



Cities on Volcanoes 9
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Puerto Varas, Chile

'Understanding volcanoes and society: the key for risk mitigation'



Binational exchange Mt. Rainier – Nevado del Ruiz Volcanoes: Successful International Cooperation strategy that benefiting local communities

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International Cooperation is very important in the construction of new ways of using geoscientific knowledge in order to protect the lives of Communities, the environment and promote the development of countries. For more than five years, the United States Geological Survey thought its Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP) works in conjunction with the Colombian Geological Survey (SGC) in a strategy called “Binational Exchange Mt. Rainier – VN Ruiz”. This strategy is focused on linking authorities of risk management, disaster response agencies, education authorities, scientists and community in activities where all discuss about risk scenarios such a mechanism to awareness. As a result of these activities the people build their disaster preparedness from geological history, recent experience and sector plans in force. The Binational Exchange has achieved great results for both countries working to improve how to prepare and empower their communities in a specific volcanic risk scenarios. In 2013 was made the first binational exchange. Authorities of Pierce County and Washington State (USA) visited Colombia and know the history of eruption of the Nevado del Ruiz volcano in 1985 which left more over 25,000 people dead. They had the opportunity to identify different issues to improve in their own response plans. In the visit of Colombia's Delegation to the State of Washington, the participating authorities identified different areas for improve, especially in processes of coordination, planning, education and outreach, issues that have been evaluated and gradually improved in the current plans. Currently, the Binational Exchange and all activities derived there are made to support the Strategy for Social Appropriation of Geo Knowledge of Colombian Geological Survey and encourage the disaster risk management authorities and education sector to achieve a more resilient communities and an inter-institutional work more robust, coordinated and technical.



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