

International Centre of Excellence, Community Resilience, Wellington

Email update: February 2015

Dear all ICoE members and interested colleagues,

We hope you had a good summer break, and happy new year to you all! 2014 was a great year for the IRDR ICoE: Community Resilience in Wellington, with our initial launch in March and our workshop in September, and the development of lots of new connections across the region.

Since our last quarterly email, Emma (JCDR/Massey), Julia (JCDR/GNS), and Dan (WREMO), have been working on the white paper report of the Knowledge Sharing workshop run as part of the Australasian Natural Hazards Management Conference in September.

For those that were not able to attend, this workshop brought together researchers and practitioners from across the region to answer the challenge "*how do we help make our communities more resilient to future disasters?*". Through this workshop we explored inter-, and across-, agency knowledge sharing for building community resilience, to also answer the question "how do we ensure that lessons from past disasters and day-to-day good practice in one region are implemented into future pre-disaster recovery plans in others?" Over 40 people participated from a wide range of disciplines and profession backgrounds, and discussed the ways in which knowledge can be effectively shared, translated into action, and identified some of the methods, tools, and solutions, that can be used to enhance collective knowledge.

Since this workshop, we have been analyzing the notes taken and identified a number of themes raised by participants that outline the key barriers to collaboration across communities and organisations for community resilience, including communication challenges, capacity and resources, community characteristics, and trust. Solutions raised included adopting a community driven approach, the role of facilitation, and diverse methods of collaboration. We envision completing this white paper in February to submit to the Australasian Journal of Disaster and Trauma studies, and will keep you updated with our progress.

Feedback from participants at this workshop has also resulted in some redevelopment of the resilience toolbox, including its navigation structure. So, please do sign up, load up some of your projects and take a look! www.resiliencetoolbox.org

Please also share this link and opportunity for collaboration with any organisation, researcher or community group you believe has something to offer. We know there are all kinds of great initiatives, big and small, occurring across the region, New Zealand and the rest of the world.

Other recent activities and things coming up include:

- As a result of the workshop, further collaborations are occurring in the UK with researcher Maureen Fordham and practitioners at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England who are applying a similar community-driven approach occurring in WREMO. The three groups are exploring ways to work together and share practice.
- Support for the successful application by Wellington City to become one of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities.
- Input in the IRDR annual report; featuring a summary of our activities (now available from <http://www.irdrinternational.org/2015/01/13/ar-2014/>)
- The Emergency Management Summer Institute at Massey University, Wellington, is being held from 2nd March-6th March, and is still taking registrations. This course is open to the public, and from this year can also be taken as a Massey University paper : http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/departments/school-of-psychology/research/disaster-research/teaching-and-outreach/teaching-and-outreach_home.cfm#Summer

We are looking forward to a continued growth of the ICoE in 2015! So, if you have any ideas for activities or want to connect your event or initiative to the ICoE, please do contact us.

Regards,

Bruce Pepperell and David Johnston

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Web 1: <http://www.getprepared.org.nz/excellence>

Web 2:

http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/departments/school-of-psychology/research/disaster-research/research-projects/icoc/icoc_home.cfm