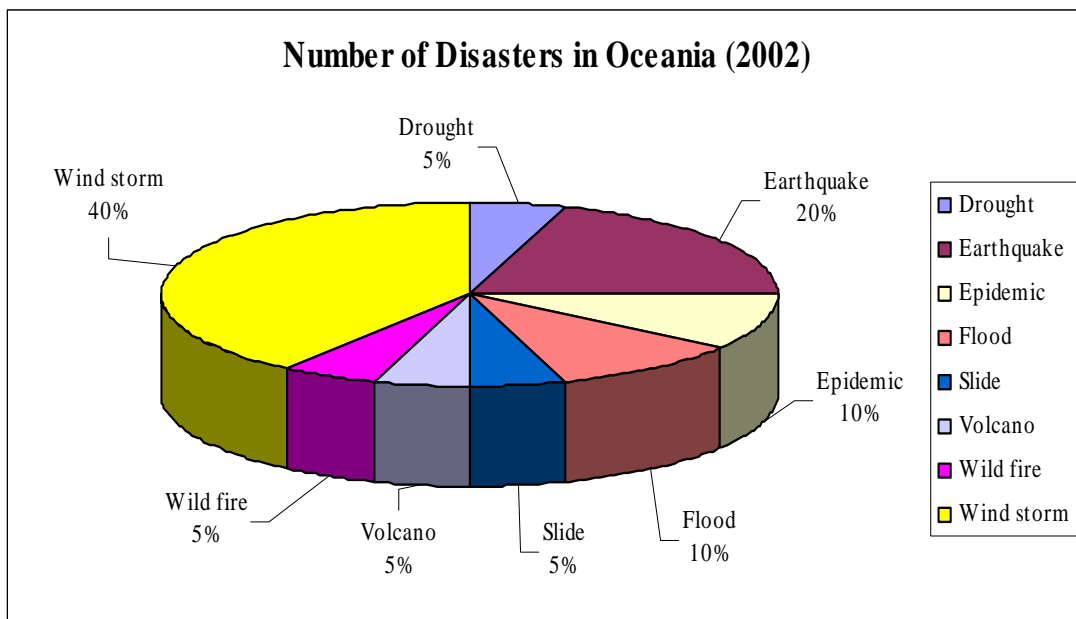


3.2.5 Characteristics of Disasters in Oceania:

Trends in Oceania are a bit different compared to those of other regions in the year 2002. Moreover, the natural disasters in the year 2002 were different from the average pattern of occurrence of natural disasters in Oceania. Almost all types of natural disasters have occurred in the region but the majority of them are windstorms, floods, earthquakes and epidemics totaling 80% among them. This can be seen in Figure 34. According to the Figure 35, the majority of the human loss is from epidemics (61%) followed by windstorms (21%) and slides (15%). The reason is due to the epidemic in Papua New Guinea in 2002. Figure 36 illustrates the pattern of *totally* affected people in Oceania in 2002, with volcanic activities, windstorms, and earthquakes causing the majority (86%) of the human suffering. The reason for this unusual picture is the severe windstorm in Guam, and the earthquake and volcanic activities in Papua New Guinea.

