

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION WEB PRESENCE

As with many small organizations, budgetary constraints practically foreclosed the possibility for this nascent organization to put in place the on-line tools that would help it meet its goals of professionalizing the role of the catastrophe managers throughout the world.

## THE SOLUTION

We built both the public and private sites on the **plone** content management/portal system. Additionally we integrated a mysql based membership system. The private site supports:

- event calendars/news items
- robust publishing workflow
- blogs
- polls
- on-line forms
- discussion forums
- members home pages

The above are all free add-ons available for **plone**, integrated without the need to write any code at all. Several dozen lines of python code support the integration of the mysql membership database.



The screenshot shows the website interface for the International Society of Catastrophe Managers. The page title is 'INPUT DATA FORMAT' and it is part of a 'General Discussion' forum. The post is by Alan Quattrone, dated 2007-07-18 03:04. The content of the post discusses the challenges of standardizing data formats for risk assessments, mentioning 'Technical Rating of risks (for Direct business)' and 'EDMs' (Event Data Models). The post asks for community input on how to handle data that is provided in 'deceased' form and whether it should be maintained for future submissions. There are two replies visible at the bottom of the screenshot.

## RESULTS

The organization gained the community building tools it will use to professionalizing the catastrophe management role in various industries. Moreover, the site is completely in the hands of the organization members themselves. Users have learned to create polls and on-line forms for event registration. They've also create private workspaces to support ad-hoc work groups without the need for a trained web master.

The vibrant development community around **plone**, ensures that the site that will be easy to evolve to meet changing organizational objectives.

All this was achieved within the typical budgetary constraints of a non-profit organization.