

Lottie still the deadliest

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FIJI has been hit by 13 tropical cyclones in the past decade, the most damaging was in 2003 when Cyclone Ami hammered Labasa leaving 17 people dead in its wake.

However, the country's worst death toll was in 1973 when Cyclone Lottie sank two ships off western Fiji.

About 70 people were killed in the disaster.

This was according to a report compiled by the Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE) for the Disaster Management Exercise held in Lami.

The economic impact of natural disasters increased significantly over the years, the report stated.

"Economic losses associated with natural disasters are estimated to be 15 times higher than they were in the 1950s (adjusting for inflation) and disasters caused about \$US67billion in losses each year from 1994 to 2003 and from 2003 to 2008, appear to be on the rise."

The report stated disasters meant higher government expenditure and part reallocation of committed financial resources to meet the cost of repair.