

UNIVERSITY COOPERATION PROMOTING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT



THE NEW STRATEGIES OF NATURAL DISASTERS MITIGATION, CRISES PREVENTION
AND PEACEKEEPING IN COMPLEX HUMANITARIAN CRISES

PROF. MASSIMO CANEVA, PhD, MD

INTRODUCTION

One of the basic challenges for the XXI Century is international peace and development in the light of the new world balance. Today, there are problems that can only be solved by action at the global level. New strategic thinking is required to approach global issues and advance “global public goods”.

Consequently, international communities must become protagonists of a new strategy to intervene in crisis areas and to promote peace, human rights and development with a strategy based on realistic and effective foreign common policy.

Such a strategy must include the collaborative efforts of diplomatic, economic and peace forces actions, while being rooted in the common goal of development of a strong cooperation culture of solidarity capable of understanding local needs and providing quick and efficient solutions that are at once professional and respectful of human dignity.

Such a strategy must rely on cultural expertise and include expert knowledge of the theoretical elements of crisis and development management and the capability to understand the real comprehensive needs of the populations, and their historical and cultural roots in order to give effective answers to them, and to promote peace and development even in the first phases of the interventions.

NEW UNIVERSITY COOPERATION **STRATEGY FOR PEACE**

A competent and comprehensive response requires a multidisciplinary approach. In every university cooperation programme for peace it is necessary to take into account that the objective of an action aiming to analyse the situations must take into consideration the cultural context, in order to advance the technical and cultural objectives of the cooperation.

Universities can play a significant role in this new strategy for humanitarian affairs, if they build partnerships with other relevant actors, including international organizations, diplomacy, peace forces and NGOs. Universities should not act as an elite, far removed from real problems and challenges. On the contrary, universities and their faculty should be engaged in the field and share their expertise and knowledge as well as learn from other actors.

UNIVERSITY COOPERATION PROMOTING :

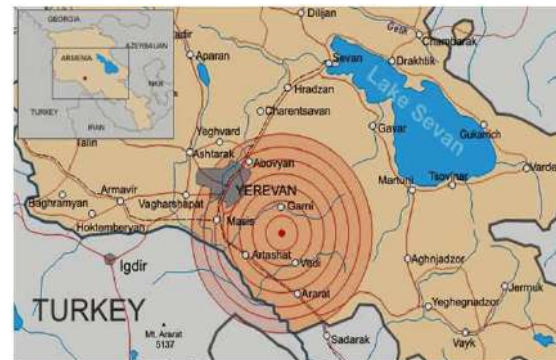
- **Mitigation of Natural Disasters**
- **Stabilization and Peace**
- **Democracy**
- **Development**

DISASTERS CAN BE CAUSED BY THREE TYPES OF PHENOMENA

NATURAL CATASTROPHES: (earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, floods, landslides, droughts, epidemics, etc.)

TECHNOLOGICAL CATASTROPHES: (explosions, fires, accidents, déforestation, contamination, collapses, etc.)

SOCIAL CRISIS CATASTROPHES: (wars, armed conflicts, displacement of populations and refugees, terrorism, etc.)



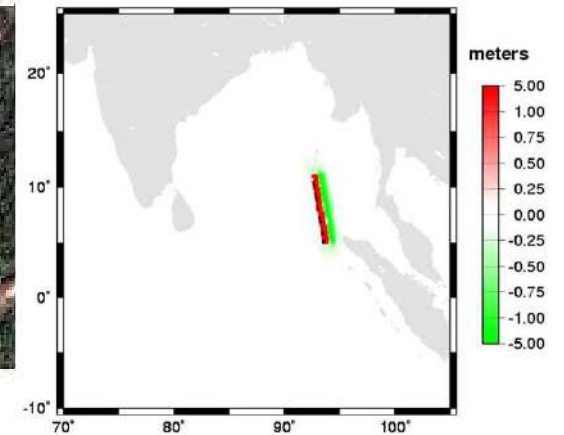
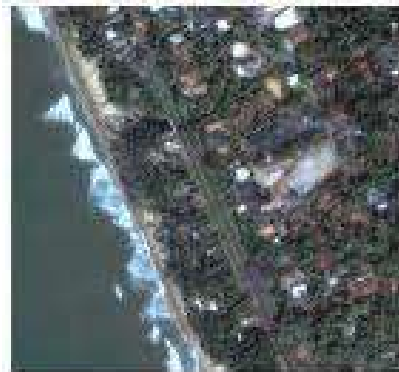
CAUCASUS ARMENIA

