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View of Islam on Earthquake, Human Vitality and Disaster

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Why?

Objective:

Benefit from the Islamic teaching, and trying to correlate its key concepts to the principal of risk reduction, in order to develop an effective approach for Risk Communication and education, specially among traditional and religious community.

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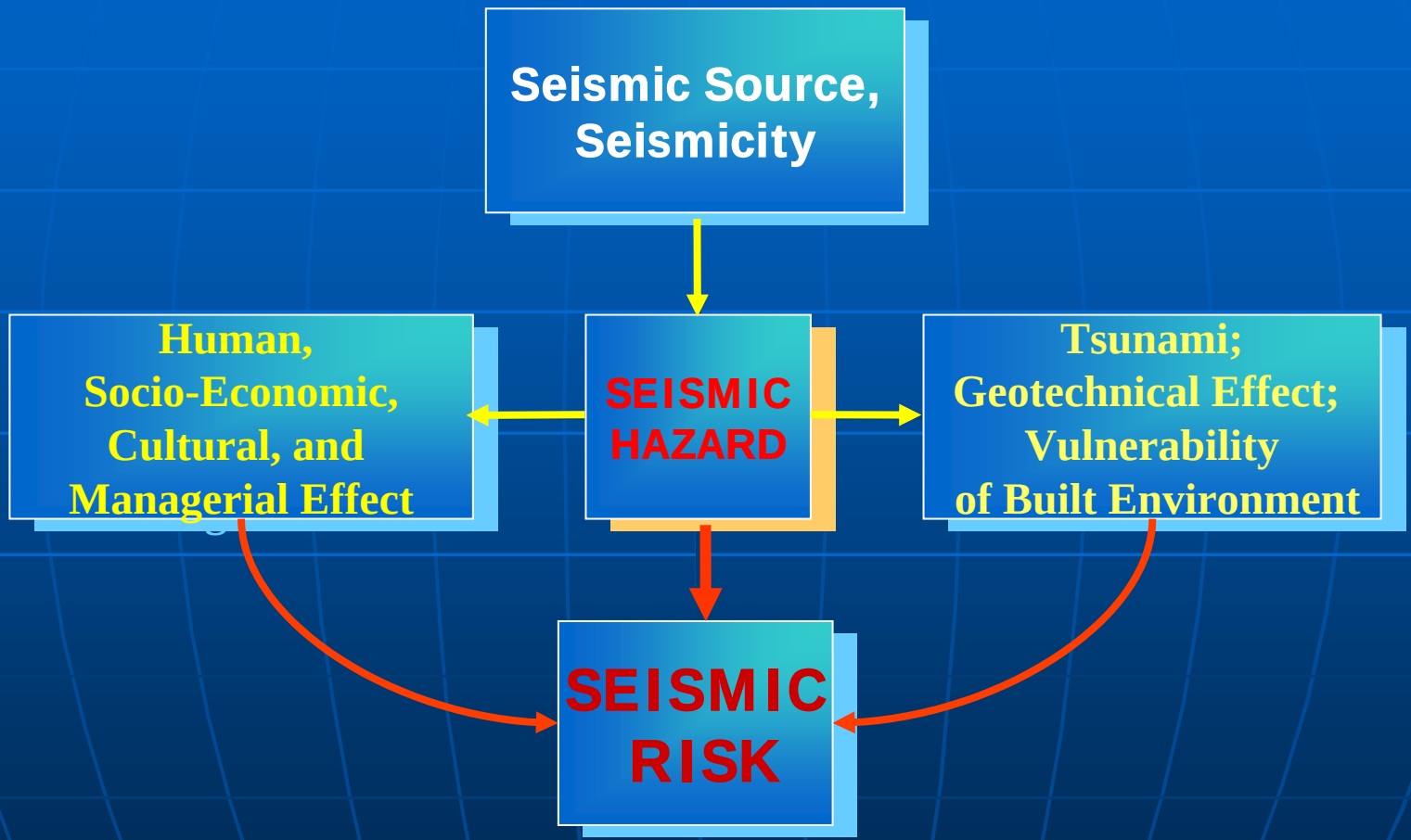
Risk Management Concept



$$\text{SEISMIC RISK} = \frac{\text{Seismic Hazard} \times \text{Vulnerability} \times \text{Value}}{\text{Governance}}$$

