

Newsletter Juli 2011

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## (1) Konferenzankündigungen, Call for Papers, Termine

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### Call for Papers

#### **Call for Papers “The season of revolution: the Arab spring”**

Volume 4 issue 1 of *Interface*  
Deadline: November 1, 2011

A **call for papers** for volume 4 issue 1 of *Interface* is now open, on the theme of "The season of revolution: the Arab spring" (submissions deadline November 1 2011). We can review and publish articles in Afrikaans, Arabic, Catalan, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Maltese, Norwegian, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish and Zulu. The website has the full CFP and details on how to submit articles for this issue at <http://www.interfacejournal.net/2011/05/call-for-papers-volume-4-issue-1-the-season-of-revolution-the-arab-spring/>

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#### **Call for Papers “The Culture of Ubiquitous Information” Research Network**

Deadline: September 1, 2011.

With this call for papers, we address the general set of issues pertaining to a contemporary information culture increasingly living with a development, distribution, and maintenance of a variety of types of computation now pervasive enough to generate numerous ubiquity effects and to affect our notions of reality along with our context-awareness and lived experience.

This call is aimed at a decidedly interdisciplinary research effort to examine and critically evaluate an information culture with ubiquity-effects today, and we would welcome contributions from, for example, systems developers, anthropologists and ethnographers, researchers in HCI, interaction designers, experts in STS and cultural studies of information or network societies, media artist-engineers, gaming researchers, scholars concerned with information flows in marketing, advertising, and mobile communication, or professionals concerned with issues of pervasive healthcare and mobile public services.

We call for paper proposals concerned in the main with the issue of the tendential invisibility and unawareness of ubiquitous computation, in particular as regards the ethico-political implications of “calmly” embedded processes and the increase after 9/11 of a pervasive culture of surveillance, monitoring, tracking, and „soft“ modulation of our form of life.

Proposals should be paper abstracts in English, max. 1,000 words. Please forward your abstract as a PDF attachment in an e-mail addressed to Ulrik Ekman (Ekman[at]hum.ku.dk).

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## Call for Papers “Mega Events and the City - Special edition of URBE”

For decades sporting and non-sporting mega events have imposed a significant impact upon the local geographies that host them. Since 1956, and the first mention of the Olympic ‘legacy’ at Melbourne, there has been an explicit connection between mega events and the reconfigured urban realm. In more recent years, mega events have become tied to a raft of longer-term urban policies that transcend the ephemeral ‘stage set’ of the actual event. Such policies commonly include aspirations for the ‘regeneration’ and enhanced ‘sustainability’ of a given area, the widespread securitisation of entire geographies and a reordering of urban governance.

Regarding the latter, mega events such as the Olympic Games and football world cup draw a range of demands from international bodies (such as the IOC and FIFA respectively) that may clash with local practices and policies.

At the same time, for their hosts, the exceptionality of such events often results in global, mobile and standardised modes of governance being applied to and filtered through highly idiosyncratic local settings. In other respects, policy transfer operating across both sporting and non-sporting mega events can be observed.

As the nascent trend of hosting sporting mega-events into ‘new’ territories develops, as evinced by recent decisions by FIFA to host the 2018 and 2022 World Cups in Russia and Qatar respectively, these processes are set to intensify. This special issue of **urbe** seeks to capitalise on the growing academic interest into critical studies of mega events.

In particular the editors are appealing for contributions of around 6000 words that examine the spatial impact of the mega event.

Both theoretical and empirically-informed contributions are welcome. Thematic areas may include (and are not restricted to):

- Urban and regional development;
- Urban economy;
- Public management;
- Urban security;
- Governance and urban networks;
- Urban planning;
- Public policy;
- Information systems;
- Urban and regional sustainability;
- Urban sociology;
- Urban geography;
- Urban design.

Papers will be published in their original languages (**urbe** publishes papers in Portuguese, Spanish, French and English) with titles and abstracts in Portuguese and English.

Further information about the journal is available here:  
<http://www2.pucpr.br/reol/index.php/URBE?dd99=about&dd98=&dd1=&idioma=2>

Deadline for submission is 1st August 2011. Prospective authors to forward abstracts of less than 300 words by 4th July please. Please direct any questions and all contributions to the editors at [gemma.galdon\[AT\]gmail.com](mailto:gemma.galdon@gmail.com) or [pfussey\[AT\]essex.ac.uk](mailto:pfussey[AT]essex.ac.uk)

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### Call for Contribution “Gender and Disaster Sourcebook”

The Gender and Disaster Network with support from UN Women Pakistan is updating and developing the Gender and Disaster Sourcebook, a freely accessible online resource for disaster and development professionals, academics and all others interested in integrating gender in their work, advocacy or research.

This collaborative effort aims to upgrade the existing database and update the contents to reflect current discourses on gender and disaster risk reduction.

Contributions from the South Asian region are highly encouraged. Please send your contributions and/or queries to [sourcebook\[at\]gdnonline.org](mailto:sourcebook[at]gdnonline.org)

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### Call for Applications “Whose Memories Count and at What Cost?” IATJ

The Refugee Law Project (RLP), Faculty of Law, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, in collaboration with the African Transitional Justice Research Network (ATJRN) is accepting applications to its 2nd Institute for African Transitional Justice (IATJ), an annual week-long residential programme with a focus on Transitional Justice issues in the context of Africa. The Institute, which is scheduled to take place from 20th – 27th November 2011, in Kitgum, Northern Uganda has as its theme: “**Whose Memories Count and at What Cost?**”

Fill in the Online Application Form, by clicking on [www.refugeelawproject.org](http://www.refugeelawproject.org). For further information regarding the IATJ, the 2nd Institute, and the application procedure, please kindly visit [www.refugeelawproject.org](http://www.refugeelawproject.org), or you may email Mr. Levis Onegi on [iatj\[at\]refugeelawproject.org](mailto:iatj[at]refugeelawproject.org).

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### Call for Applications “Preparedness Grant Programs”

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Deadline: June 20, 2011

The Department of Homeland Security has just released guidance and grant application kits for 12 grants aimed at helping the nation prepare for disasters and terrorism. Among the \$2.1 billion in grants to be awarded are State Homeland Security Program grants, Citizen Corps grants,

Regional Catastrophic Preparedness grants, and Emergency Management Preparedness grants.

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### **Call for Presenters “National Floodproofing Conference V”**

Association of State Floodplain Managers  
Deadline: June 30, 2011

Presentations, posters, and papers are now being accepted for presentation at the National Floodproofing Conference to be held November 28 through December 1 in Sacramento, California. Abstracts should be related to nonstructural floodproofing and societal issues, elevation and wet floodproofing, dry floodproofing, or financial incentives. A brief bio is also required. Visit the conference Web site to view full details and a submission form.

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### **Call for Proposal “Effective Surveillance for Homeland Security: Balancing Technology and Social Issues”**

The scientific and engineering communities have been called upon to help the world respond to security challenges after September 11, 2001.

This book aims at providing a comprehensive survey of state-of-the-art methods tools for the surveillance and protection of citizens and critical infrastructures against both natural and deliberate threats. The focus of the book is on current technological challenges involving multi-disciplinary problem analysis and systems engineering approaches. Indeed, surveillance is a complex task where technological, sociological, organizational and legislative aspects are to be concurrently considered in order to design effective solutions. In this context, the book will provide an overview about the most relevant aspects related with surveillance systems in the framework of Homeland Security.

Specifically, the book will be divided into three parts: the first one will be devoted to analyse the technological issue related with the surveillance; the second one will be focused on legislative, organizational and management issue with a specific attention to privacy; the last part will concentrate on innovative solutions and hot researches topics.

Audience for the BookThe target audiences for this monograph are technicians, low-enforcement, critical infrastructures' operators, researchers and decision-makers that are involved into to promote the security of citizens and critical infrastructures as well as advanced undergraduate and graduate students in lectures and seminars on Homeland Security.

Recommended topics include (but are not limited to)

#### Part I - Surveillance technologies

- Intrusion detection / access control
- Video, infrared, thermal cameras and their applications in Homeland Security
- Multi-camera and multi-object tracking methods
- Distributed monitoring through networks of smart-cameras and sensors

- Surveillance systems design and evaluation
- Biometric Identification and Face detection/recognition

#### Part II - Legislative and social aspects

- Security, Privacy and Dependability issues in surveillance
- Physical and Cyber Security Norms
- Ergonomics in security control rooms
- Urban, Port, Airport and Rail surveillance applications
- Surveillance technologies for forensics
- Procedural and organizational issues

#### Part II - Advanced Surveillance

- The future of intelligent real-time audio-video analytics
- Multi-modal surveillance and data/decision fusion
- Human-in-the-loop/learning expert systems for surveillance
- Situation awareness, early warning and decision support systems
- Look behind walls, under the wears and inside objects
- Use of radar, sonar and audio techniques for the surveillance of open spaces

#### SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

You are invited to submit on or before July 15, 2011, a 2- to 3-page manuscript proposal clearly describing and explaining the topic of the proposed chapter. The proposal should include the chapter summary, table of contents, and contact authors (in a separate last page). All submitted chapters will be reviewed on a double-blind review basis. Authors of accepted proposals will be notified by July 30, 2011 about the status of their proposals and sent chapter organizational guidelines. The authors are expected to submit the first version (original manuscript and not published before) of the full chapters are expected to be submitted the latest by October 15, 2011. The corrections would be sent to the authors by November 30, 2011. The revised book chapters have to be submitted by December 30, 2011. This publication is anticipated to be released in August 2012.

#### ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

This book is scheduled to be published by CRC Press, Taylor and Francis group, a global and a premier publisher of technical and scientific work. For additional information regarding the publisher, please visit [www.crcpress.com](http://www.crcpress.com).

#### IMPORTANT DATES

Proposal Submission Deadline: July 15, 2011

Notification of Proposal Acceptance: July 30, 2011

Full Chapter Submission: October 15, 2011

Review Results Returned: November 30, 2011

Submission of Revised Chapters: December 30, 2011 (firm deadline)

**BOTH CHAPTER ABSTRACTS AND - IF ACCEPTED - FULL CHAPTERS HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY AT:**

<https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=eshs12>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Name: Dr. Francesco Flammini

Email: francesco.flammini[AT]ieee.org

For further help, please visit:

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/help>

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### **Internationale Konferenzen**

#### **June 27-28, 2011 National EMS Culture of Safety Conference**

American College of Emergency Physicians

Washington, D.C.

Cost and Registration: Free, open until filled

This conference will provide participants with an opportunity to share their concerns about Emergency Medical Services safety, including threats from combative patients and bystanders, transportation issues, and threats to patients posed by EMS decisions. As part of an initiative to create a culture of EMS safety, conference proceedings will be used to formulate a national EMS safety strategy by June 2012.

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#### **28 June – 1 July 2011 Perth Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Workshop**

DRM

Murdoch University, Perth, WA

Cost and Registration: not posted

The purpose of the DRM workshop is both to develop practical skills for humanitarian practitioners who are involved in initiatives across the Disaster Risk Management Cycle (DRMC) spectrum, as well as to provide knowledge of broader DRM issues and best practice scenarios.

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#### **July 4-6, 2011 Spatial assessment and analysis of vulnerability**

GIScience applied in the interdisciplinary domain of hazard and climate change research

Salzburg University

Cost and Registration: not posted

In the context of the GI-Forum 2011 a pre-conference workshop is organised by the United Nations University - Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and the Centre for Geoinformatics, University of Salzburg (Z\_GIS) as a follow-up of the GI\_Forum 2010 special

workshop on Vulnerability: Spatial Assessment and Analysis.

The topic will be further discussed during a special session on Global and Climate Change: Monitoring and Modelling during the main program of the GI-Forum on Thursday July 7.

"Global change" – a short formula for a multitude of anticipated shifts in societal and environmental domains in response to strong global drivers such as climate change – calls for spatial monitoring and modelling techniques to better understand the implications and potential dynamics of such changes. International programmes and visions (GEO, GMES, SEIS, ...) envisage unified systems based on quality standards for data, products and services to establish optimized observation and forecasting capacity within Europe, and globally.

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### **July 5-8, 2011 Geoinformatics Forum Salzburg**

Centre for Geoinformatics and the Institute for GIScience  
Salzburg, Austria  
Cost and Registration: \$446, closes June 25

This forum will provide an opportunity for the international GIS community to exchange knowledge across various applications, disciplines, and international boundaries. Topics include impediments to using GIS in schools, the impacts of refugee camps on the environment, Web mapping architecture, and using GIS images for societal good. A workshop on the spatial assessment and analysis of vulnerability to hazards and climate change will be held before the forum.

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### **July 17-21, 2011 Coastal Zone 2011**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and others  
Chicago, Illinois  
Cost and Registration: \$595 before July 11, open until filled

This conference will examine the challenges of managing coastlines in the face of climate change, invasive species, coastal development, and manmade hazards. Topics include restoring the Great Lakes, green infrastructure for coastal resilience, coastal inundation mapping, social science and marine protected areas, and offshore wind farms.

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**July 20, 2011 International Conference on Building Resilience: Interdisciplinary approaches to disaster risk reduction, and the development of sustainable communities and cities**

Heritage Kandalama, Sri Lanka  
Cost and Registration: not posted

With growing population and infrastructures, the world’s exposure to hazards – of natural and man-made origin – is inevitably increasing. This reality reinforces the need to proactively consider disaster risk as a part of the sustainable development agenda. The International Conference on Building Resilience will encourage debate on individual, institutional and societal coping strategies to address the challenges associated with disaster risk. The conference will be held in Sri Lanka, a country subject to several large scale disasters in recent years, including the 2004 Tsunami and a civil war spanning several decades. It provides an ideal setting to explore the challenge of creating resilient communities and cities.

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**July 19-21, 2011 Indigenous People, Marginalized Populations, and Climate Change**

United Nations University, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, United Nations Development Programme, and others  
Mexico City, Mexico  
Cost and Registration: Not listed

This workshop is the first of a two-part series of events that will identify and integrate indigenous knowledge on climate change into our current understanding of climate impacts, adaptation, and mitigation. With a focus on vulnerability, adaptation, and traditional knowledge, the first workshop will create an international network of indigenous people, climate scientists, and policy makers and compile data and literature on the topic into a global database.

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**July 21-22, 2011 Third International Conference on Climate Change**

Common Ground Publishing and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Rio De Janeiro, Brazil  
Cost and Registration: \$550, open until filled

The conference examines natural and human causes of climate change, as well as technological, social, and political responses to it. Session topics include risk assessment and urban development, drought and climate change, building climate change resilience, climate change communication, migration in response to climate change, and carbon trading facts and fallacies.

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## **June 28-July, 2011 Earth on the Edge: Science for a Sustainable Planet**

International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics  
Melbourne, Australia

Cost and Registration: \$1,110 before June 24, open until filled

This workshop covers a wide variety of geodesy and geophysics themes with a focus on recent Pacific Rim disasters and climate change. Topics include sea level rise, earthquake prediction, solar influence on climate change, and volcanism and global sustainability.

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## **16.-20. August 2011 Internationale Konferenz "Kritische Geographie"**

International Conference of Critical Geography (ICCG)  
Frankfurt am Main

Die sechste International Critical Geography Conference der International Critical Geography Group wird im August nächsten Jahres in Frankfurt stattfinden. Nach sehr erfolgreichen Treffen in Vancouver (1997), Taegu (Südkorea; 2000), Bekescaba (Ungarn; 2002), Mexico City (2005) und Mumbai (2007) werden geschätzte 300 bis 400 kritische Wissenschaftler/innen aus Geographie und anderswo zum Oberthema "Crisis – causes, dimensions, reactions" diskutieren. Die bis zu 10 Sessions der insgesamt 10 Schwerpunkte innerhalb dieser Oberthemas werden von je 2 bis 3 KoordinatorInnen zusammengestellt.

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## **10-24 September 2011 UNESCO Chair Program on Cultural Heritage and Risk Management**

International Training Course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage 2010  
Kyoto, Kobe and Sasayama, Japan  
Cost and Registration: not posted

Haiti earthquake, occurred on 12 January 2010, has once again shown that cultural heritage is highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as earthquake and fire. In the post disaster phase, the challenge is how to salvage heritage properties, which are at risk of demolition and to assess their damage. The long term challenge during recovery phase is how to repair and retrofit them and undertake reconstruction that respects both tangible and intangible heritage values. This event also brings forward the challenges of engaging various stakeholders at the local, national, regional as well as international levels for protecting cultural heritage during such severe situations.

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**October 22-29, 2011 Interdisciplinary Climate Change Research Symposium**

DISCCRS

La Foret Conference and Retreat Center Colorado Springs, CO

Cost and Registration: not posted

Effective climate change solutions depend on a comprehensive understanding that draws from many disciplines. Since 2003, DISCCRS<sup>1</sup> has hosted symposia for early-career researchers to catalyze interdisciplinary communication, teamwork, and international collaboration, while laying the foundation for dynamic collegial networks that are better prepared to understand and respond to the myriad challenges posed by climate change. Participants will share their research; engage in discussions with peers, mentors, and funding agency representatives; and participate in communication and team training. Thirty early-career scholars will be selected with the expectation that they will become leaders in their chosen fields.

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## (2) Tagungsberichte

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### Symposium on Global Climate Change at the World Bank

Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (RCC), Munich;  
Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (KWI), Essen; Uwe  
Lübken (RCC), Franz Mauelshagen (KWI), Franziska Torma (RCC)

November 15-16, 2010

Bericht von:  
WWF Humanitarian Partnerships web site

#### **How can impact assessments increase the effectiveness of humanitarian programming in an uncertain climate?**

Climate variability and change pose the greatest threat where natural systems are severely degraded and governance systems are failing. As a result, the most immediate impacts are often on the poorest of the poor requiring humanitarian response and risk reduction. On November 15, 2010, USAID and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) convened a special session for 40 development, environment and humanitarian professionals to identify innovative and practicable solutions to programming challenges at the intersection of climate change and humanitarian assistance. To address these challenges, the session integrated expertise across areas such as climate change adaptation, environmental protection, environmental and social impact assessment, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian response, and pro-poor poverty reduction. Further, participants considered ways in which practitioners might better use impact assessments as a tool to outline possible synergies and trade-offs for achieving program objectives while mitigating potential economic, environmental and social impacts. Session participants were from USAID, the World Bank, a range of humanitarian and conservation non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector representatives<sup>1</sup>. The results were presented out at the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) Symposium on Climate Change and Impact Assessment (November 16, 2010; World Bank, Washington DC).

