

International Centre of Excellence, Community Resilience, Wellington

Email update: May 2015

Dear all ICoE members and interested colleagues,

We hope you have all had a good quarter since our last email update. The IRDR ICoE: Community Resilience in Wellington has been busy since then, with members attending the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in March, where the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was ratified, and can be found here: <http://www.wcdrr.org/>. We encourage you all to read this framework as it will greatly influence DRR research and practice over the next 15 years.

The ICoE is now also formally aligned with Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group's Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning (PDRP) program, and the PDRP will utilise the ICoE network to help achieve the goal of identifying ways to promote a speedy and effective recovery to a disaster, and to ensure communities are not only able to rebound strongly after a disaster but able to better seize opportunities that arise in such a trouble time.

The inaugural workshop of the PDRP program was held on 26th March, and involved a number of key stakeholders across the region who provided insight into the ways in which we can enhance the regions capability to rebound after a disaster and effectively recover. Dr Laurie Johnson, who is an internationally recognised consultant on catastrophic disaster recovery, provided a key note lecture highlighting international perspectives on recovery and drawing on examples of initiatives underway in San Francisco – and how they can be used to inform our approaches here in the Wellington Region.

The next ICoE event will thus be a collaborative PDRP activity. We will send out more information on that soon, so watch this space! We hope you can attend and provide your valuable insights to this program.

Other recent activities and things coming up include:

- A number of ICoE members were involved in the running of, and presentations at, the Emergency Management Summer Institute at Massey University, Wellington (2-6 March). For the first year this public open course was also a Massey University paper.
- Emma (JCDR/Massey), Julia (JCDR/GNS) and Dan (WREMO) progressed the white paper report of our Knowledge Sharing workshop to submission to the Australasian Journal of Disaster and Trauma studies. This is currently going through the review process, and we appreciate the feedback that has been provided to us so far by the ICoE participants at the workshop.
- WREMO, in conjunction with Professor Ilan Noy from Victoria University, will be hosting Professor Daniel Aldrich on the 3rd of June at 3-4pm. Prof Aldrich is a leading voice in the promotion of social capital as a key driver for building resilient communities. Please contact Donna.Hoyland@gw.govt.nz to RSVP.
- On the 12th August, the JCDR will launch the 'Disaster Hub'. This will be a physical space on the Massey University Wellington campus, co-locating the Joint Centre for Disaster Research with partners from around the region and within the university. More details soon.

- The next 8th Australasian Natural Hazards Conference will be held at the University Club of Western Australia, Perth, from 12-16 October 2015. Further details here: <http://www.hazardseducation.org/conference/2015/2015index.php>
- Dates for the next Emergency Management Summer Institute at Massey will be 7-11 March 2016.

We are looking forward to a continued growth of the ICoE throughout 2015, and this will greatly benefit from your suggestions and involvement too. So, if you have any ideas

for activities or want to connect your event or initiative to the ICoE, please do contact us!

Regards,

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