

Editorial Preface

A Newly Born Journal of Disaster Response and Emergency Management

Dean Kyne, Core Faculty of Disaster Studies MA Program, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, USA

William R. Donner, Director of Disaster Studies MA Program, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, USA

In this editorial, we are delighted to introduce our newly established International Journal of Disaster Response and Emergency Management (IJDREM). Taking this opportunity, we would like to remind our readers of the objectives of this journal, which are to provide (1) a forum through which researchers, professionals, practitioners, policy makers, university students, and alike from multidisciplinary backgrounds—including, but not limited to, disaster studies, emergency management, social sciences, behavioral sciences, environmental sciences, engineering, geography, management, and public policy—can share emerging knowledge and disseminate study findings in all aspects of disaster and emergency studies, and (2) a means to exchange the latest ideas and concerns in the field of disaster studies. Bearing these objectives in mind, this journal publishes high quality manuscripts and studies from researchers, policy makers, practitioners, and emergency professionals from around the world. Understanding disasters from an international and comparative perspective is of special concern. The journal covers topics including, but not limited to, contingency disaster planning and management, disaster planning, disaster preparedness and mitigation, disaster recovery and sustainability, disaster response and public policy, disaster risk reduction and management, emergency management and issues, environmental disasters, environmental hazards and environmental justice, evacuation in natural disasters, humanitarian issues in disaster response, man-made and technology hazards, nuclear power emergency management, resilience and social capital evaluation, response to terror threats and disasters, risk assessment of natural and man-made disasters, social vulnerability and resiliency, and vulnerability assessment.

In the spirit of these goals, the inaugural issue begins with a manuscript examining the reduction of disaster risks through community engagement. Here Denham and Khemka highlight the importance of civic involvement and inclusion in emergency management, looking into the community engagement of the graduate students who are in a Homeland Security and Emergency Management program. Utilizing Vygotsky's model of social learning and Cultural Historical Activity Theory (CHAT), they investigate the effectiveness of a risk-reduction program of Home Fire Campaign initiated by American Red Cross (ARC). Their findings reveal that students' engagement with the ARC, emergency responders, and civil organizations yields reciprocal benefits in separate campaign events, improved program effectiveness and expansion of social capital, and deep contextualized learning experience for students.

In another contribution Das and Rahman examine the destructive force of extreme flooding using as a case study the Dinajpur flood in Northwest of Bangladesh. The authors investigate the August

2017 flood event in order to understand causes, flood time, after flood recovery, existing management practices and damage information. The study attributes the vulnerability in the region to lack of efforts to plan and implement flood mitigation strategies. A proposal for future flood management is developed based on their findings in the study.

Ghoni and Ibrahim provide a proposal to overcome challenges during emergency relief operations. In doing so, they underscore a promising technology, namely Internet of Things (IoT), in mitigating disaster risks. In their definition, the IoT is a standalone system that enables a wireless network to connect trapped survivors to the Internet or any extended network during emergency relief operations. They describe the beauty of the IoT system which could integrate heterogeneous wireless devices and different communicating technologies to end-to-end network connectivity on a cloud platform of IoT. The authors demonstrate evaluation of the effectiveness of IoT system by looking into relevant metrics including end-to-end link quality estimation, throughput, and delay.

Chaudron's contribution focuses on small disasters and developing a proposal to overcome challenges in small disasters in the library. In their investigation, the authors look into common emergencies such as burst pipes and leaky roofs in the library that could cause unexpected damages. One notion is that the two incidents are water related, but their impacts are different due to source, size, impact, recovery time, and frequency. The author argues that libraries should develop an emergency management plan for small disasters, and then develop for broader strategy for emergency events.

Last, but not least, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to associated editors for their hard work and contribution to this journal. They are, namely, Bob Bolin, Arizona State University, United States, Vincenzo Bollettino, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, United States, Rodric Bowman, Aurora University, United States, Gregory R. Ciottone, Harvard Medical School, United States, Walter Diaz, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, United States, Dushmanta Dutta, CSIRO Land and Water, Australia, Tim Frazier, Georgetown University, United States, Mohamed Hassan, Alexandria University, Egypt, Beatriz Hummell, Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, Brazil, Laura Olson, Hazard Resilience, United States, Pairote Pathranarakul, National Institute of Development Administration, Thailand, Havidan Rodriguez, University at Albany, NY, USA, Jeffrey Schlegelmilch, Columbia University, United States, Samrat Sinha, O.P. Jindal Global University, India, Tam Vu, University of Hawaii at Hilo, United States, and Dawid Wladyka, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, United States. And our sincere thanks go to editorial review board members and international advisory board members. We hope that you will continue your service to this journal development. Please kindly encourage to your colleagues, friends, and students to consider IJDREM for publishing their outstanding research work. We welcome new editorial board members.

*Dean Kyne
William R. Donner
Editors-in-Chief
IJDREM*