

Managing of the 2006 present-day volcanic crisis at Ubinas

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Since August 2005, the Ubinas volcano (16° 22' S, 70° 54' W; 5672 m asl.) presented a slight increase in its fumarolic activity. On March 2006, Ubinas began to sporadically emit fine ash and ballistic blocks of hydrothermal-altered rock. The events are associated with phreatic-type activity. Between 14 - 20 April, Ubinas volcano continuously, produced ash fall on Querapi and Ubinas towns located to 4 and 6 km respectively to SE of the volcano. During April, the activity of Ubinas was variable, distinguished by intense gases emissions and sporadic ash fall. Due to the occurrence of the ash emissions registered since 14 April, that caused damage to the people, cattle and cultivated land, the science and technology group of SIREDECI (Sistema Regional de Defensa Civil – Moquegua) formed, integrated by geoscientific institutions that participate in the prevention and mitigation of disasters as: INGEMMET, IG-UNSA, IGP, IRD to realize the damage evaluation and the volcano's seismic activity, deformation's monitoring, geochemist monitoring of thermal spring and evaluation hazard volcanic to prevent and mitigate the effect of a eventual volcano's eruption that affect to more 5000 inhabitants live Ubinas valley. This group will evaluate the results obtained in the volcanic monitoring to present official statement and recommendation to SIREDECI and regional and local authorities to effect prevention's labors and attentions damage people.

The geoscientific group will give recommendations to SIREDECI as: to evacuated to 40 families of Querapi town to the Anascapa town, located to 8 Km Ubinas south. During the last weekends of April a lot of Ubinas people and other village of the valley were frightened by the volcanic activity and left their housing. Most of them took refuge in the city of Arequipa, 60 km distant to the volcano.

In addition SIREDECI during the crisis attended the damaged population and at the moment they come working with the geoscientific institutions in evacuation topics and relocation of the towns located in areas of high risk.