The event was organized into three working sessions: Disaster Response and Impact Assessments for a Changing Climate: Current Challenges

Disaster Risk Reduction and Impact Assessments for a Changing Climate: Current Challenges

Over the Horizon: Linking Disaster Response, Disaster Risk Reduction and Impact Assessment: Emerging Challenges from Climate Change

Each session began with two brief presentations by practitioners from agencies and organizations including USAID, the World Bank, and WWF to stimulate discussion. Geoff Dabelko of the Environmental Change and Security Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Washington DC) then moderated discussions around four key questions:

What do we know? What don't we know?

What are we already doing?

What are the policy implications of our knowledge and actions?

What are the implementation implications of our knowledge and actions?

*The views and opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily represent those of USAID*

1 Participant list is attached.

2 <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/>

### **Summary of Discussion**

The discussion around these topics was wide-ranging, but cohered around a number of key themes. The first of these was the **need for greater connection between the humanitarian assistance community and the wider development community, especially those development experts focused on climate change adaptation**. We know that there are deep reserves of knowledge and experience related to risk and vulnerability reduction in the humanitarian, environmental, climate change, and development communities, but these communities are poorly connected. As a result, relief and recovery projects often fail to have long-term benefits that mitigate future risk and vulnerability, leading to cyclical humanitarian intervention. The issue of climate change could be a critical means of building this connection to address these challenges, for example by presenting the opportunity to incorporate capacity building for emergency response (a long term effort) into recovery/risk reduction programming by connecting disaster risk reduction (DRR) to adaptation. Impact assessment might be a key means of building this connection, for example by using the National Environmental Policy Act<sup>2</sup> (NEPA) environmental impact assessment process to bridge interdisciplinary gaps and foster cross-sector planning processes. Through such linkages, we might create forward-thinking disaster recovery and risk reduction planning and build successful, functional development at multiple scales - from communities up to the level of regions. The second key issue was closely related: **the need to build multidisciplinary impact assessment tools** to improve program and project outcomes at the intersection of humanitarian assistance and climate change. We already employ many different types of assessment tools, ranging from environmental impact assessments to conflict assessments, in our design processes. However, these tools and their findings are rarely integrated, leaving programs and projects exposed to challenges from unexamined impacts and stresses. We also know that communities normally undertake a wide range of activities to reduce their risk, and to recover from disasters. Therefore, if we are to serve a more meaningful purpose in the context of climate change, our impact assessment must capture a wide range of ongoing risk producing and risk reducing activities and factors, ranging from environmental impacts to the assessment of conflict potential and gender inequality. However, the integration of different assessment tools presents significant challenges. For example, such integration should not result in an assessment process that stacks ever-greater burdens on programs and project designers as new challenges are recognized, as this creates incentives to treat such assessments as a box to check (and often forget) in the design process. Such approaches raise concerns for staff capacity – both in terms of availability and training to conduct integrated assessments. One means of managing the challenge of ever-expanding

assessment requirements is to recognize that **vulnerability, as a concept, has little actionable meaning outside of particular contexts**. The humanitarian assistance community is acutely aware of the fact that reducing vulnerability requires understanding locally-specific factors that contribute to particular types of vulnerability. This awareness can be harnessed to address some of the challenges of integrated assessment posed above. By developing context-specific understandings of vulnerability, we can build locally-relevant, comprehensive impact assessments. These assessments will be bounded by local needs, and therefore avoid piling excessive and unnecessary demands on staff resources. At the same time, there will be a shared understanding of vulnerability which can be addressed more comprehensively through multiple channels by different actors and technical sectors.

At a practical level, there are several key issues that require attention. First, **we are often restricted in how we can implement integrated programming because of conditions imposed by different types of funding and/or restrictions**. To facilitate on-the-ground projects that do a better job of integrating climate change concerns into disaster relief and risk reduction efforts, we must develop better means of demonstrating the results of climate change funding in this arena – especially when those results are spread across several projects or program areas.

Second, **there is not enough data available on climate change at the local and sub-regional levels, where development and humanitarian assistance practitioners most need it**. It is therefore difficult to facilitate the integration of climate change concerns into program and project design. There is potential to address this issue by gathering qualitative data on climate change at the community level, and by investing in new tools to provide better climate-related information at these critical scales.

Third, it is important to note that data availability is not the only barrier to integrating climate change information into program and project design. We often find that **there is limited institutional capacity for using such data in design or planning, and often implementers are unaware of available data or how to get it**. For example, even environment officers in major institutions are often not trained to include climate change in environmental assessment. There are also several instances of implementers and partners who use “black box” analysis solutions that make it very difficult to compare their findings and conclusions with those reached by other analyses in other places. To address this challenge, data analysis needs to become open sourced and publicly available, though pushing for this will impact some implementing partner’s revenues.

### **Next Steps**

The event identified several needs to improve programming and projects at the intersection of climate change and humanitarian assistance. First, **there is a need to identify and organize existing impact assessment tools** to highlight their availability to a wide audience and encourage cross-sectoral application of relevant guidance. These include NEPA (216) IEE, conflict assessments, and others. Second, **we need to pilot efforts to build integrated impact assessments for particular places** to learn how to build processes that capture relevant issues without overburdening staff and reducing such assessments to “check boxes”. Third, we need to **disseminate information on data availability and best practices for disaster risk reduction and emergency response planning**. Fourth, **we need to prioritize capacity-building** for institutions and individuals involved in emergency response and disaster risk reduction planning such that they can identify and use this data. This is particularly important at

the community level, where adaptation to climate vulnerability is a continual process and therefore most effectively achieved.

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**Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Reconstruction Conference**

Geneva, 8-13 May 2011

**Chair’s Summary**

1. The Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Reconstruction Conference met in Geneva, 8-13 May 2011. Opened by the United Nations Secretary-General BAN Ki-Moon and chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, the Global Platform recognized Doctor Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia as a Global Champion of Disaster Risk Reduction.

2. This Session of the Global Platform brought together the broadest ever cross-section of people committed to building resilience – including several Heads of State, Ministers, a Managing Director of the World Bank, over 2,600 delegates representing 168 Governments, 25 intergovernmental organizations, 65 non-governmental organizations, Parliamentarians, private sector, local government, academic institutions, civil society and international organizations.

3. Half of humanity is now living in cities. By 2050 urbanization will rise to 70 percent and urban risk will increase as well. Risk is further driven by factors such as rural and urban poverty, climate change, declining ecosystems, and development choices including in energy infrastructure. Commitment to resilience is urgently needed particularly in vulnerable groups, localities and regions including SIDS and LDC’s.

4. The Mid-Term Review states that significant progress is being made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and that its principles have been firmly established and endorsed. The discussions at the Third Session demonstrated that we now possess the knowledge, the means and the commitment to make disaster risk reduction a national, local and international priority. There is a sense of urgency and clear political and economic imperatives to invest in disaster risk reduction.

5. The UN Secretary-General called for a coalition of action for disaster risk reduction and announced a high-level meeting during the next General Assembly to address the link between natural hazards and nuclear safety. Japan offered to host the Third World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015.

6. Mayors renewed their commitment to the Ten Essentials of the “My City is Getting Ready” Campaign. Private sector participants agreed on Five Essentials for Business and issued a Statement of Commitment for Disaster Prevention, Resilience and Risk Reduction. A joint

statement called for scaling-up community health forces as vital for disaster reduction. Young people came together to advance a Five Point Charter on Children and Disaster Reduction. Regional organizations reaffirmed their commitment to implementing regional strategies agreed to in ministerial meetings worldwide.

7. The choice before us as Governments, institutions, communities and individuals is to place disaster risk reduction at the forefront of our efforts to preserve and protect the balance of nature, ensure sustainable development and well-being for generations to come. To do so, we need to:

7.1 Support local governments and non-state actors as the front line of risk reduction implementation.

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7.2 Draw upon the untapped potential of local actors and build on the role of women as agents of change.

7.3 Involve children and youth in disaster risk reduction decisions that affect their future as a practical way to ensure effective local action.

7.4 Fully engage the private sector as leaders in the construction of resilient infrastructure, sustainable development of urban areas, energy safety, and the protection of critical resources.

7.5 Build on the role that parliamentarians play in setting state policy and norms, oversight and scrutiny, legislation and the creation of enabling environments for risk reduction.

7.6 Build on the work of and linkages between national and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, strengthening in particular, multi-stakeholder collaboration.

7.7 Promote the role of regional and sub-regional organizations in coordinating implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

7.8 Actively engage and support scientific and technical communities to inform decisionmaking.

7.9 Strengthen and resource UNISDR to support the implementation of recommendations from this Platform acknowledging its leadership role within the United Nations on disaster risk reduction.

8. The Third Session of the Global Platform identified the following critical steps:

8.1 Recall and act upon the commitments at the Second Session of the Global Platform in 2009 that set targets for disaster risk reduction (see Box inset).

8.2 Increase investment in disaster risk reduction at the local level and ensure national growth does not increase local risks. Address local action directly in national growth targets, plans and policies. Strengthen capacities of local governments and ensure resource availability.

Encourage collaboration with communities and volunteers including through participatory risk assessments and local multi-stakeholder monitoring and reporting.

8.3 Develop standards and indicators for measuring the effectiveness of disaster risk reduction at both the national and regional levels to guide public and private sector investments and improve quality and consistency in implementation.

8.4 Account for disaster losses in a standardized manner to support multi-hazard, integrated assessments as the basis for development decision-making and open-source risk public information.

8.5 Increase dedicated budget allocations for disaster risk reduction by using risk assessment, budgetary planning and project evaluation mechanisms, in all development investments. Create incentives for investing in prevention. Protect public finances with contingency mechanisms, including insurance.