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Guiding Principals in Risk Management

1. Believing the fact of the existence of seismic hazard in most part of the world, and the earthquake risk can only be reduced if the structures are designed and built compatible with the level hazard and we are prepared.
2. Comprehensiveness: We need to see the total picture of earthquake from its source to its effects and impacts, in order to be successful.
3. Expert leadership: Required to develop the know-how as well as to assure the effectiveness, sustainability and continuity of the programs. It is for the public and policy makers to understand, accept, believe and implement the know-how and the program.
4. Risk Reduction can only be effectively achieved and successful through Joint Effort and Good Management

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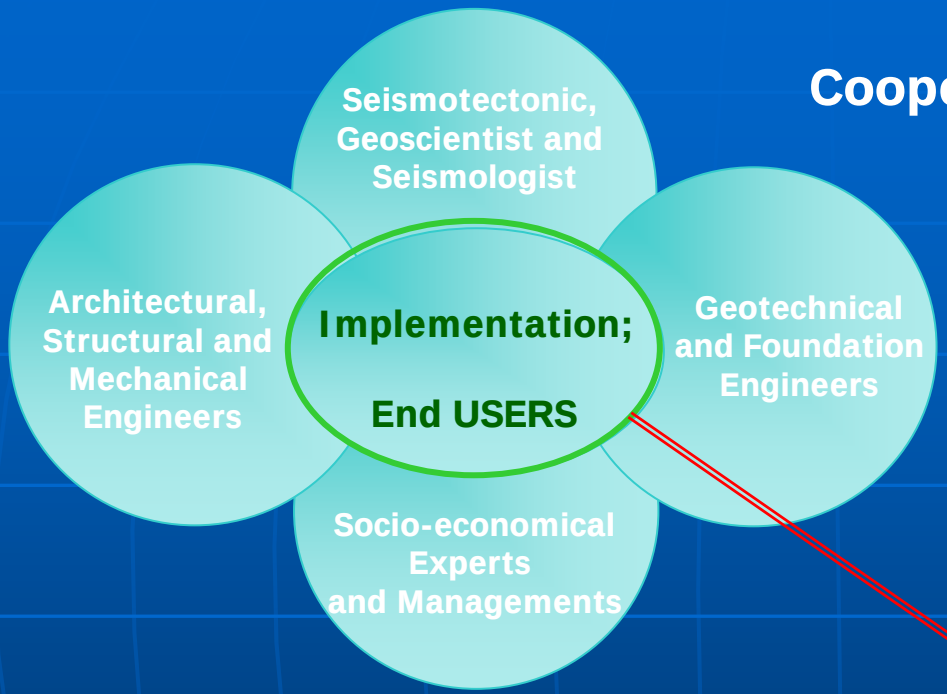
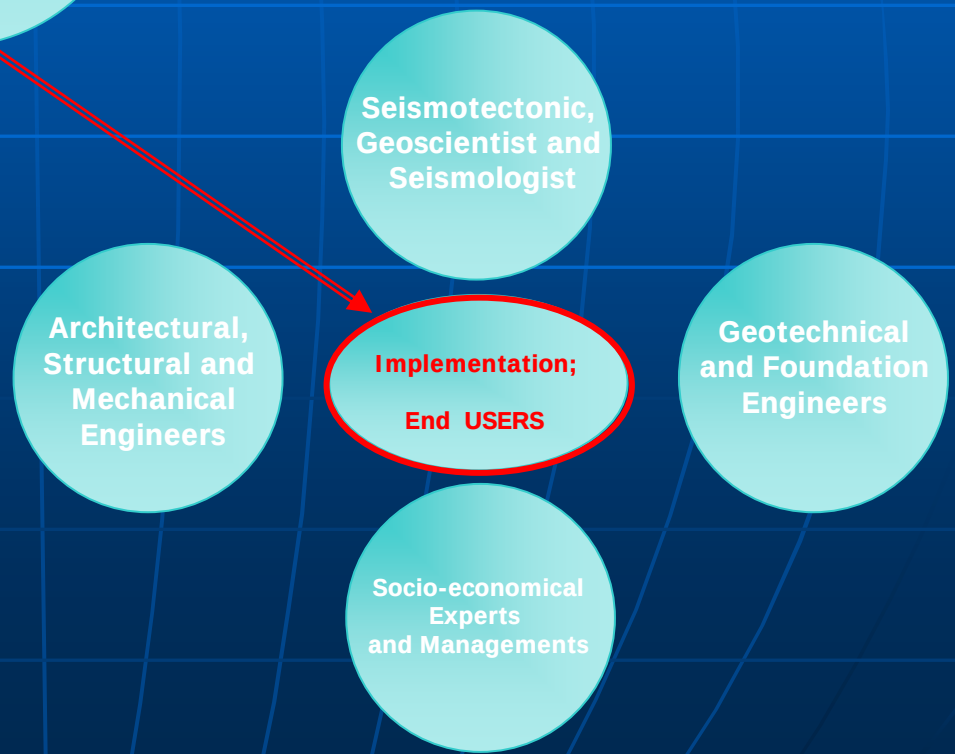
Key Concept:

