EDITORIAL

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A quarterly publication, where manuscripts must be sent to production a full 2 months before they appear in print, is not the ideal place to publish topical articles. We do, however, feel some obligation to comment on recent events. The tsunami originating off the coast of Indonesia, hurricanes Katrina and Rita that struck the US Gulf Coast and the massive earthquake in Pakistan prompted us to solicit two commentaries. The first by Elena Naumova addresses the issue of seasonality and its effect on health and public health preparation. The second is by Pedro Mas Bermejo from Cuba whose country has established a superb record of preparing for and responding to natural disasters. We hope you will find that these commentaries contribute a few new ideas to the continuing debate.

Later in this issue, we incorporate a four-page section from the World Federation of Public Health Associations, edited by Ulrich Laaser, that will now appear as a regular feature of the *Journal*. We welcome WFPHA and its member associations and hope everyone will benefit from this partnership.

THE EDITORS