

## **IRDR International Centre of Excellence, Community Resilience, Wellington**

The IRDR ICoE in Community Resilience (ICoE:CR) based within the Wellington Region is coordinated by the Joint Centre for Disaster Research at Massey University/GNS Science (JCDR), and the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO). The vision of the ICoE:CR is to be *an internationally recognised centre of excellence to research and enable community resilience to disasters; actively collaborating with individuals, organisations, and communities in the Wellington Region*. Through partnerships at the local, national and international level, leading research will be applied to the practice of WREMO's Community Resilience Strategy.

### **Update of activities November 2014 – June 2015:**

#### **The Wellington Region Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning Program**

- The ICoE is now 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 2015, 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 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.

#### **The Knowledge Sharing Workshop, and related publication**

- In September 2014, the ICoE ran a workshop as part of the Australasian Natural Hazards management Conference. This half-day workshop entitled "*Community Resilience Workshop: Translating knowledge into action*" brought together participants from across the Wellington region, including emergency management practitioners, university academics, local, regional and national government agencies, as well as local community groups and business collectives (including planners, architects, and engineers). The workshop brought together these researchers and practitioners 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 professional

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, notes have been analyzed and a number of themes raised by participants have been identified that outline the key barriers to collaboration across communities and organisations for community resilience as perceived by these participants, 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.
- These observations have been submitted for publication as follows:
  - Doyle, E.E.H., Becker, J.S., Neely, D.P., Johnston, D.M. & Pepperell, B. (submitted 2015). *Knowledge transfer between communities, practitioners, and researchers: a case study for community resilience in Wellington, New Zealand*. Submission for the Australasian Journal of Disaster and Trauma Studies.

### 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.
- The ICoE provided support for the successful application by Wellington City to become one of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities.
- As a result of our September 2014 workshop, further collaborations are occurring in the UK with Dr 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.
- WREMO, in conjunction with Professor Ilan Noy from Victoria University, will be hosting Professor Daniel Aldrich on the 3rd of June 2015 at 3-4pm. Prof Aldrich is a leading voice in the promotion of social capital as a key driver for building resilient communities.
- On the 12th August 2015, 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, including many members of the ICoE.
- 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.

### Further information:

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- Web 2: <http://www.getprepared.org.nz/excellence>