Good Management

Cooperation and Working Together



RESULTS:
SUCCESS IN REDUCING THE VULNERABILITIES & RISK



Results:
Failure in Risk Reduction

FACT:
No Scientist or Organization Can Solve The Problem by Working Alone

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4. Risk Reduction can only be effectively achieved and successful through Joint Effort and Good Management
5. Being Patient and have Consistent Policy and ensure the accountability for the actions.

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Islam Key Concepts

- Islam: Submission to Allah's (Will and) Guidance.
- Submission means "Belief, Faith and Recognition" which results to "Good Deed". *Whoever submits himself wholly to Allah, he is the doer of good, ….* [Luqman-31:22].
- Quran: Allah's Guidance Book is comprehensive, with multi-dimensional and multi-functional meanings . *We have revealed to you the book which clarifies every matter* [Nahl-16:89].
- Leadership of wise, elite and experts (Olel-Amr, Olel-Albab). "Are those who know equal to those who do not" [Zumar,30:9].
- Group work, Cooperation, Consultation, Social responsibility and social values.

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Islam Key Concepts

- Human are born innocent, pure with full of ability.
- God's will is based on human deeds and behavior.
- Human Free Will (right of choice) and no Determinism (Force to do thing).
- Human does not have any right to either harm him/herself or others and it is an unforgivable sin.
- Highest importance is given to respecting and observing the "People's Right".
- Respecting law or the rules of conduct with respect of human and social activities.

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Islam Key Concepts

- People supervision through “Amr-bil-maruf” inviting and encouraging to good deeds and forbidding the wrong; “Nahya-anil-munkar” [Al-Omran, 3:104].
- Sin: Violating God’s guidance due to ignorance, negligence and lack of knowledge.

Thus, it can be seen that many key concepts in Islam supports the guiding principals of risk reduction and disaster prevention.

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Earthquake in Quran

- The term “Earthquake” has been mentioned directly as a specific chapter (99) and indirectly in various versus of the Quran such as: 7:78,91,151,171; 13:4; 16:26; 17:37,68; 29:37; 34:9; 67:16; 69:5.

وَفِي الأَرْضِ قِطَعٌ مُّتَجَاوِرَاتٌ (رعد:34)

- And in the Earth are neighboring pieces. [Raad, 13:4]

- Even-though the term “Earthquake” due to the multidimensional meaning of Quran, describes different concepts, it can also be considers and related to the natural earthquake under the discussion of this lecture.

