

Wednesday, 02.06.2010 | 10:30 – 12:00

Plenary 6 (WED 2.1): Risk Reduction and Prevention

Chaired and supported by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency SDC, SwissRe, Zurich, Switzerland and RMS Newark, U.S.A.

More than 200 million people are affected by earthquakes, droughts, floods, cyclones, and other hazards every year. Increased population density, environmental degradation, and global warming constrain social and economic development, keeping societies vulnerable to disasters and extreme events.

Most natural hazards cannot be prevented. However, their impact can often be reduced through appropriate measures before, during, and after the emergency. Moreover sustainable development helps to reduce the vulnerability and increases the resilience of societies. Besides measures to be taken during intervention and recovery, integral risk reduction strategies need to strengthen risk prevention measures for a technically, economically, ecologically and socio-politically consistent and sustainable development. In particular, the panel will discuss the role of technological and biological measures for prevention, organizational measures for intervention, and microfinance tools for reconstruction and recovery. It will explore the interdisciplinary nature of tools, ranging from hazard maps, early warning systems, emergency and crisis management assessments to microfinance- and insurance markets and address the role of the private sector.

Moderator:

Shah, Haresh



Obayashi Professor of Engineering Stanford University and founder RMS, Newark, USA

Professor Haresh Shah has been a pioneer in the fields of risk analysis, earthquake engineering, and probabilistic methods for over 35 years. He has served Stanford University in many capacities, including Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering and Founding Director of the John A. Blume Earthquake Engineering Center.

Haresh Shah is the author of one book, has contributed to chapters in many books and has been an author or co-author of more than 350 technical papers and reports. He has been keynote speaker at many national, international conferences and has been a regular keynote invited speaker for many corporations.

Dr. Shah received a B. E. degree (1959) from Poona University, India, and degrees of M. S. (1960) and Ph. D. (1963) from Stanford University. Prof. Shah has received many awards, including the John S. Bickley Gold Medal for Excellence Award from the International Insurance Society for his sustained and outstanding contributions to the insurance industry. Dr. Shah was given a unique award as the “Top Seismic Engineer of the 20th Century” by the Applied Technology Council/Engineering News Record.

Panellists:

Jha, Saroj Kumar



Program Manager, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery GFDRR The World Bank, Washington, USA

Saroj Kumar Jha is the Program Manager for the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) in the Sustainable Development Network of the World Bank. In his position, he provides strategic guidance and policy advice for the Bank's disaster prevention and preparedness programs. As the head of the GFDRR Secretariat, he is also responsible for managing the operations of World Bank's partnership with UN and donors for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development plans of the natural disaster hotspot countries.

Pillai, Dinesh



CEO Mahindra Special Services Group, New Delhi, India

Dinesh Pillai is the CEO of Mahindra Special Services Group (MSSG) a leading corporate risk management consulting firm that helps organizations reduce risk and enhance competitive advantage. He has been with Mahindra SSG since its inception in 2004, responsible for running the operations and overseeing implementation of client projects across all service lines.

Dinesh was instrumental in setting up the physical security consulting practice in MSSG and designed and delivered physical and environmental security solutions to a large number of clients.

A postgraduate in Electronic Engineering, Dinesh comes with rich industry experience spanning 17 years in areas such as Information security audit and implementation, physical security engineering, business process controls, enterprise solutions like ERP, Level III & Level IV process control automation software's & Information Security Audit & Implementation.

He started his career with the Tata Group and worked with the Mukund Group before joining Mahindra & Mahindra.

Dinesh Pillai is a certified BS 7799 Lead Auditor and has played a prominent role in getting various organizations certified in ISO27001 standard of Information Security.

He has shared his expertise at several national and international conferences on information security and addressed key security challenges faced by the corporate and government sector.

Schnarwiler, Reto



Head Public Sector, Swiss Re, Zurich

Reto Schnarwiler leads Swiss Re's business activities with governments, development and non-governmental organisations world-wide. As the world's leading and most diversified global reinsurer, Swiss Re offers financial services products that enable risk taking essential to enterprise and progress. The Group's position as preferred partner in the risk transfer industry is based on value propositions that comprise risk expertise, global reach, scale, diversification, very strong capitalisation and resilience over the long term. Reto Schnarwiler joined Swiss Re in 1996 as underwriter for non-traditional reinsurance solutions. He was involved in a variety of significant transactions, including one of the first securitisations of natural catastrophe risks in 1997. He then moved into a client management roles for selected clients in Africa, South East Asia, Europe and North America, before joining Fox-Pitt, Kelton, Swiss Re's investment banking arm, in New York. In 2003, he became Deputy Head of Swiss Re Group's Strategy Development team in Zurich and worked on several major group projects. In 2007, he initiated Public Sector with hubs in New York, Singapore and Zurich.

Reto Schnarwiler holds a degree in business administration from the University of St. Gall (lic.oec. HSG) in Switzerland and a MBA in Financial Services & Insurance from Leuven-Vlerick Business School in Belgium, University of Nyenrode in the Netherlands and University of St. Gall in Switzerland.

Shi, Peijun



Professor and Vice President Beijing Normal University, Beijing, P.R. China

Professor Shi Peijun is the executive vice-president of Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China and director of the State Key Laboratory of Earth Surface Processes and Resource Ecology, China. He is a member of the Expert Committee under the National Disaster Reduction Committee, housed in Ministry of Civil Affairs of China and also a member of OECD's High Level Advisory Board on Financial Management of Large-Scale Catastrophes. His research focuses on natural disaster theories and risk management. He established the system of "regional natural disaster system" which consists of "environment, hazard and society"; put forward the technological system of regional agricultural natural disaster assessment. Now he is co-chairing Integrated Risk Governance Core Science project of International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change.

**Thummarukudy,
Muralee**



UNEP Emergency Management Expert, Geneva, Switzerland

An Emergency Management Expert with over 15 years of experience in Industry and United Nations. Has been involved in assessment or follow up of most of the key disasters and conflicts in the 21st Century.

Experience in implementing projects in Indonesia, Myanmar, China, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and Liberia. Work experience in India, Brunei, Oman and Switzerland. Travelled to over 40 countries and lectured in many universities around the world.

Member of the Scientific Advisory Panel of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination Team.

Married to Ambili Menon. Currently based in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Von Daeniken,
Beat**

Head of Staff for Humanitarian Aid SDC, Berne, Switzerland

Information not available at time of printing!



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