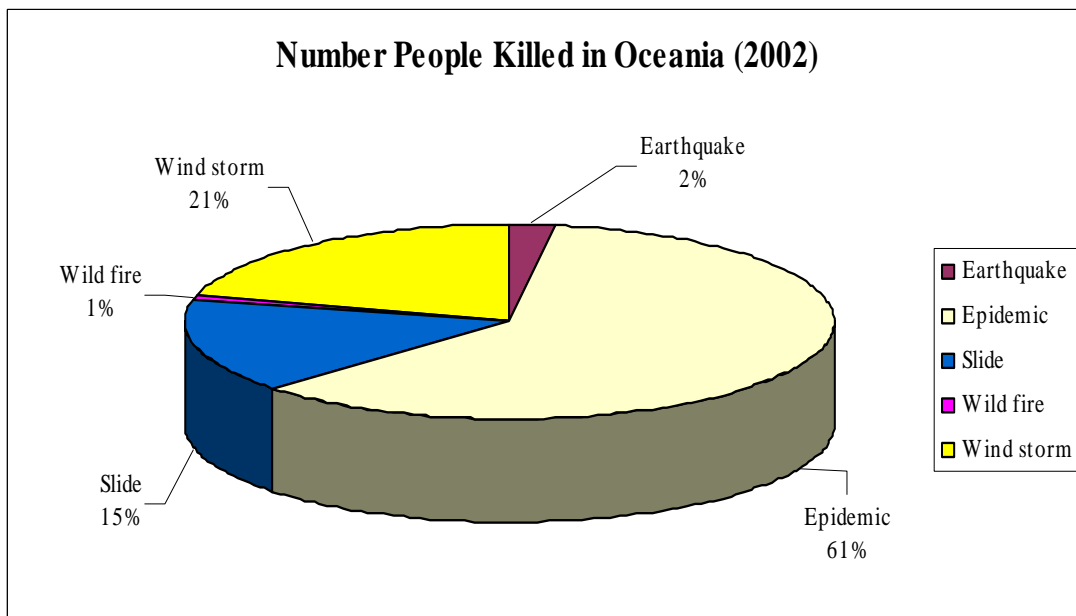
It can be concluded that in 2002, Oceania experienced both hydro meteorological and geo physical disasters, almost in equal dimensions, due to the geological location of the region.

Figure 34:



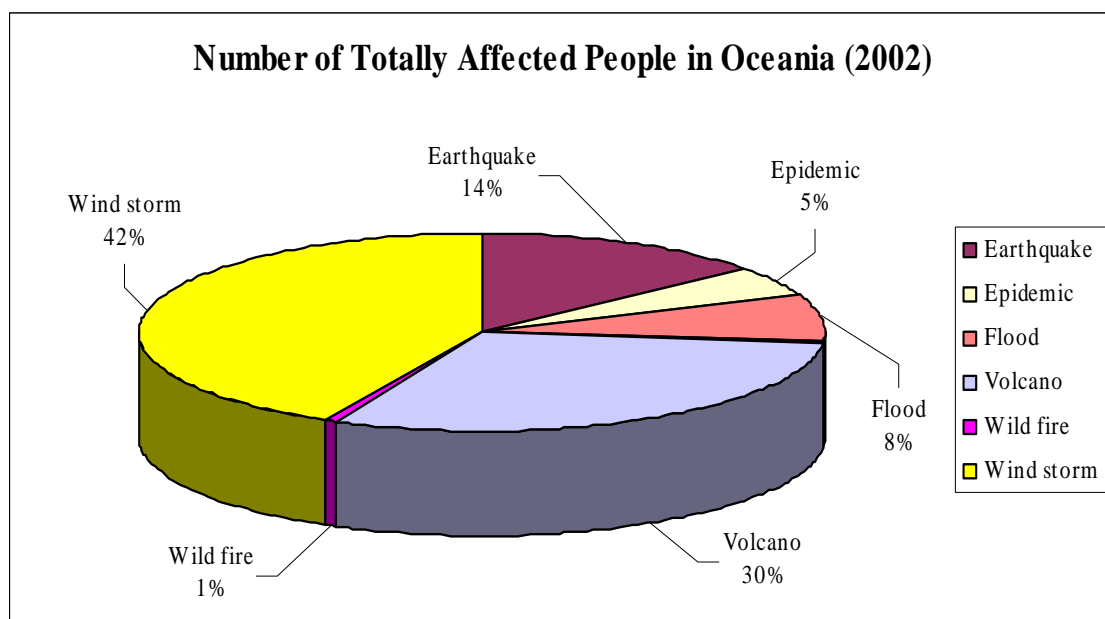
Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002

Figure 35:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002

Figure 36:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002

This section provided a summary of patterns of natural disasters in the world with regional perspectives. Tables 2 and 3 in the Chapter 1 also provide these figures in a tabulated form. It can be said that in 2002, the world was affected mostly by hydro meteorological disasters in all regions, while Oceania also experienced more geo physical disaster. It is easily understood from these sections that Asia is an extremely disaster prone region of the world in terms of human loss and suffering. It can be said that affected populations are deprived of their socio-economic development thus considerably hindering efforts towards sustainable economic development in the region and throughout the globe.