8.6 Track investments in disaster risk reduction to provide clear evidence of the costs and benefits of investments through verifiable and accountable data to Governments and the public and as a further means of promoting aid-effectiveness.

*“Invest today for a Safer Tomorrow – Increase Investment in Local Action.”*

8.7 Provide guidance to National Platforms to improve the effectiveness and support the executive level of decision-making. Ensure that responsibility for disaster risk reduction is backed by the necessary political authority to increase implementation across sectors through increased engagement with parliamentarians, local authorities and civil society.

8.8 Strengthen public awareness of disaster risks through promoting universal access to risk information, education, building social demand for disaster risk reduction and promote individual safety and responsibility. Use available communication technologies to provide clear and concise information.

8.9 Identify and prepare for emerging risks, including those associated with technological hazards and pandemics, through scientifically-informed multi-hazard risk assessments and scenario development. Encourage cross-sectoral cooperation that makes best use of available information and technology.

8.10 Avoid the inefficient use of existing resources by ensuring technologies for risk reduction are accessible as a means for adaptation and promoting integrated approaches to development that address climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and ecosystem management and restoration.

8.11 Ensure the availability of tailored science-based climate-related information through the Global Framework for Climate Services to support informed investment and planning at all levels. Incorporate, as well, integrated drought management, wild land fire management and food security in risk reduction policies and development planning.

8.12 Adapt innovative social protection and ecosystem management mechanisms to reduce

disaster impacts based on understanding of the dynamics of vulnerability and ensuring protection of the most vulnerable households, communities and social groups.

8.13 Welcome the continued work of the Advisory Group for the Mid-Term Review of Hyogo Framework in advising on the follow-up to the Global Platform and contributing to the formulation of a post-2015 instrument, the first outline of which is to be reviewed in 2013 and finalized in 2014.

8.14 Support identification and preparedness for emerging risks, through recommending to the UN Secretary-General that he constitutes a group of eminent, disaster risk reduction experts to report at the Fourth Session of the Global Platform.

8.15 Ensure attention to disaster risk reduction in upcoming meetings, such as the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference in Indonesia, Rio+20, UNFCCC mechanisms, the 6th World Urban Forum and the Aid-Effectiveness Meeting in 2011. Support implementation of the Millennium Development Goals by promoting risk reduction strategies that protect development investments.

## 9. The World Reconstruction Conference

9.1 Recognized that support to countries overwhelmed by the scale and cost of post-disaster reconstruction is often inadequately coordinated. Uneven and unpredictable financing does not always reach those who need it. Few countries incorporate disaster prevention into reconstruction and recovery planning, thus threatening development prospects and sustainability of investments.

9.2 Recognized, based on lessons from previous experience, that well-planned and coordinated recovery achieves better results at lower cost, and supports sustainability and disaster-resilience. Leadership, partnership and coordinated support from the international community are essential to success.

*“Invest today for a Safer Tomorrow – Increase Investment in Local Action.”*

9.3 Committed to developing an effective recovery and reconstruction framework. This recovery framework would aim to:

- Better define roles and responsibilities within clear institutional arrangements;
- Effectively capitalize on the strengths of each stakeholder;
- Clearly place countries in the driver’s seat on decision-making and resource allocation;
- Systematically integrate disaster risk reduction in reconstruction and recovery;
- Provide in-time relevant knowledge and lessons learned; and
- Assist in establishing robust and transparent quality and result monitoring systems.

9.4 Committed to developing improved systems and instruments for recovery and reconstruction finance and welcomed the leadership of the World Bank and the role of other international financial institutions in this effort. These mechanisms would provide access to reliable reconstruction financing; build capacity to manage the surge of resources; effectively integrate the resources of non-traditional donors; and access the global capital market.

9.5 Promoted a global reconstruction and recovery knowledge practice, linking practitioners and networks working on reconstruction and recovery to provide open access to data and information.

10. The Third Session of the Global Platform closed with a call for strengthened global leadership to address rapidly increasing risk to stability and sustainability posed by our approach to development. This chair's summary will be followed-up and reported on in the Fourth Session of the Global Platform.

- By 2011, national assessments of the safety of existing education and health facilities should be undertaken.
- By 2015, concrete action plans for safer schools and hospitals should be developed and implemented in all disaster prone countries.
- Disaster risk reduction should be included in all school curricula by the same year.
- By 2015, all major cities in disaster-prone areas should include and enforce disaster risk reduction measures in their building and land use codes.
- Targets also proposed for: national risk assessments, municipal disaster recovery plans, early warning systems, water risks and the enforcement of building codes.
- The UN Secretary-General called for a target to halve the losses of lives from disasters by 2015, when the term of the Hyogo Framework for Action ends.
- 10 per cent of humanitarian relief funds to disaster risk reduction work.
- 10 per cent as a target share of post-disaster reconstruction and recovery projects and national preparedness and response plans.
- At least 1 per cent of all national development funding and all development assistance funding to be allocated to risk reduction measures, with due regard for quality of impact.

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### (3) Buchbesprechungen und Neuerscheinungen

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Excerpt from R. Labonte et al., *Fatal Indifference*, Cape Town and Ottawa: University of the Western Cape and IDRC, 2004, pp. 168-9.

#### 'Johannesburg and the Retreat from Sustainable Development'

Many observers believed that the Stockholm Summit on the environment in 1972 signaled an overdue recognition on the part of the community of nations that many environmental problems are both transnational and interconnected. Twenty years later, the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, following as it did the Brundtland Commission's work on environment and development (WCED, 1987), seemed to indicate a new receptiveness to integrating environmental concerns with development strategy in a way that prioritized the developing world's distinctive needs and aspirations. The sustainable development imperative pervades *Agenda 21*, the action plan developed for the summit, which, as we have noted, included such specific commitments as the widely ignored pledge to increase ODA to the 0.7 per cent figure.

Despite this lack of follow-through, expectations were high for the tenyear follow-up to the Rio Summit (Rio +10), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg in 2002. In what seems in retrospect to have been a warning sign, the only reference made to WSSD at the 1999, 2000 and 2001 G8 summits was the commitment made in 2000 (Okinawa Communique, para. 65) that the G8 would 'endeavour with all [their] partners to prepare a future-oriented agenda for Rio+10 in 2002.' A few weeks before the summit, a coalition of 32 countries, including all the G8 except Russia, announced a US\$2.92 billion replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which funds developing country projects in the areas of biodiversity protection, climate change, protection of international waters and ozone depletion. However, WSSD participants made few specific commitments, primarily contenting themselves with restating the MDGs (UN, 2002c: paras. 7-S). Perhaps most notably, the commitment to establish a 'world solidarity fund to eradicate poverty' came with no dollar amounts attached, and 'stress[ed] the voluntary nature of the contributions' (UN, 2002c: para. 7(b)).

The BBC's World Service quoted an Oxfam spokesperson describing the WSSD as 'a triumph for greed and self-interest, a tragedy for poor people and the environment' (<http://news.bbc.co.Uk/1/hi/world/africa/2233969.stm>, accessed 18 January 2003) and a published NGO commentary captured a widespread unease by concluding that '[t]he general sense is that but for some small successes the Summit is one of great disappointments. It was the largest and most expensive UN-sponsored Summit. But the Plan of Implementation is toothless, lame even. It may as well be called the Plan for Inaction' (Iyer, 2002). Although a detailed discussion of the WSSD is outside the scope of this chapter, it appears clear that sustainable development, especially the equity-driven version that featured prominently in *Agenda 21*, has slid well down the industrialized world's list of priorities.

The actual site of the summit was described in the *Guardian* as 'a purpose built business centre ... surrounded by deep walls of police, electrified fences and miles of concrete barriers', which 'only exists because the business community has packed its bags and fled the terrible crime,

impoverishment and physical degradation of the old city centre' (Vidal, 2002). Indeed, the juxtaposition of immense (and zealously guarded) wealth surrounded by desperation arguably provides a metaphor for the world order that is emerging as globalization proceeds apace. One is left to wonder whether G8 environmental policy in the future will be characterized by further retreats from the idea that environmental protection represents a shared obligation, in favour of a policy stance that regards environmental quality as just another purchasable commodity, to which rich and poor alike are entitled only to the extent that they can pay the price (on the domestic Canadian context, cf. Schrecker, 2002).

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## **Nils Zurawski (Hrsg.): Überwachungspraxen – Praktiken der Überwachung Analysen zum Verhältnis von Alltag, Technik und Kontrolle 2011.**

ISBN 978-3-940755-84-1

### Praktiken der Überwachung

Überwachung ist nicht einfach da, sondern passiert – durch eine Vielzahl von Tätigkeiten und Handlungen wird sie als soziale Tatsache erst hergestellt. Überwachung bringt Menschen über Technologien oder durch Gesetze und Vorschriften vermittelt in Berührung und stellt soziale Beziehungen her. Kurz: Es wird gehandelt und Praxen bilden sich heraus. Die hier versammelten Beiträge erkunden, wie diese Praxen und Handlungen konkret aussehen.

