

**Engineering sector case study
on good corporate practice related to disaster risk reduction**

Company

Arup (Turkey)

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<http://www.arup.com/geotechnics/project.cfm?pageid=6373>

Overview

Arup is a large multinational firm of engineers, planners and designers. It has operations in more than 30 countries including Turkey. The disaster risk reduction experience of Arup in Turkey is particularly interesting as it demonstrates the possibilities for private sector partnerships to reduce disaster risks.

In 2000, following a major earthquake in the country, Arup joined five other British engineering and construction firms operating in the country to form the British Earthquake Consortium for Turkey (BECT). Together the companies undertook a series of studies in a district which had been suffered seriously from quake. These studies sought to identify high risk areas with regard to future earthquakes and thus provide guidance for planning and development:

“Arup led the ground engineering aspects of the consortium. This involved seismic, geological and geomorphological appraisals. This included identification of geohazards (landslides, liquefaction and fault rupture) and potential areas for development where the hazards are lower than average for the region.”

Together ground specialists and town planners selected locations in the district with the least risk for development. Arup’s contributions to this work included inputs from staff working in Hong Kong, Istanbul, Leeds, London, and Sydney – a truly international effort.

The work of BECT was done for the Ministry of Public Works and Settlement of the Government of Turkey. Funding came for the companies as well as from the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions of the Government of the United Kingdom.

Insights

Arup's participation in the BECT shows how a company can work with other companies – some of whom may be its competitors in the marketplace – to address a common disaster risk. By bringing their respective strengths to the consortium, the opportunities for industry in the district and indeed the entire country were strengthened. Thus they all gained from their collaboration.

Clearly, the Government of Turkey had to not only encourage this partnership effort, but had to ensure the companies that its hard work would be well received by Turkish authorities and planners. Furthermore, BECT benefited from receiving financing from the UK Government – which of course had an interest in supporting British firms operating in Turkey. As noted, the work was also co-financed from the participating companies.

Finally, the severe earthquake of 1999 provided the much needed impetus for multi-stakeholder action. Clarity about what to do and where following this event also enabled BECT to focus its efforts for positive impact.