, together with the support and collaboration from the international frontiers, to optimize the scientific and technological developments.