

Swiss Re offers online information on natural hazards

3 Aug 2000 CET Press Release

From today, Swiss Re is providing a new information service in the form of an interactive atlas with comprehensive information on natural hazards: CatNet on the ELRIX platform www.elrix.com. This service is a response to the large global demand for information on natural hazards and ways in which these might be insured.

In 1999 insurance losses due to natural catastrophes amounted to USD 24.4 billion, with insurers recording the second highest amount of losses ever recorded, after 1992, the year in which Hurricane "Andrew" occurred. These could mainly be attributed to seven billion-dollar losses in connection with storms and earthquakes. This precarious situation and the fact that the insurance industry is becoming increasingly international has led to a global demand for information on natural hazards and ways in which these might be insured.

CatNet can be used to retrieve valuable information online and more accurately estimate the risks due to natural hazards. An interactive atlas provides an overview of risk exposure, and an insurance information base procures country-specific data about the insurance situation, loss experience and loss potentials. Users are thus better equipped to assess their reinsurance needs.

CatNet complements Swiss Re's range of "e-business" products and services provided under the ELRIX (Electronic Risk Exchange) platform and contributes towards an efficient and transparent exchange of information within the insurance industry.

Swiss Re is one of the worlds leading reinsurers with more than 70 offices in over 30 countries. In 1999 gross premium volumes amounted to CHF 22.4 billion, and post-tax profits reached CHF 2.8 billion. Swiss Re is rated "Aaa" by Moody's, "AAA" by Standard & Poor's and "A++" by AM Best.

For further information please contact:

Corporate Communications:

Gabriela Arnold, tel. +41 1 285 3832, fax +41 1 285 2023

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