

International Centre of Excellence, Community Resilience

Email update on Activities: Nov 2016

Dear all ICoE members and interested colleagues,

As you can imagine those working in community resilience in Wellington have been in response mode since 14th November when a 7.8 M_w earthquake occurred in the north of the South Island causing a tsunami on the eastern coast of both the North and South Islands. Since then there have been over 6000 aftershocks, approx. 500 have been over 4 M_w.

Please note that the information in this update is from prior to this event and in our next update we will be able to provide an overview of the community resilience activity following the event.

The IRDR ICoE: Community Resilience in Wellington has been continuing to work towards its goals of enhancing the evidence base for the Community Resilience Strategy, sharing international good practice in community resilience, and encouraging active collaborations between individuals, organisations, and communities in the Wellington Region.

In the second half of the year we have been involved in a number of activities and collaborations which we wanted to share with you all:

Events:

Between October 17th and 20th October JCDR organised the **4th International Conference on Urban Disaster Reduction (4ICUDR)** which builds on an established practice of international collaboration and knowledge-sharing after disaster events in Japan, US, and Taiwan. The mission of the conference was to develop, integrate and promote new knowledge and best practices in sustainable disaster recovery, with a particular emphasis on urban environments. The conference attracted 90 participants from Japan, South Korea, USA, Taiwan and New Zealand and included a site visit to Christchurch.

On the 10th October JCDR hosted a workshop to explore links between **child-centred disaster risk reduction (DRR) education and community-focussed DRR education initiatives**. The workshop provided an opportunity for 44 researchers, practitioners and policy makers to explore links between current practice and research and to scope future research needs in this area. A report of the proceedings of this event will be available in due course.

Supporting research:

As part of one of the core goals of the ICoE, which is to enhance research to practice and practice to research, the ICoE helped facilitate Massey University PhD student Alan Kwok's workshop in November 2015 on developing **Social Resilience Indicators for Communities**. Participants came from across the ICoE and we thank them all for assisting in Alan's research. This has now been published as:

- Kwok, A.H., Doyle, E.E.H., Becker, J., Johnston, D., Paton, D. (2016) What is 'social resilience'? Perspectives of disaster researchers, emergency manager practitioners, and policymakers in

New Zealand. International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2016.08.013>

Alan Kwok has entered his last year of his PhD programme. He is continuing his research on how local government jurisdictions and community stakeholders can best evaluate their resilience to natural hazards. Over the past two years, his work has been published in a wide array of publications, including the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction (on defining social resilience), GNS science report (on social vulnerability indicators in risk modelling), and a World Bank's report (Solving the Puzzle: Innovating to Reduce Risk). His work brought him into communities in the Wellington region and in San Francisco (where he's from), and he has presented in conferences in New Zealand and abroad. Currently, he is preparing two additional manuscripts on the topic of assessing social resilience of communities for publication. Beginning in 2017 he will be based back in California, USA and looks forward to being a FUNcle to his cheeky baby nephew.

One of the JCDR's PhD students, Nancy Brown recently passed her confirmation. Her PhD is entitled **Building Disaster Resiliency in the Hotel Sector**. Hotels need to consider not only the local risk scape, but also their responsibility in terms of assisting guests, and staff, in disastrous situations. Additionally, the importance of getting back to business quickly could be critical- the economy in many tourist destinations provide the majority of the income for a locality. Building disaster resiliency for hotels works towards both of these important objectives.

- This research aims to:
 - Define and describe disaster resiliency qualities and indicators for the hotel sector
 - Measure through mixed methods research the state of disaster resiliency of hotels in New Zealand
 - Explore possible barriers to disaster resilience building for hotels in New Zealand

Collaboration:

The **Red Cross App** has provided a timely and cost effective alerting function for CDEM and other alerting agencies in New Zealand. It was introduced into New Zealand in 2015 by the NZ Red Cross, partnered with the Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO). For agencies, such as WREMO, who have a responsibility to alert or warn the public of potentially hazardous events the Hazard App provides a means to get information to quickly to smart phone users who have downloaded the App.

Since 2015 Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Taranaki and Hawkes Bay Civil Defence Groups have also implemented the App as a means of alerting the residents of their region. West Coast, Canterbury, Otago and Marlborough Groups are looking to implement the App by the end of 2016. Nationally GNS Science/Geonet, MetService, Ministry of Health, Ministry for Primary Industry have implemented the App as a means to provide alerts/warnings to the public. As well as providing a free App for the public to download, the Red Cross has not charged alerting agencies to implement or send alerts. They have also provided a user guide and training. In addition, they have established a national Working Group to establish good practice when using the App. The national implementation of the Red Cross Hazard App has been the catalyst to establish a national Working Group on developing the New Zealand Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Guideline.

When an alert is sent, the App has pre-prepared 'what to do messages', which reduces the burden on the mobile network. As well as providing an alerting function the Hazard App provides information on hazards and how you can reduce your personal risk and in the event of an emergency you can easily send 'I am safe' messages to pre-identified contacts.

Wellington City has been selected by the **100 Resilient Cities programme** to develop a holistic strategy to enhance resilience in New Zealand's capital city. The programme involves the appointment of a Chief Resilience Officer to lead the strategy development process and bring people together to ensure the concepts of resilience are built into their day-to-day jobs. The process, led by Mike Mendonça, has been informed by a number of workshops involving hundreds of participants from different sectors to map out the strengths Wellington can build on, identify Wellington's challenges in the 21st century and generate a range of solutions to ensure the city is able to survive and thrive throughout the many changes that lie ahead. The strategy has grouped approximately 30 initiatives under three themes of Integrated Decision Making, Connected People and Homes and Infrastructure. Wellington's ICoE in Community Resilience is a recognised partner in this process, and Professor David Johnson has co-chaired a Steering Group of eminent Wellingtonians that has overseen the Strategy development. It is planned to present the final version of the Strategy to Council for release in February 2017.

We are looking forward to a continued growth of the ICoE and are planning a workshop for 2017. If you have any ideas for a workshop topic please let us know.

Regards

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