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Earthquake
Quran-Chapter 99

1. When earth is shaken with her (final) Earthquake.
2. And earth yield up her burdens from within.
3. And the earth brings forth her burdens.
4. And man says: What has befallen her?
5. On that Day will she declare her news.
6. For that thy Lord will have given her inspiration.
7. On that Day will men proceed in companies sorted out, to be shown the deeds that they had done
8. So, anyone who has done an atom's weight of good, see it!
9. And anyone who has done an atom's weight of badness, shall see it.

Whoever do good, the reward to him is better than his deed, and whoever do bad shall not be rewarded for, except what they did, or are only punished to the extent of their deeds. [Qesas, 28:84]

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Belief and Good Deeds in Quran

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُواْ وَعَمِلُواْ الصَّالِحَاتِ سَنُدْخِلُهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ . . . . (نساء:122)

- And those who believe and do good deeds, shall be rewarded by entering into heaven… [Nesa,4:122]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ النَّعِيمِ (لقمان:8)

- Surely those who believe and do good, will be rewarded by heaven (gardens of bliss). [Luqman, 31:8]

إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ يهْدِي لِلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ وَيُبَشِّرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا

- Surely this Quran guides to that which is most upright and gives good news to the believers who do good that they shall have a great reward. [Israa,17:9]

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ إِنَّا لَا نُضِيعُ أَجْرَ مَنْ أَحْسَنَ عَمَلًا (كهف:30)

- Surely those who believe and do good, We do not waste the reward of him who does a good work. [Kahf, 18:30]

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Time-Asr
Quran-Chapter 101

1. I Swear by the time (age).
2. Most surely human are in (state of) loss.
3. Except those who “Believe” or have “Faith” and do “Good Deeds”; and join together in the mutual teaching of “Truth” or “Just” and of “Patience and Constancy”.

Faith: Recognition and Believe on Allah and his instruction

Good Deeds: Acts based on knowledge, Wisdom and Recognition

Patience: Motivation, Incentive, Hope
Key factor in Risk reduction

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Belief and Good Deeds in Quran

God's Guidance to human being are based on "Belief" and "Doing Good Deeds":

- Believing that our creator's guidance is for the best human performance and better living. Human are encouraged with their free will, awareness and knowledge to follow the guidance which is comprehensive and covers all aspects of life.
- Believing on wisdom, facts and expertise; as well as accepting, respecting and following the spiritual, individual, social and technical laws, rules and regulations.

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Belief and Good Deeds in Quran

God's Guidance to human being are based on "Belief" and "Doing Good Deeds"

- Doing Best Acts as it is needed on its time: Acts which is based on right belief and knowledge.
- Correct use of God's bounty and Nature with knowledge and Wisdom.
- Good deeds in relation with the earthquake means: Following the experts leadership, compatible planning and development with hazard, constructing according to building codes and regulations; and Seismically safe construction.

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Sin and Disaster in Islam

What is Sin?

- Violating God's guidance due to ignorance, lack of knowledge as well as performing acts against self conscious.
- Refusing the use of knowledge and wisdom that God has given us with our free will.
- Misusing the Nature. E.g. development and construction which cause damage to environment and nature.
- Causing damage, harm or causing vulnerability to him/herself . Harm refers to human health, safety and assets, as well as environment.
- Violating the people's right and social laws.
- Doing acts that causes mistrust and corruptions (Fesad) in the society.

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Sin and Disaster in Islam

فَكُلًّا أَخَذْنَا بِذَنبِهِ فَمِنْهُم مَّنْ أَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِ حَاصِبًا وَمِنْهُم مَّنْ أَخَذَتْهُ الصَّيْحَةُ وَمِنْهُم مَّنْ خَسَفْنَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ وَمِنْهُم مَّنْ أَغْرَقْنَا وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ لِيَظْلِمَهُمْ وَلَكِن كَانُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُونَ

- So We took each one in his sin; of them was he on whom We sent a strong storm, and of them was he who was overtaken by the Cry, and of them was he whom We caused the earth to swallow, and of them was he whom We drowned. It was not for Allah to wrong them, but they wronged themselves [Ankaboot; 29:40]

وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفَسَادَ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ (قصص:77)

- And do not seek to make mischief or corrupt in the land, surely Allah does not love the mischief-makers. [Qesas 28:77]

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Sin and Disaster in Islam

Thus when human as a policy maker, manager, developer, engineer, builder and owner without having belief on common law of nature and scientific facts as well as using the existing know-how on safety and engineering principals, or by violating the law and building regulations with his/her free will; can be considered as committing sin, which in turn results to vulnerability, disaster and destruction.

