



Editorial, Journal of Environmental Hazards

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Editorial

It is impossible to live in a fully risk free environment, almost daily, we face some degree of risk. Hazards are phenomena of extreme events, which pose threat to human, property and economic and social assets. Different types of hazards are geological, hydrological and climatologically which includes avalanche, earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruptions, flood, whirlpool, tsunami, drought, extreme temperature, heat waves, cyclonic storms, tornadoes, glacial lake outburst and wild fire etc. Natural, social, economic, engineering and technological sciences, provides an integrated approach to understand a very complex dynamic landscape for the mapping and management of environmental hazards.

Environmental hazards and disaster management are multi-disciplinary area, they requires multi-sectoral scientists, engineers, technocrats and planners etc. Research on hazards and its reduction management policies have enabled scientists to see the big picture, collecting different types of information about its origin, causes, vulnerability mapping and resilience on a global scale. In order to proper understand and suggest a key to reduce the impacts of disaster, a multi-disciplinary approach is advocated from local and global level.

In order to understand disaster risk, or rather pre-existing risks that lead to disasters, it is important to base the development planning on the most vulnerable sections in hazard prone geographies. This would require full consciousness of local power dynamic, and innovative community based models of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) planning. According to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), 371 disasters triggered by natural hazards were reported worldwide in 2015. The number of disasters continues to rise, as a result of a combination of increased vulnerability (from more people living in dangerous places) and climate change.

The changing climate will impact food production and the availability of water through drought, flooding, salinization and decreased rainfall leading to infertile land. As global average temperatures rise, so sea levels will also increase. Current forecasts by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predict a global mean sea-level rise of 0.4 metres by 2100 in the lowest and best-case scenario and up to 2.0 metres in more pessimistic cases. Low-lying coastal zones below 10 metres are the most vulnerable with at least 1 billion people living in areas in Asia and Africa alone (Neumann et al.). Entire nation

states in the Pacific islands such as Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands, which exist completely below 10 metres, will become uninhabitable.

Increasing climatic effects leading to ocean acidification, glacier retreat, land and forest degradation, and salinization is affecting lives both inside water as well as on land enhancing risk to various climatic hazards. This area need to be integrated in risk reduction framework with regional and global partnerships among various players across the globe to impact positively on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13, 14, 16, and 17.

Human communities have attempted to reduce the costs of disasters but continue to carry out a policy that encourages development in vulnerable areas of the world. With threats imposed by climate change, it can be seen that many communities are subject to increasing levels of risks and can achieve sustainable development through suitable informed planning, protection, and mitigation and recovery strategies. These strategies for enhance community resilience to hazards must be based on research that integrates social, economic and environmental spheres. The work based on modeling, spatial analysis tools, remote sensing and geographical information system technology should be encouraged.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction identified seven global targets – two of these focusing on (i) Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005–2015 and (ii) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early-warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030. For achieving these targets, scientific based empirical research work should be conducted.

We are going to start pleasing journey by releasing first issue of Journal of Environmental Hazards. The current issue of the journal combines an academic understanding with an empirical approach to the disaster vulnerability and mitigation together with monitoring and forecasting and policy perspectives. Future issues of this journal will be a compilation of various papers as case studies of dealing with the (vulnerability, risk and impacts) of different scholars and organizations from various parts of world. I would like to congratulate the contributors whose papers are published in this issue and simultaneously, encourage all the concerned scholars to contribute their research papers for successive issues of the journal.