BUILDING RESILIENCE TOGETHER:

A Timeline of the Global Earthquake Model Foundation

The Global Earthquake Model (GEM) Foundation marks its 10th anniversary this year. Founded in 2009, GEM has emerged as a leading entity for earthquake risk modeling, mitigation and preparedness. Its mission has taken on a safer future. This timeline highlights key milestones that showcase GEM's dedication to building a world resilient against earthquakes and other natural hazards.

2004

The German delegation proposes a workshop to address the absence of a suitable forum to discuss earthquake science at the 11th OECD-IPTS meeting.

2006

A workshop on Earthquake Science in Potsdam identifies the need for Global Seismic Risk Map.

2007

GEM partners with Nasdaq and AIR Worldwide to provide earthquake risk models to the financial risk sector.

2008

A third workshop in Paris finalizes the GEM Business Plan.

2008

GEM completes its business plan and receives 5M euros from Munich Re as first private sponsor.

2008

The OECD Global Science Forum selects EUCENTRE to host the GEM Secretariat.

2008

A strategic planning meeting in Zurich presents GEM to the global professional community.

2009

Ruffino operates as the first GEM Secretary General, serving the organization until 2013.

2009

GEM Foundation is incorporated as a non-profit organisation in Pavia, Italy.

2009

OQ team commits first line of code to OpenQuake engine.

2009

GEM holds 1st Governing Board meeting in June 2009 in Hohenkrähen, Germany.

2010

GEM completes and delivers 10 hazard and risk global assessments.

2013

GEM completes the first Work Programme (WP1).

2013

Anselm Smolka is appointed as the second GEM Secretary General until his retirement in 2015.

2013

GEM releases OpenQuake engine version 1.0 – GEM's seismic hazard and risk computational software.

2014

John Schneider is appointed as the third GEM Secretary General.

2015

GEM releases the first version of OpenQuake Platform.

2016

GEM releases the Global Hazard and Risk Maps on December 5th.

2018

GEM receives UNDRR award.

2018

Capability for multi-peril analyses is added to the OpenQuake engine for enhanced performance.

2020

GEM launches the Global Model for Earthquake Social Vulnerability and Resilience (SVR) at the UN Forum, EMP.

2020

GEM celebrates OpenQuake 10th anniversary.

2021

GEM receives award from EERI (best 2020 paper on global risk development).

2021

GEM releases first version of all model data in the 2018 global mosaic to the public.

2023

Helen Crowley is appointed as the fourth GEM Secretary General.

2023

GEM launches updated Global Hazard and Risk maps at the first GEM Conference.

2023

GEM releases New Global Earthquake Hazard and Risk Products.

The journey of the Global Earthquake Model Foundation continues. From the first spark of an idea to the ongoing development of cutting-edge tools and resources, GEM remains committed to strengthening global resilience against earthquakes and other natural hazards. From its inception, GEM has championed open-source data and tools, empowering communities worldwide to prepare for and respond to earthquakes effectively. Through innovation and collaboration, GEM continues to pave the way for a future where earthquake risk is understood, managed, and mitigated.