UNIVERSITY COOPERATION PROGRAM PROMOTING PEACE IN “COMPLEX” HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

EARTHQUAKE IN ARMENIA AND FIRST HUMANITARIAN AID PROGRAM

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/TFqunQtTlIE>





time = 0. minutes

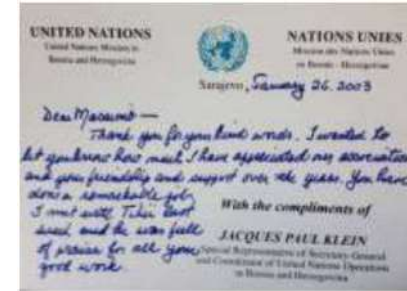
A. Piatanesi - INGV

Before and After Kalutara, Sri Lanka,
Courtesy DigitalGlobe.com





BALTIC REGION - ESTONIA: University Cooperation Programme for the "**Estonian-Russian Speaking University Students' Integration**" in collaboration with the University of Tallinn, the University of Tartu, the Italian Embassy and the Representation of the European Commission and Parliament in Estonia (1996 and 1997).



Sarajevo 26 Gennaio 2003 *"Dear Massimo, thanks you for your kind words. I wanted to let you know how much I have appreciated our association and your friendly and support over the years. You have done a remarkable job. I met with Tihi (Rector) last week and he was full of grace for all your good work"* **(Jaques Paul Klein - Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations in Bosnia Herzegovina)**

SARAJEVO. Since the post-signing of the Dayton Accords, AESI has been present, meeting them in Sarajevo and inviting them to Italy as Ambassador Klein, representative of the UN Secretary general together with the rectors of the universities of Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Muslim cultural and religious expressions, Croatian and Serbian) then collaborating with EUFOR through the commander General Castagnotto an important reality that has seen the synergy of all international actors.

Video: <https://youtu.be/nxcFw9tBbMo>

<https://youtu.be/PSg9OCLrmOc>

<https://youtu.be/Xo70dy1DUj8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chk0buBtqc0&t=2s>



LEBANON Starting from Lebanon, where AESI has been committed for more than 16 years in the work and promotion of the culture of dialogue and solidarity between the academic realities of the Countries such as those of the Lebanese State University with a strong Muslim presence and with that of the Christian Maronite USEK University. AESI involved the reality of the United Nations international military forces as UNIFIL, thanks to continuous visits and contacts with the commanders, beginning with General Claudio Graziano.

Video: <https://youtu.be/ydJGjJb4wKg>





JERUSALEM Another scenario, the realities of the crisis that sees conflicting **Israelis and Palestinians** with repercussions throughout all the Middle East. Particularly linked to this difficult reality, the AESI has always undertaken to maintain contact with the Commander of the UNTSO in Jerusalem, meeting in Jerusalem the various Commanders and inviting them to visit Rome and to participate in Congress activities and courses that they have always facilitated this tremendous job of seeking peace.

Video: <https://youtu.be/Db95tvOUvbg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRK72mcKSVU&feature=youtu.be>



Prof. Nazir Hibrahim - President of Private University of Siryan in Damascus (Syria)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUsZVYTLEkA&feature=youtu.be>

<https://aesieuropa.eu/news/intervista-al-nunzio-apostolico-in-siria-cardinale-mario-zenari>



CYPRUS In 2010, AESI promoted its message of University Cooperation for Peace with the UNFICYP and met the Head of the Mission Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Force Military Commander.