An einem gewissen Punkt innerhalb einer Abfolge von Entscheidungen und rechtlichen Rahmenbedingungen, theoretischen Annahmen und technologischen Voraussetzungen ist Überwachen eine Tätigkeit, mit der Menschen miteinander oder über Technologien oder durch Gesetze und Vorschriften vermittelt in Berührung geraten, durch die gehandelt wird, mit der sich Praxen herausbilden. An diesen Stellen kann man Überwachung arbeiten sehen – auch wenn sie dann vielleicht nicht so bezeichnet wird oder auf den ersten Blick als solche zu erkennen ist. Die Betonung liegt deshalb auf den Praktiken von Überwachung (Kontrolle, Überprüfung), weil damit die tatsächlichen Aushandlungsprozesse deutlich werden, anhand derer Überwachung im Großen analysierbar wird. So wichtig auch theoretische Betrachtungen und Reflexionen sind, so entscheidend sind die vielen kleinen Bausteine, die sich aus den alltäglichen Handlungen und den Konstanten des Alltags ergeben können.

Aus dem Inhalt:

Nils Zurawski, Die praktischen Dimensionen von Überwachung, Kontrolle und Überprüfung  
Dietmar Kammerer, Das Werden der „Kontrolle“: Herkunft und Umfang eines Deleuze'schen Begriffs  
Oliver Bidlo, 1414 – Ins elektronische Panoptikum der sozialen Kontrolle oder: Das Bild hat immer recht  
Kendra Briken, Safety never takes a holiday – Überwachungspraxis im und als Arbeitsalltag  
Nils Zurawski, „Budni, ist doch Ehrensache!“ – Kundenkarten als Kontrollinstrument und die Alltäglichkeit des Einkaufens  
Inga Klein, Überwachte Sicherheit oder sichere Überwachung? Kulturelle Deutungsmuster im Diskurs um den biometrischen Reisepass

Thorsten Benkel, AUGEN OHNE GESICHT. Videoüberwachung zwischen Kontrolltechnik und Ordnungsutopie

Christian Lüdemann und Christina Schlepper, Der überwachte Bürger zwischen Apathie und Protest – Eine empirische Studie zum Widerstand gegen staatliche Kontrolle

Peter Ullrich und Gina Rosa Wollinger, Videoüberwachung von Versammlungen und Demonstrationen – Blick auf ein verwaistes Forschungsfeld

Gaby Temme, Die Polizeiliche Kriminalstatistik als Instrument der Inszenierung und disziplinierenden Überwachung

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**Prevent and Tame. Protest under (Self)Control  
Florian Heßdörfer, Andrea Pabst, Peter Ullrich (Eds.)**

The common dualistic approach to social movements tends to see power and resistance as separate and independent antagonists. The contributors to this book aim to transcend that approach, arguing that to adequately analyze ongoing struggles, it is also critically important to trace the constitutive interconnectedness between social movements and power. This is the aim of the title "Prevent and Tame": emergent strategies to prevent and tame protest – whether they are undertaken by the state or by factions within the movements themselves – have given rise to new kinds of social relations and regulations that call for a new approach to research on social movements and protest.

Inspired by Foucault and others, this book offers theoretical and empirical investigation into the implications that governmentality studies and subjectivation perspectives may have for a deeper understanding of the dynamics in the relationship between power and movements. The articles reflect on the effects of current neo-liberal or neo-social transformations on social movement practice, including the impact of surveillance, the criminalization and stigmatization of protest, and how these can lead movements to engage in self-taming behavior amongst themselves.

Taken as a whole, this book suggests that to take the struggles of social movements seriously, requires to acknowledge the complexity of the power dynamics in which they are involved. In so doing, the authors' aim is not to tame protest by over-amplifying its apparent obstacles, but to prevent its energy from being pointlessly wasted or misdirected (i.e. by being spent in the wrong places, in false conflicts, or even in fighting the clouds they cast themselves).

*Includes contributions by*

Stephen Gill, Peter Ullrich, Florian Heßdörfer, Andrej Holm, Anne Roth, Marco Tullney, Michael Shane Boyle, Darcy K. Leach, Sebastian Haunss and Nick Montgomery

*Bibliographic Information*

Heßdörfer, Florian; Pabst, Andrea; Ullrich, Peter (eds.) 2010: Prevent and Tame. Protest under (Self)Control, Berlin: Dietz, ISBN 978-3-320-02246-4, 122 pp., € 9.90.

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## (4) Stellenangebote, Jobs

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### Risk Communication Specialist

Dewberry is currently seeking a Risk Communication Specialist in our Fairfax, VA Headquarters. The Risk Communication Specialist provides support to the risk communication aspect of natural hazard identification and risk assessment projects for federal, state, and local governmental agency clients. The Risk Communications Specialist's primary objectives are to develop and implement effective communication strategies that motivate stakeholders to take meaningful, sustained actions to reduce and mitigate physical, economic, and social risks.

Applicants are required to submit a resume and cover letter to Daniel Zell, [dzell\[at\]dewberry.com](mailto:dzell[at]dewberry.com). No phone calls please. Only successful candidates will be contacted. This is an immediate opening in Dewberry's Fairfax, Virginia office.

The Risk Communications Specialist:

- Researches and documents examples of trends and best practices in the risk communication field, including the identification of successful programs at the federal, state, and/or local level.
- Identifies risk communication needs for project stakeholders, through direct contact with stakeholders and the review of previously collected data.
- Writes reports and other documents for, and makes formal and informal presentations to, both technical and lay audiences.
- Develops risk communication strategies for clients, including the identification of goals and opportunities, tailored to specific projects and stakeholders.
- Acts as an internal consultant and analyst on a range of projects related to natural hazard identification, risk assessment, mitigation, and disaster response.
- Serves as a subject matter expert for risk communication efforts.
- Assists in training internal staff in risk communication techniques.
- Analyzes risk communication market opportunities and recommends business strategies to Senior Management.

### Required Skills & Required Experience:

- Strong familiarity with recent literature on successful risk communication in non-crisis situations.
- Experience developing risk communication plans and strategies (preferably relating to natural hazards and disasters.)
- An MS degree or equivalent experience in Emergency Management, Sociology, or other related field is required.
- 8+ years of experience working in the emergency management and/or risk communication fields.

Proficiency in MS Office applications, including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook.

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The GEM initiative aims to establish uniform, open standards to calculate and communicate earthquake risk worldwide, by developing a global, state-of-the-art and dynamic earthquake risk model together with the community and ensuring it has understandable interfaces and tools for GEM's multitude of stakeholders. Our structure offers a stimulating, multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-disciplinary environment in which to work.

At the moment there are more positions open:

**Call for Positions in Socio-Economic Impact**

The GEM Secretariat is seeking to recruit a number of human resources to aid the development of the Social and Economic Impact (SEI) Module, one of GEM's three main pillars, by means of interacting with the Socio-Economic Impact Global Component (soon to be selected), Regional Programmes, GEM's Executive Committee members for Hazard and Risk, their collaborators, and the GEM Model Facility that is responsible for software development for achieving GEM's modelling goals.

**Seismic Hazard Modeller/Researcher**

We seek a modeller/researcher who will work on development of tools and software for PSHA input model creation and hazard assessment, in collaboration with the IT development team of the Model Facility and will support creation of regional and global PSHA hazard models, in close collaboration with GEM Regional Programmes.

**Post-Doc position for Civil or Earthquake Engineering PHD**

The University of Pavia has opened a 2yr post-doc position, funded by the [GED4GEM project](#), which is aimed at the realization of a global exposure database including building taxonomy and population data useful for loss estimation. His/her role will be related to the definition and implementation of "mapping schemes" to global databases available in order to populate the Global Exposure Database.

Apart from these vacancies, GEM is always looking out for new people, with scientific and IT profiles, or more administrative/ organisational. If you speak fluent English, are looking for a challenge, have an international background, do not have a 9-to-5 mentality and think you can contribute to GEM, please submit your CV. Send it accompanied by a short a motivation letter to [secretariat\[at\]globalquakemodel.org](mailto:secretariat[at]globalquakemodel.org).

<http://www.globalquakemodel.org/jobs>

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**Gender and Climate Change Expert**

ICIMOD is a regional knowledge development and learning centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas (HKH) – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. The centre is working to develop an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem to improve the living standards of mountain populations – now, and for the future. In partnership with UNEP, GRID-Arendal/Norway and

CICERO/Norway and with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Norway, ICIMOD has initiated the Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP). HICAP is aimed at strengthening climate resilient mountain communities in the HKH, with a special focus on women.

The role of the ICIMOD Gender and Governance Division is to integrate, support and carry out focused work on gender issues within the Centre and the region, as well as to implement ICIMOD's Gender Equity Policy. In order to enhance ICIMOD's capacities to address gender and climate change issues in mountain development, particularly for HICAP, ICIMOD seeks to recruit a

Under the overall guidance of the Programme Manager of Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction (SLPR) and the direct supervision of the Gender and Governance Division Head, the main responsibilities of the Gender and Climate Change Expert will be to:

- Identify and document gender issues related to natural resources management and livelihoods and more specifically, gender dimensions of adaptation to climate change, vulnerability and poverty analysis, food security, ecosystem services, and hazard preparedness in the HKH.
- Contribute to the implementation of the existing Gender Equity Policy of ICIMOD and the development of a gender strategy for HICAP.
- Conduct scoping and case studies, develop and contribute to knowledge sharing products and participate in advocacy initiatives demonstrating the relevance of gender issues in mountain development.
- Organise and contribute to workshops on gender issues and approaches for ICIMOD staff and HICAP partners, in particular the upcoming ICIMOD conference on gender and sustainable mountain development in a changing world to be held in 2012.