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Prophet Mohammad's Teaching

Prophet Mohammad (PBUH):

- God loves those who do a deed or job correct, perfect and complete (perfectionism).
- Human should have strong desire to do good deeds.
- Human deeds with good objective and results, is worshiping god.
- Human is not a believer when its neighbors are not safe from his misconduct (vulnerable) behavior.
- Ignorance is the root of all the problems and faults.
- Short-term actions does not last.

Imam Ali (AS):

- Do not be from those group that without using the knowledge and without doing good deeds, expect or hope for a good results.

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Disaster and Vitality

Good Acts = Acts based on Knowledge and Cognition

Bad Acts = Acts based on Ignorance and Negligence

God's Bounty to human is Guidance, Ability, Wisdom, Knowledge, etc. for doing "Good".

Disasters are resulted from in-appropriate or incorrect human action which is called "SIN";

Disaster is not God's wrath or anger.

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Islam: Submission to God's Guidance

which is based on:

Belief, Faith, Recognition

Doing Good Deeds

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Following the Guidance results to:

Correct use and Best benefit of Nature as God's Bounty;

Use of Wisdom, Knowledge and Experts

Islam: Submission to God's Guidance

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Better and Safer Living
Comfort
Saving Human Life
Environmental Protection

Following the Guidance results to:
Correct use and Best benefit of Nature as God's Bounty;
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Human
and Social
Development:
Vitality
Better and Safer Living
Comfort
Saving Human Life
Environmental Protection
Following the Guidance results to:
Correct use and Best benefit of
Nature as God's Bounty;
Use of Wisdom, Knowledge and Experts
Islam: Submission to God's Guidance
which is based on:
Belief, Faith, Recognition
Doing Good Deeds

