

## 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 July 2015 – November 2016:

In August 2015, we launched the Disaster Hub at Massey University, this is a joint venture between the Joint Centre for Disaster Research (Massey U/GNS Science), Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office, the ICoE, EQC and the New Zealand Red Cross. This Hub represents a strategic step forward to ensure that current and future disaster risk management partner organisations have a shared space to work together, connecting practice to research and research to practice, and providing a facility for collaborations between staff of all public and private organisations, universities, and training entities with an interest in emergency management. You can read more about this exciting venture here: [http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-massey/news/article.cfm?mnarticle\\_uuid=09D2A3C9-96AF-B98E-D64A-9FD009950F13](http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-massey/news/article.cfm?mnarticle_uuid=09D2A3C9-96AF-B98E-D64A-9FD009950F13).

In November 2015, we ran the Citizen Science in Disaster Risk Management Workshop, at WREMO. We had a great turnout for this event with over 45 attendees, who came together to discuss the benefits and challenges of Citizen Science initiatives, and considerations such as co-creation, ethics, engagement, and management of Citizen Science initiatives. A brief summary report is available at our website here: [http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/fms/Colleges/College%20of%20Humanities%20and%20Social%20Sciences/Psychology/Disasters/ICoE-CR/Publications/CitizenScience\\_2015workshop\\_minutes.pdf?235E6C43CF9AA7CC4013FE86618F128A](http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/fms/Colleges/College%20of%20Humanities%20and%20Social%20Sciences/Psychology/Disasters/ICoE-CR/Publications/CitizenScience_2015workshop_minutes.pdf?235E6C43CF9AA7CC4013FE86618F128A).

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, including researchers, policy makers, private sector, and community members; and we thank them all for assisting in Alan's research. Since then, Alan has written a report on this workshop, entitled '*What is 'social resilience'? Perspectives of disaster researchers, emergency management practitioners, and policymakers in New Zealand*'. This has been published in the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction:

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>

Between October 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016 JCDR organised the **4<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 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.

The ICoE, via WREMO, has also been involved in the development of the NZ Red Cross Hazard App, which launched in November 2015. This app, which is a development of an existing International Red Cross product, has been tailored for the NZ environment and messaging. As such, it will help people in the community identify, prepare and respond to hazards in New Zealand, and is pre-loaded with information about hazards including floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, fire, weather and biosecurity risks. The app helps users prepare an emergency response kit and plan, and guides them through what to do during an emergency and into recovery. The app also allows alerts to be sent in emergencies and/or the user to receive information direct from agencies such as MetService and the NZ Transport Agency. More information about the app can be found here:

<https://www.redcross.org.nz/what-we-do/in-new-zealand/emergency-operations/hazard-app/>

#### 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 in March 2016. The 2017 Emergency Management Summer Institute is 13-17 March.
- The ICoE provided support for the successful application by Wellington City to become one of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities.
- WREMO, in conjunction with Professor Ilan Noy from Victoria University, hosted Professor Daniel Aldrich in June 2015. Prof Aldrich presented on the promotion of social capital as a key driver for building resilient communities.

#### Further information:

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