#### **Minimum qualifications and work experience**

- Advanced Post-graduate degree in the social sciences or a related field.
- Five years of working experience in applying gender analysis and in-depth knowledge of gender issues.
- Knowledge of gender, environment and climate change in the HKH.
- Experience in conducting in-depth gender-based research and analysis.
- Proven ability to think analytically and critically and able to translate ideas and insights into action.
- Solid experience in capacity strengthening and conducting training for diverse target groups.
- Excellent communication and writing skills and ability to work in a multi-cultural environment.
- Teamwork and cooperation with colleagues.

The duty station is Kathmandu; frequent travelling in the region may be required.

Remuneration: Salaries and benefits of ICIMOD are highly competitive compared to other regional organisations; remuneration is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Duration: 3 years, of which the first 6 months are on probation, and subject to ICIMOD's future funding levels.

Qualified and eligible women candidates and those from disadvantaged backgrounds are highly encouraged to apply. ICIMOD implements a gender fair policy and is supportive of working women.

For more information on ICIMOD, please visit to our website [www.icimod.org](http://www.icimod.org). For more information about the position, go to [www.icimod.org/vacancies](http://www.icimod.org/vacancies). Applicants are requested to apply before 26 June 2011 through ICIMOD's Online Application System: [www.icimod.org/vacancies](http://www.icimod.org/vacancies). Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

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**Delegate, Sr. Environmental Advisor**

**Job Description**

The Environmental Advisor will provide technical support to the American Red Cross (AmCross) and other humanitarian aid partners on ways to incorporate environmental sustainability into recovery and reconstruction programs and projects including shelter, water and sanitation, livelihoods and disaster risk reduction sectors. The position will also provide quality assurance/quality control for AmCross' environmental partners. Additional activities will include environmental capacity building of AmCross, its partners, and government officials. This is a full time position for a minimum of 366 days with the possibility of extension. This is an accompanied post--Spouse only.

**Qualifications**

Education/Experience: Bachelors degree required and at least seven years related experience and one year of supervisory experience or comparable experience in one or more of the following relevant fields: ecology, environmental impact assessment, international development and environmental management. Advanced degree preferred.

**Skills and Abilities:**

- Experience in environmental impact assessment of infrastructure and/or development projects at multiple scales and sectors (prior experience with shelter, water and sanitation or livelihood projects preferred).
- Advanced interpersonal and cross-cultural sensitivity skills;
- Understanding of biodiversity and natural resource management principles (prior environmental experience in disaster context preferred);
- Experience in working as a largely autonomous member of a highly skilled and geographically dispersed team and experience managing consultants;
- Able to conduct field visits, sometimes in areas with little to no infrastructure.
- Able to travel frequently at short notice;
- Ability to work against deadlines and under limited supervision

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**POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW – CLIMATE CHANGE**

New Delhi, India

Deadline: 15 June 2011. The Post Doctoral Fellow will be based at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI's) New Dehli Office in India. Examples of tasks that the Post Doctoral Fellow will assist with: help the Research Program Leader with designing, implementing and monitoring research programs in the region; conduct and monitor participatory action research on climate risk management; represent CCAFS at national, regional and international meetings, as well as write proposals, research reports and papers. In order to qualify, the candidate will need to have a PhD or equivalent academic qualification in a field related to global change or agricultural development. A background in social sciences is preferred. The candidate should also possess at least 3 years' research experience, ideally in an interdisciplinary environment, and a good understanding of water management issues, insurance schemes and agro-advisories.

A postdoctoral contract is available for two years and is non-renewable. IWMI salaries are competitive with those of similar international institutions and offer a range of benefits including housing and utilities allowance, vehicle allowance, education allowance, annual home leave, health insurance package and shipping assistance. For further information about the job role, contact Dr. Pramod Aggarwal, Regional Program Leader-CCAFS on +91-11-25840811/2.

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**Program Assistant CCAFS**

Deadline: 17 June 2011. Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security (CCAFS) seeks to recruit a Program Assistant for its regional office in East Africa. The CCAFS East Africa Regional office is hosted at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). This position will be based at the ILRI Headquarters in Nairobi, but may require frequent travel throughout the Eastern Africa region. The CCAFS Program Assistant will be part of a small Project Management Team and will in particular be involved in ensuring that adequate program projects, financial and administrative systems are established and maintained. Responsibilities of the Program Assistant will, among other things, be to support in organizing CCAFS events and workshops; assist the Regional Program Leader in the monitoring and evaluation of CCAFS Projects; provide administrative backstopping to the overall Program management and manage the data archive for the CCAFS program. In order to apply for the position, a bachelors degree in Business Administration, or a related field is required, as well as a minimum of 3 years related work experience. The position also requires administrative and financial management skills for project monitoring and program management together with excellent communication skills, written and verbal communication in English, including web based communications.

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### **ILRI Programme Management Officer**

Deadline: 17 June 2011. International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) seeks to recruit a Programme Management Officer to work within the Sustainable Livestock Futures Group and the CGIAR Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Programme. This position is based at ILRI's Nairobi Campus and is open to Kenyan nationals only. The Officer will be responsible for a variation of tasks within the areas of Budgets and Finance; Research Management; Support Program Communication and Office Management. In order to apply, the candidate needs to hold a Master's degree (MPA, MBA, MSc) and a Bachelor's degree in a relevant field (e. g. Economics, Business Administration, Management, Commerce). Two years of relevant work experience respectively, and extensive experience in financial management and budgeting for complex, multi-donor projects, and programs are some of the requirements for the position.

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### **CCAFS Regional Science Officer: East Africa**

Screening of applications starts: 1 July 2011. Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) seeks to recruit a Regional Science Officer based in Nairobi, Kenya. East Africa is one of three CCAFS implementing regions. The program leadership of this region is based at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi, and regional activities will be carried out in 4 countries and at six bench mark locations in the region. The science officer will report to the regional program leader and will be responsible for managing and overseeing a growing number of collaborative partnerships and action research activities. The Science Officer will also, among other things, assist with the development and management of research partnerships; contribute to the writing of reports and program documentation; coordinate the evaluation of partner research proposals and implementation of projects within the region. In order to apply for the position the candidate should hold a PhD, or equivalent academic qualifications, in a field related to agricultural sciences, social science or development practice. The candidate should also hold a minimum of 2 years relevant work experience involving program management or a relevant MSc and four years experience in program management.

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### **Director of Health Initiatives**

**United Methodist Committee on Relief**

**New York, New York**

**Salary: Not listed**

**Closing Date: June 6, 2011**

This position is responsible for leading UMCOR's global health initiatives in underdeveloped countries, including project implementation, technical health guidance, and budget management. A master's degree in public health, fundraising skills, and five years of experience in global health, including managing a regional field-based program, are required.

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## Research Assistant

**United Nations University**

**Bonn, Germany**

**Salary: \$19,050**

**Closing Date: June 7, 2011**

This part-time position will support the Munich Re Foundation Chair on Social Vulnerability by conducting research and literature reviews and reporting and summarizing information on climate, resilience, adaptation, mitigation, disaster risk, and other topics. A master's in social science, economics, or environmental science; a background in social vulnerability, adaptation, or risk; and experience working in international organizations and developing countries are required.

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## Disaster Risk Reduction Technical Advisor

**Concern Worldwide**

**Port au Prince, Haiti**

**Salary: Not listed**

**Closing Date: June 12, 2011**

This position provides technical assistance in the areas of disaster risk reduction for Concern Worldwide's Haiti program. Duties include mainstreaming DRR practices into the existing program; conducting DRR surveys, analyzing data, and writing reports; designing and facilitating DRR training programs; and developing a Preparedness for Effective Emergency Response (PEER) plan. A PhD in a disaster-related discipline, three years of DRR intervention experience, and the ability to speak French or Creole are required.

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## Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, Tribal Liaison, GS-13

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**

**Washington, D.C.**

**Salary: \$89,033 to \$115,742**

**Closing Date: June 13, 2011**

This position will continue to build a strong relationship between FEMA and tribal communities. Duties include maintaining effective communication between FEMA and tribal representatives, conducting strategic planning and needs assessments, ensuring cultural needs are properly met, coordinating services offered to tribal stakeholders, and supporting outreach. Tribal liaison experience and at least one year of experience at the GS-12 level are required.

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## Socio-Economic Impact Liaison

**Global Earthquake Model**

**Pavia, Italy**

**Salary: Not listed**

**Closing Date: Open until filled**

Several openings are available for this position, which will work to develop the Global Earthquake Model's Social and Economic Impact Module in conjunction with regional programs, GEM hazard and risk committee members, various collaborators, and software designers. An advanced degree in economics or sociology, GIS knowledge, technical documentation experience, and experience with Matlab, R Statistical, and Excel are preferred.

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### **Research Fellowships in security and ethics -- University of Birmingham**

The University of Birmingham will be advertising for applications for the new Birmingham Fellowships scheme, intended to attract applications from postdocs in many disciplines.

The Centre for the Study of Global Ethics hope to appoint a fellow under the theme of security. We offer expertise for proposals in security and ethics, including ethics of intelligence work and ethical issues connected with cybersecurity. Work on ethics and corruption, and police and military ethics work would be also welcomed. You can see more about the research supported and activities at the Centre here:

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/excellence/fellows/areas/security...>

The advertisement for the Birmingham Fellowship scheme is on the jobs.ac.uk website at <http://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/ACS548/50-birmingham-fellowships/>. We strongly encourage Phd students who are completing or have recently completed their degree work to apply.