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God
Heaven
Human
and Social
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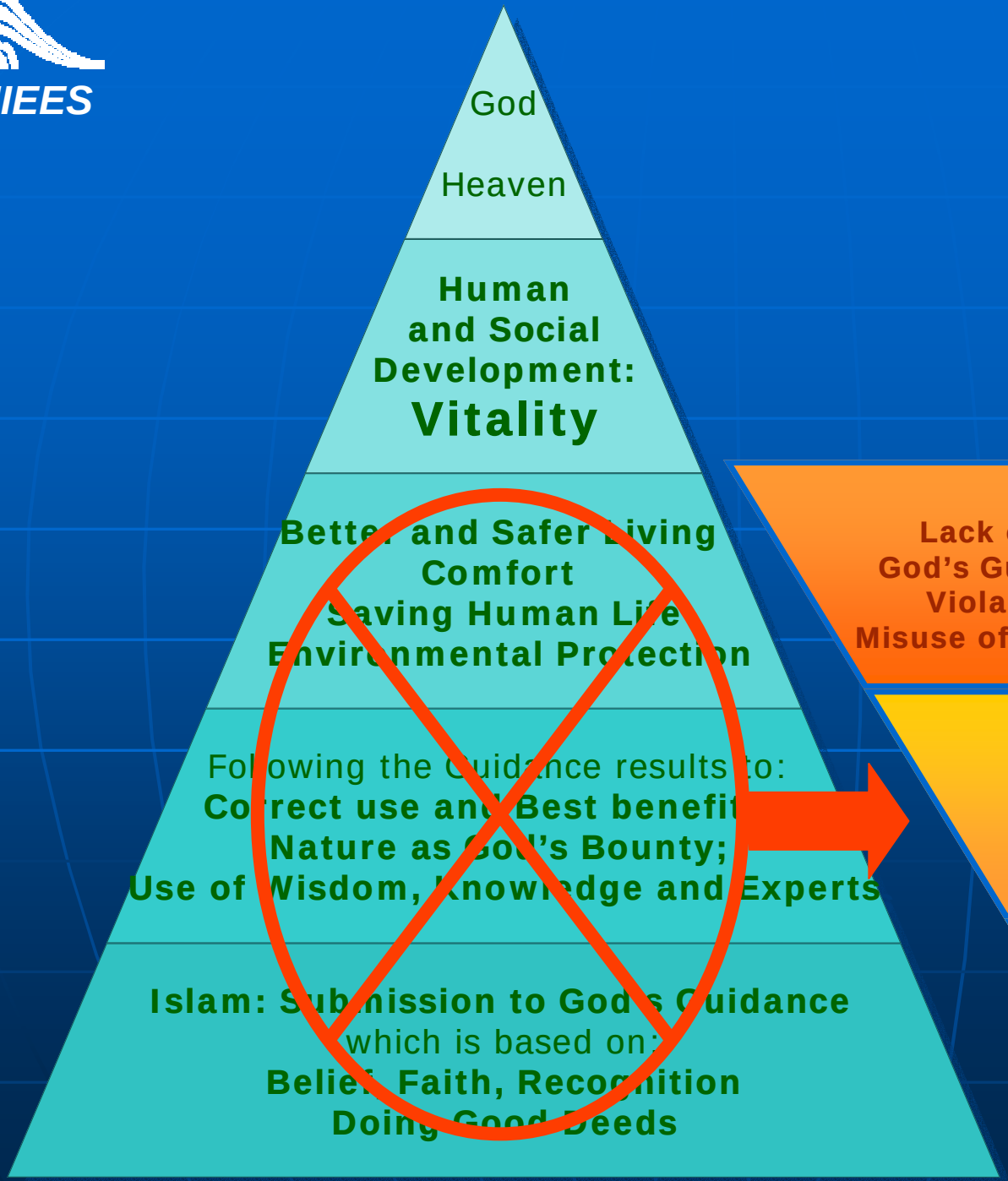

SIN:

Lack of Belief and following
God's Guidance and Knowledge;
Violation of People's Right
Misuse of Nature and God's Bounty

