



The interdisciplinary Postgraduate Programme "Natural Disasters"

M. Mueller and S. Senitz

Institute for Management and Technology in Construction, University of Karlsruhe, Germany
(gk@natkat.org)

The programme was established in 1998 and is currently supported by a total of 12 institutes of the University of Karlsruhe from the Department of Civil Engineering, Geo- and Environmental Sciences, the Department of Physics, the Department of Informatics and the Department of Economics and Business Engineering. It is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG-GRK 450/3), the federal state of Baden-Wuerttemberg and the University of Karlsruhe and is structured in three periods of three years. The third period started in October 2004. The Postgraduate Programme was established with the aim of developing adequate modelling methods to meet the rising demand for problem-oriented know-how and solutions in the field of natural disaster research. Within the framework of a Research Training Group the programme promotes doctoral students by providing scholarships and funds as well as the opportunity to work and prepare their PhD theses in a comprehensive and interdisciplinary research context. The focus of the programme is to endow the participants with the ability to understand and evaluate the relevant relationships of natural disasters and with the ability to propose and implement adequate solutions needed for an optimal disaster management. The postgraduate programme's key objectives are 1) to investigate the entire chain of effects of natural disasters, 2) to analyse and characterise the different types of natural hazards, 3) to develop, apply and validate modern methods of mathematics and informatics and 4) to improve the rescue and recovery machinery.