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**(5) Andere Newsletter**

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- 7) Some New Web Resources
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## **International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment**

Content:

- 1) ENHANCING POST-EARTHQUAKE DISASTER RESILIENCE HURRICANE RISK AND COASTAL PROPERTY OWNER CHOICES
- 2) Recovery: Rebuilding a Resilient Housing Stock
- 3) An Overview of Post-Disaster Permanent Housing Reconstruction in Developing Countries
- 4) RECONNECTING WITH POVERTY: New Challenges of Disaster Management.
- 5) Disaster Resilience: Preparing for Extreme Events
- 6) Examining the principle of precaution in Cass Susstein

Launching in 2010, International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment is the only journal to promote research and scholarly activity that examines the role of building and construction to anticipate and respond to unexpected events that damage or destroy the built environment.

We are pleased to announce that the International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment (IJDRBE) has published its inaugural volume consisting 3 issues. In making this occasion, publishers have arranged free access from 15th November 2010 until 31st January 2011 to all the journal papers published so far. Please visit the journal web site at [www.emeraldinsight.com/ijdrbe.htm](http://www.emeraldinsight.com/ijdrbe.htm) <<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/ijdrbe.htm>> to enjoy the free access.

Access details are:

**Username: IJDRBE25**

**Password: IJDRBE10**

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## **Resilience: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Science and Humanitarianism, Volume 2, March 2011**

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- 10) Book Reviews

This journal aims to provide emerging interdisciplinary researchers, innovative thinkers, and inter-sectoral practitioners engaged in collaborative projects to understand, build, promote, and maintain resilience of individuals, families, communities, institutions and the natural environment, the ecosystem, a forum for disseminating their work.

#### Scope

This journal will consider for publication student research in the form of reviews of the literature aimed at generating hypothesis; testing theory; formulating questions for proposed and/or ongoing research; manuscripts originating from term papers, research internships; as well as faculty working papers, short reports, and commentaries on a broad range of topics that are pertinent to resilience science and policy, including but not limited to disaster mitigation and response with particular reference to international humanitarian and public health practice.

<http://www.fletcher.tufts.edu/resilience/current-issue.shtml>

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## The Fukushima, Japan Mega-Disaster: FIFTEEN LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

Source(s): Mittuniversitetet (MID), University Sweden

Publication date: April 14, 201

Author(s): Anthony J. Marsella

The Fukushima, Japan Mega-Disaster that occurred on March 11, 2011 (2:45 PM Japan Time) will continue to unfold in its tragic consequences for years to come. The tragedy must not pass without extensive public and private discussions and report preparations of the lessons learned from the disaster. As the events unfolded, each disaster problem became compounded in a seemingly endless list of tragedies (i.e., deaths, injuries, food, housing/shelter, medical care, communications, animal care, disease vectors, economic losses, political deceit and misrepresentation, long-term human, environmental, and economic costs). The following list is a beginning, in my opinion, of what needs to be done so that any future tragedies can be responded more effectively and more humanely. Please add to the list.

### **LESSONS TO BE LEARNED**

**1. Control of Nuclear Industry Lobbyists:** Efforts must be made to resist and control individual lobbyists and organized lobbyist groups from influencing the construction of nuclear plant. All lobbyist activities must be published in the media with regard to the individuals or organizations targeted, the lobbyists engaged in their efforts, the amounts being expended, and risk statements of any proposals. Special attention must be given to the disposal of nuclear materials.

**2. Laws and Regulations Are Needed:** Efforts must be made to develop laws and other regulatory statutes that require complete transparency by all officials involved with any disaster including local, national, international governmental, commercial, military, and media source. The laws must provide for punishments for any and all organizations that engage in deceit and deception regarding the status and implications of the disaster. Laws and statutes must resist any “*en loco parentis*” (i.e., acting as protective parents).

**3. Identification of Fault and Liability:** Efforts must be made to prepare fault and risk statements regarding all post-natural and post-man-made disasters with regard to individuals and to governmental, commercial, military, medical, NGO, and media organizations.

**4. Research and Evaluations of Existing Nuclear Plants:** Efforts must be made to conduct extensive research and evaluations of all existing nuclear power plant for risks from possible natural and man-made disasters. Disaster likelihood statements must be prepared that identify vulnerabilities and consequences (e.g., San Andreas Fault Lines and existing nuclear power plants). Disaster drills must be conducted. Table 1 lists disaster types.

**5. Site Risk Indices:** Efforts must be made to prepare lists of possible natural and man-made disasters for different global world locations (i.e., Risk index ).

**6. Disaster Resource Supplies:** Efforts must be made to develop disaster planning resources that are kept in active condition with regard to basic essentials for survival including food, water, housing, transportation, medical care, clothing, and communication.

**7. Disaster Team Resources:** Efforts must be made to develop disaster response teams that include a broad spectrum of resources personnel to enhance recovery including mental health, economic reconstruction, media/communication trained personnel.

**8. Building Sustainable Communities and Nations:** Efforts must be made to build and rebuild sustainable communities capable of relying on their own needs for food, water, shelter, energy and emergency services. A priority must be placed on efforts must be made to develop individual, familial, neighborhood, community, regional, and national sustainability.

**9. Education Regarding Energy:** Efforts must be made to create educational programs to increase public consciousness of energy expenditures (i.e., carbon footprints) for individuals, communities, and nations.

**10. Funding for Alternative Energy Sources:** Efforts must be made to fund research in new and massive amounts on alternative energy sources including wind, solar, geo-thermal conversion, ocean-thermal conversion, and fusion.

**11. Standards for Response:** Efforts must be made to develop local, national, and international standards must be developed with regard to essential, necessary, and acceptable disaster responses capabilities. These efforts must include public input and consultation.

**12. Immediate and Long-Term Care:** Efforts must be made to develop emergency, short-term, midterm and long terms resources must be established to monitor consequences (i.e., Victim needs may continue for generations).

**13. Public Consciousness of Disasters:** Efforts must be made to raise public consciousness of the human, environmental, and economic costs of all natural and man-made disasters in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries. While these are present on the internet, there is often little enduring awareness or consciousness of them beyond the victims. I will call this disaster consciousness.

**14. United Nations:** Efforts must be made to increase UN effectiveness, efficiency, involvement and authority in addressing all aspects disaster preparation and response. Increase awareness of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)*.

**15. Nuclear Waste:** Address the issue of nuclear waste disposal and the risks this imposes for the world. Identify sites and consequences.

In a global era in which all of our lives and the lives of all living beings, including the environment, has become increasingly interdependent, efforts must be made to promote an understanding of the growing frequency, severity, and consequences of natural and man-made disasters. We -- life itself -- can no longer afford responses that are inadequate to the task because of poor planning and preparation and protections of those at fault. The entire world has

watched in horror at the scores of egregious offenses and excuses by governmental and commercial leaders designed to protect narrow interests at the expense of the people and nation of Japan. This is no longer acceptable or tolerable.

**Table 1**

**Disaster Types**

From Marsella, A.J., et al (Eds) (2008). *Ethnocultural Perspectives on Trauma and Disasters*. NY: Springer SBM Publishers

<i>Natural Disasters</i>	<i>Human Caused Disasters</i>
Avalanches	Accidents in Communities or Work Sites
Catastrophic Disasters (i.e., Massive destruction)	Bombs
Droughts	Ecological Destruction (e.g., Acid Rain, Global Warming)
Earthquakes	Nuclear Leaks and Meltdowns
Floods	Oil Spills (Wells and Ships)
Ice and Hail Storms	Terrorist Attacks
Insects (e.g., Locusts)	Toxic Waste Spills
Hurricanes	Transportation Accidents (e.g., Air, Sea, Train)
Mudslides	War and Civil Destruction Acts
Secondary Disasters (e.g., unemployment, violence, rioting)	Nuclear Waste Disposal
Tornados	
Tsunami (Tidal Wave)	
Typhoons	
Volcanic Eruptions	

URL:

<http://www.miun.se/Global/Forskning/Center%20och%20institut/RCRCenter/Risknyttfiler/The%20Fukushima.pdf>

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**Haiti: Sexual violence against women increasing**

**Women speak out against rape in Haiti's camps**

Source(s): Amnesty International

Publication date: 6 January 2011

Author(s): Gelsdorf, Kirsten

Women and girls living in Haiti's makeshift camps face an increasing risk of rape and sexual violence, Amnesty International said in a new report released today.

One year after the earthquake which killed 230,000 people and injured 300,000, more than one million people still live in appalling conditions in tent cities in the capital Port-au-Prince and in

the south of Haiti, where women are at serious risk of sexual attacks. Those responsible are predominately armed men who roam the camps after dark. More than 250 cases of rape in several camps were reported in the first 150 days after January's earthquake, according to data cited in the Amnesty International report, *Aftershocks: Women speak out against sexual violence in Haiti's camps*.

One year on, rape survivors continue to arrive at the office of a local women's support group almost every other day. "Women, already struggling to come to terms with losing their loved ones, homes and livelihoods in the earthquake, now face the additional trauma of living under the constant threat of sexual attack," said Gerardo Ducos, Amnesty International's Haiti researcher.

"For the prevalence of sexual violence to end, the incoming government must ensure that the protection of women and girls in the camps is a priority. This has so far been largely ignored in the response to the wider humanitarian crisis." Sexual violence was widespread in Haiti before January 2010 but this has been exacerbated by the conditions since the earthquake. The limited assistance the authorities previously provided has been undermined by the destruction of police stations and court houses. This has made it more difficult to report sexual violence.