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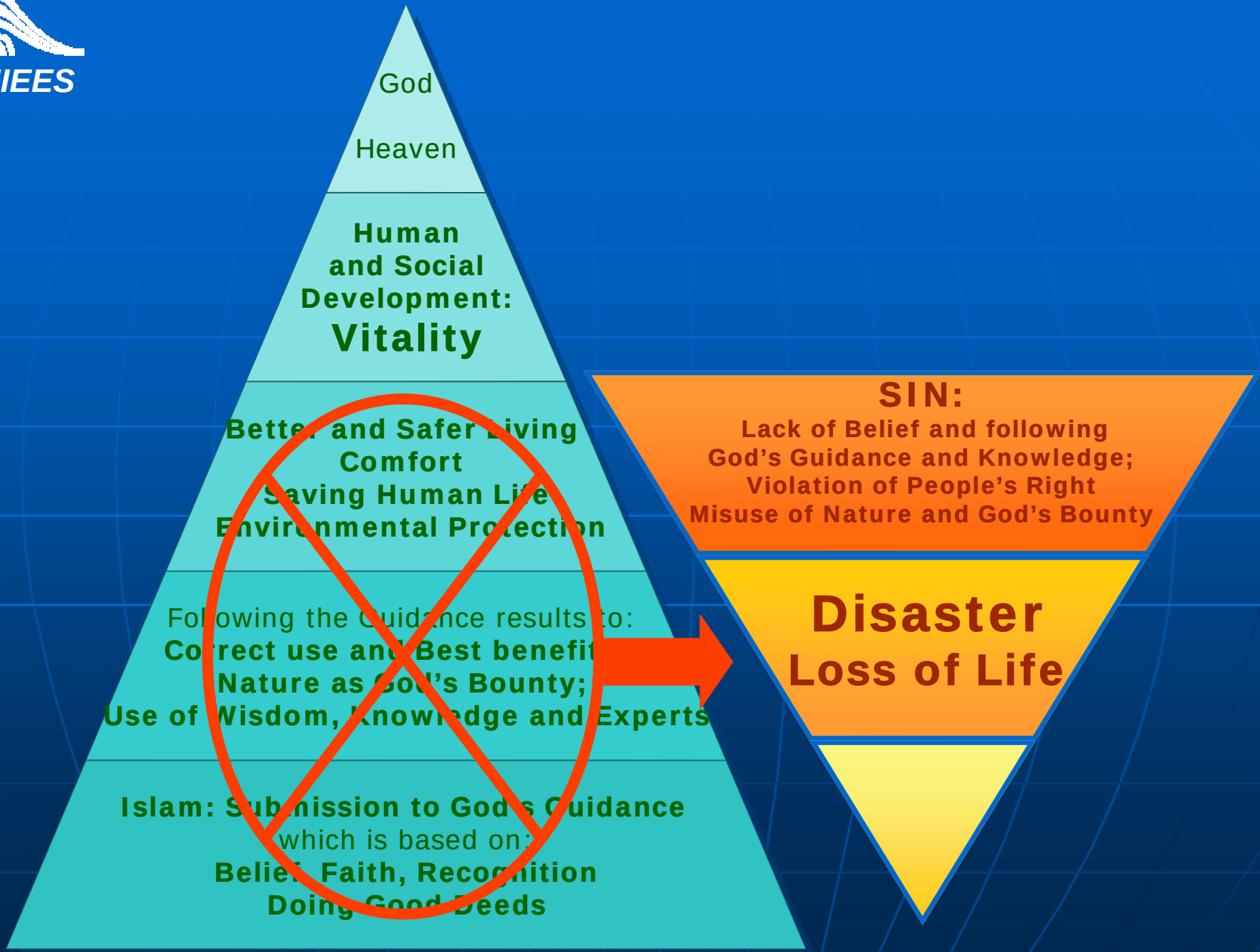
God
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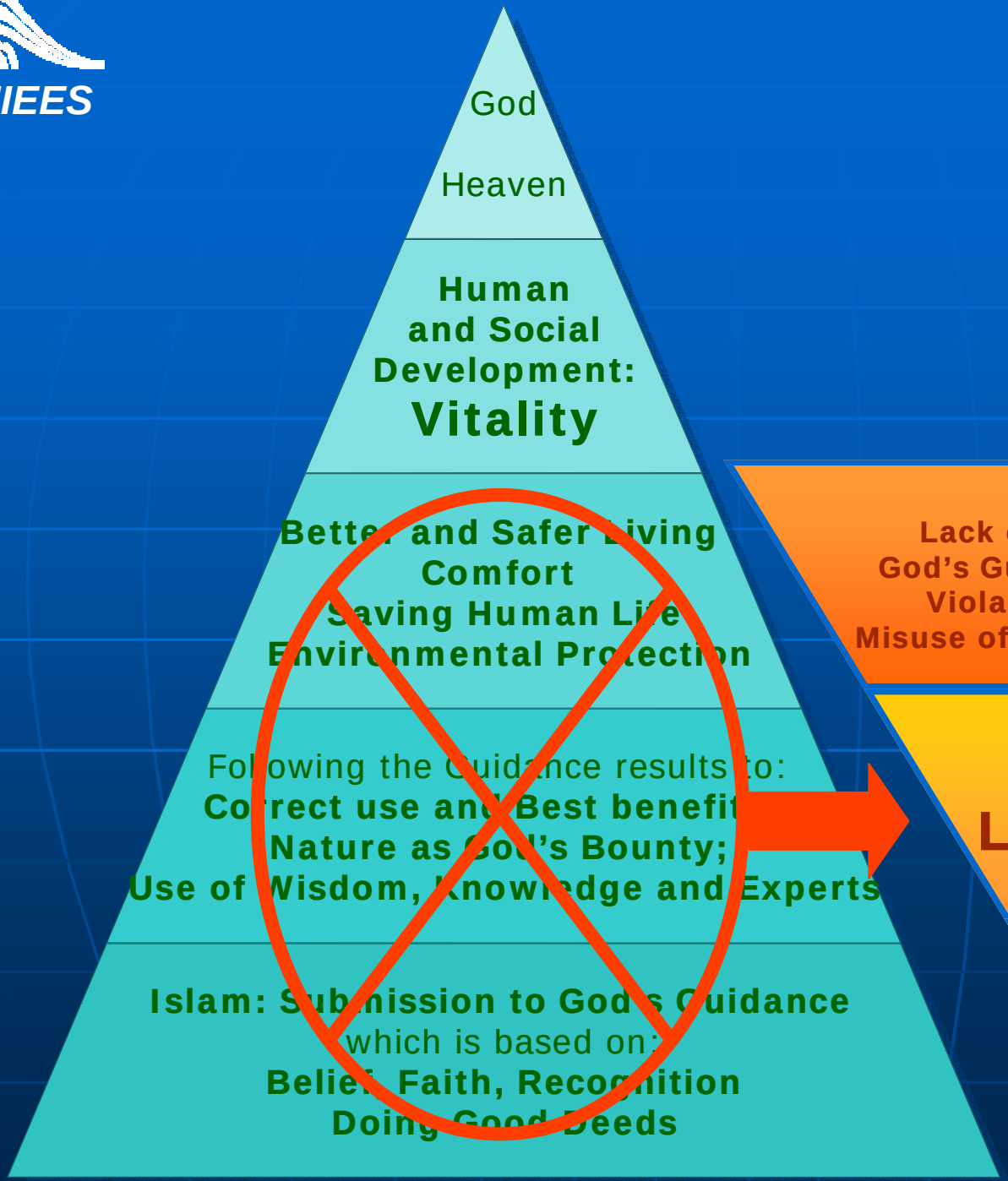