NATO BRUXELLES : AESI
NATO FORUM with Italian
Ambassador





NATO HQ in Naples and Admiral James Foggo. The friendship and collaboration with Admiral Foggo is a consolidated reality: known when he was already the commander of the sixth US fleet in Naples and then visited at the Pentagon in Washington in his duties as Chief of Staff of the US Navy, is an important reference point in the international education of AESI students.





UNOG GENEVA : AESI FORUM with Italian Ambassador and Meeting with DG UNOG



ROME INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR - Video: <https://youtu.be/9Me4K3Hx8Bg>



WHAT THE STUDENTS SAY OF ROME INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR



"Nelson Mandela, a figure for development and peace, once said, "The power of education extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success. It can contribute to nation-building and reconciliation." During the 8 days we spent in Italy, we were able to discover the true meaning behind those words. Although students from 5 different countries were brought together to discuss major issues related to peace, we were able to find a common language to communicate, the language of peace." **(Students from Jordan)**

"The quaint and inviting setting of the event, its promise of cultural exchange, its intellectual rigor, and its welcoming environment gave us more than just a respite from our academic endeavours and our struggle to contribute to the process of recovery and rebuilding of our war-ravished country. It was indeed an occasion for intellectual growth and development, thinking out of the box, reflecting critically on regional and international issues, networking with international colleagues, and having the chance to express our views and inject our perspective into the discussions of the seminar. The total effect and the sum of this experience is that it is a "promise of hope, and a victory for the culture of dialog." **(Students from Syria)**

WHAT THE STUDENTS SAY OF ROME INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR



"On the educational level, this seminar has enhanced our knowledge in the topics delivered. On the cultural level, we had the amazing opportunity to actually Meet the Pope who encouraged us in our mission to be Agents of Peace, visit the Italian Ministry of Defence and watch the concert in the Castello in Nepi. On the social development level, it allowed us to exchange not only experiences and ideas but also opinions about many taboo topics going on in our respective countries. These debates improved our dialogue skills and problem solving skills. Thank you for giving this once in a lifetime opportunity to many of us and for letting alumni students share their previous experiences in this seminar. Hand in hand, we are sure we can achieve the main purpose of this project which is "PEACE". Thank you for all the efforts and time spent to organize this seminar with a special dedication to Professor Massimo Caneva who made it all possible. We hope to be part of the future editions too!" **(Students from Lebanon)**

*“We would like to thank the Italian Cooperation Agency for their support and encouragement in making this seminar a reality. As well as their commitment to maintaining peace in the Middle East through the various projects and programs that they fund and organize. In addition, all of us participants in this seminar recognize the crucial part that the ministry of Foreign affairs and the University of Roma Tre have in the success of this program. And we highly recommend for them to continue this initiative and their support for this seminar and we encourage them to help and support a 4th edition of this seminar in 2020. We also would like to extend our deepest gratitude and acknowledgement to Dr. Professor Massimo Caneva for everything he is doing to make sure this seminar is a success. We acknowledge that it is very hard work to work on three different levels, Academics, Religious and military at the same time while also taking care of every detail to do with this program and for that we salute Professor Caneva. Without his efforts this seminar could not have happened. Kind regards from Palestine” **(Students from Palestine)***



*“At the beginning, we would like to thank you Prof. Caneva for the wonderful opportunity you gave us by inviting to participate in this important endeavour. We felt very privileged to be chosen to this seminar and we deeply appreciate all the efforts you made in order to succeed it and to prepare a comfortable atmosphere for a peace issues dialogue. This encounter with the other is very important step toward peace in the middle east, and by the good work of yours and your amazing team you promote it admirably. This program had many life-altering and life-changing effects on all of us. It created a space for us to get to know the other on a human level, before we even knew where one person was from or their background. It brought people from different conflict areas, nationalities and backgrounds, where it would have been very difficult, or even impossible, to bring them together under one roof in their home land. Conducting this conference in Italy was very important as it shed the light on the importance of the EU taking a stand and encouraging peace talks and negotiations amongst every party.” **(Students from Israeli)***