Over 50 survivors of sexual violence shared their experiences with Amnesty International for the study.

One 14 year old girl, Machou, lives in a makeshift camp for displaced people in Carrefour Feuilles, south-west Port-au-Prince. She was raped in March when she went to the toilet.

"A boy came in after me and opened the door. He gagged me with his hand and did what he wanted to do...He hit me. He punched me. I didn't go to the police because I don't know the boy, it wouldn't help. I feel really sad all the time...I'm afraid it will happen again," Machou told Amnesty International.

One woman, Suzie, recounted how she was living in a makeshift shelter with her two sons and a friend when they were attacked around 1am on 8 May. Suzie and her friend were both blindfolded and raped in front of their children by a gang of men who forced their way into their shelter.

"After they left I didn't do anything. I didn't have any reaction...Women victims of rape should go to hospital but I didn't because I didn't have any money... I don't know where there is a clinic offering treatment for victims of violence," Suzie said. Suzie lost her parents, brothers and husband in the January earthquake. Her home was also destroyed.

Amnesty International's report highlights how the lack of security and policing in and around the camps is a major factor for the increase in attacks over the past year. The response by police officers to survivors of rape is described as inadequate. Many survivors of rape recollected how when they sought police help they were told officers could do nothing.

"There has been a complete breakdown in Haiti's already fragile law and order system since the earthquake with women living in insecure overcrowded camps," said Gerardo Ducos.

“There is no security for the women and girls in the camps. They feel abandoned and vulnerable to being attacked. Armed gangs attack at will; safe in the knowledge that there is still little prospect that they will be brought to justice.”

Amnesty International is calling for the new government to urgently take steps to end violence against women as part of a wider plan to address the humanitarian effort. The report states that women in the camps must be fully involved in developing any such plan.

Immediate steps include improving security in the camps and to ensure police are able to respond effectively and that those responsible are prosecuted.

Short URL: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/haiti-sexual-violence-against-women-increasing-2011-01-06>

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### In this nuclear world, what is the meaning of 'safe'?

Source(s): Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Publication date: 18 March 2011

Author(s): Barbara Rose Johnston

In a nuclear crisis, life becomes a nightmare for those people trying to make sense of the uncertainties. Imaginably, the questions are endless.

*Radiation is invisible, how do you know when you are in danger? How long will this danger persist? How can you reduce the hazard to yourself and family? What level of exposure is safe? How do you get access to vital information in time to prevent or minimize exposure? What are the potential risks of acute and chronic exposures? What are the related consequential damages of exposure? Whose information do you trust? How do you rebuild a healthy way of life in the aftermath of nuclear disaster?*

And the list of unknowns goes on.

These questions are difficult to answer in the chaos and context of an ongoing disaster, and they become even more complicated by the fact that governments and the nuclear industry maintain tight control of information, operations, scientific research, and the biomedical lessons that shape public-health response.

This regulation of information has been the case since the nuclear age began, and understanding this helps to illuminate why there is no clear consensus on what Japan's nuclear disaster means in terms of local and global human health.

**Nuclear secrecy in context.** In the initial hours after the earthquake and tsunami, the Japanese government and Tokyo Electrical Power Company issued statements reporting minor damage at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. In the days that followed, government and industry officials reported the "venting of hydrogen gas", but that there was "no threat to health."

This reassurance of health safety was echoed when hydrogen gas explosions occurred at the power plant.

In fact, the hydrogen released is tritium water vapor, a low-level emitter that can be absorbed in a human body through simply breathing, or by drinking contaminated water. Tritium decays by beta emission and has a radioactive half-life of about 12.3 years. As it undergoes radioactive decay, this isotope emits a very low-energy beta particle and transforms to stable, nonradioactive helium. Once tritium enters the body, it disperses quickly, is uniformly distributed, and is excreted through urine within a month or so after ingestion. It produces a low-level exposure and may result in toxic effects to the kidney. As with all ionizing radiation, exposure to tritium increases the risk of developing cancer.

So, then, why no mention of tritium in the government or industry statements? Relatively speaking, the health effects of a low-level emitter like tritium are minor when compared to the other radiogenic and toxic hazards in this nuclear catastrophe. Such omission is a standard industry practice, designed to reassure the public that the normal operating procedures of a nuclear power plant represent no significant threat to human health.

The assertion that low-level exposure to radiation represents no human threat is an artifact of Cold War-era science that was shaped to meet government and industry needs.

During the Cold War, scientific findings on health effects to nuclear fallout that contradicted the official narrative were typically censored. Scientists were not only punished for their work, they were also blacklisted -- one example of this was American anthropologist Earle Reynolds whose work for the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission was censored in 1953 by the US government. His research showed that Japanese children who were exposed to fallout were not only smaller than their counterparts, but had less resistance to disease in general and were more susceptible to cancer, especially leukemia. The consequences of this censored history was examined in 1994 by the US Advisory Commission on Human Radiation Experimentation, which concluded that the radiation health literature of the Cold War years was a heavily sanitized and scripted version meant to reassure and pacify public protests while achieving military and economic agendas.

Decades of such control reinforced, again and again, the core message: Humans have evolved in a world where background radiation is present and is natural and beneficial at some level; any adverse health effect of radiation exposure is the occasional and accidental result of high levels of exposure.

Cold War classification and the close nature of government, military, and industry agendas made it difficult to challenge the assumptions that underlie the "trust us" narrative. For example, the assumption that radiogenic health effects must be demonstrated through direct causality (one isotope, one outcome) meant science on cumulative and synergistic effects was not pursued. Discounting or ignoring the toxic nature of varied radioisotopes meant health risks were assessed and regulations promulgated on the basis of acute exposures and outcomes (radiation poisoning and deadly cancer).

There are other sources of conclusive data that allow a very different interpretation of the health hazards posed by a nuclear disaster. Several of these sources document radiogenic health

outcomes that sharply contrast mainstream reports: Declassified records of US human radiation experiments and similar Soviet records; Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission records; new research conducted by Japanese scientists; long-term research on Chernobyl survivors; and research done for the Marshall Islands Nuclear Claims Tribunal proceedings.

**But what does this mean?** From this record of studied and lived experience, there are a few things that we know. For example, fallout and the movement of radionuclides through marine and terrestrial environments ultimately get into the food chain and the human body. The toxicity of contaminants and radioactivity in fallout represent significant health risks. Acute exposures are further complicated when followed by chronic exposure, as such assaults have a cumulative and synergistic effect on health and well-being. Chronic exposure to fallout does more than increase the risk of developing cancers, it threatens the immune system, can exacerbate pre-existing conditions, affects fertility, increases rates of birth defects, and can retard physical and mental development, among other things. And we know the effects of such exposures can last for generations.

Japan's nuclear disaster demonstrates in powerful and poignant terms the degree to which the state prioritizes security interests over the fundamental rights of people and their environment. Japan's response to its nuclear disaster -- similar to other government responses to catastrophic events like Katrina and Chernobyl -- has struggled to control the content and flow of information to prevent wide panic (and the related loss of trust in government), reduce liability, and protect nuclear and other industry agendas.

There are many lessons to be learned here, not the least of which is how to respond, adjust, and adapt to the hazards and health risks associated with life in this nuclear world. These responses will most assuredly include a demand for transparency and accountability -- that is, governance that truly secures the fundamental rights of its citizens to life and livelihood.

As the world's nations reassess nuclear power operations and refine energy development plans, now -- more than ever -- we need to aggressively tackle this question: How do we define the word "safe"?

Short URL: <http://thebulletin.org/web-edition/features/nuclear-world-what-the-meaning-of-safe>

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**Japan's resilience to tsunamis and the lessons for Japan and the world: an early observation**

Author(s): Jonatan A. Lassa  
Source(s): Ash Center, Harvard Kennedy School  
Pages: 6

What makes the Great Tohoku earthquake 2011 historical is not only because of its tsunami-genic earthquake at 9.0 magnitude that led to a series of disasters including the loss of lives and economic assets but also the nuclear accidents which make post disaster response by the government become huge challenge, complex and difficult.

The total disaster mortality is temporarily confirmed to be 28,550 dead or missing (10,901 confirmed deaths and 17,649 missing - OCHA Situation Report No. 14). The tsunami hotspots are in the Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima (Figure 1) and Iribaki prefectures. In total, 54 out of 174 cities in the aforementioned cities have been affected by the tsunami (Parashar et. al. 2011) but it has propagated other risks that had been traveled globally. The tsunami traveled further east and killed some people in Papua (Indonesian and Papua New Guinea) its tremor went to shake stock markets. Its nuclear risk and uncertainty have become a haunted existence, either amplified/ attenuated by the media.

This paper exclusively analyzes Japan's resilience to tsunamis by assuming that there was no nuclear accident. It asks the questions: What makes Japan's present losses in tsunami triggered by the Great Tohoku earthquake is enormous in Japan's disaster history? Is it because that it had been planning and waiting for different scale of tsunamis, informed by existing tsunami risk assessment and scientific measurement – as some might believe? Is there any social-economic factor that serves as an "iron-law" behind the high disaster mortality rate (confirmed death and missing almost 30,000)? What is the conventional theoretical model that can help explaining the disasters that provide better argument for future disasters?

[http://www.zef.de/module/register/media/b4d0\\_Japantsunami%20resilience31mar2011.pdf](http://www.zef.de/module/register/media/b4d0_Japantsunami%20resilience31mar2011.pdf)

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