SIN:
Lack of Belief and following
God's Guidance and Knowledge;
Violation of People's Right
Misuse of Nature and God's Bounty

Disaster
Loss of Life

Hell

[Luqman 31:6]

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Noah's Ark: Coping with Disaster

فَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِ أَنِ اصْنَعِ الْفُلْكَ بِأَعْيُنِنَا وَوَحْيِنَا فَإِذَا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا وَ.... (مومنون:27)

So We revealed to him, saying: "Construct the Ark within Our sight and under Our guidance"; then when comes Our Command, and the fountains of the earth gush forth...; and address Me not in favor of the wrong-doers; for they shall be drowned [Believer, 23:27]

Lessons learned from "Noah's Ark" as the best example which has been reported in all religions:

- God's instruction to his prophet Noah for building the Ark in order to be safe in disastrous typhoon and storm;
- Safety can only be achieved when you are prepared even in the case of most dangerous disaster;
- God's protection of his prophets is also achieved through respecting the law of nature which is based on wisdom, knowledge and human ability.

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Key Question??

- Why Islamic countries with this rich guidance and knowledge have a un-satisfactory record on earthquake risk and are facing high vulnerability??

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Possible Answer

Situation of Islamic countries:

- ✓ Before Islam: Ignorance
- ✓ After Islam: Progressive development based on Islamic Guidance up to 15-16 century at its peak. “Islamic Civilization”
- ✓ 16 to mid 20 century: Becoming proud of this high achievement caused the negligence and deforming the true Islamic Guidance with mixing Islam with superstitious culture. By this definition disaster became “God’s Wrath” and safety became “God’s Will”. Thus human became disable toward natural events.
- ✓ Today: Revitalization of Islam and returning to true Islamic Teaching which can be considered as Islamic Renascence

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Concluding Remark

- Risk communication and knowledge dissimination should become compatible with the peoples belief and culture. I believe that the use of Islamic teaching and Knowledge on Disaster and Development can be an effective approach for promotion of Safety Campaign in the Islamic Countries.
- "Vitality" and sustainable development can be achioeved through Faith, knowledge and doing Good Deeds. If we reject the wisdom and refuse to use the know-how that God has given us as his bounty, we will face "Disaster".