



**International Council
for Research and Innovation
in Building and Construction**



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CIB Encouraged Journal

International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment (IJDRBE)



Special themed issue on improving resilience of existing infrastructure and built assets against extreme weather

Call for Abstracts

Background

In recent years the world has seen a number of Extreme Weather Events (EWEs) causing large losses of life as well as significant economic losses. As a result, cumulative economic and social costs of extreme weather related events have been increasing significantly. The World Bank estimated that, in 1998, various natural disasters killed over 50,000 people and destroyed \$65 billion worth of property and infrastructure. Disasters that occur due to weather extremes affect the existing infrastructure and other built assets creating significant losses to the Government, individual households and the business sector in general. It is estimated that the global annual cost of weather damage on average is to be in the range of \$200–330 billion. The Pitt Review of 2007 discloses that there were about 200 major floods worldwide during 2007 alone, affecting 180 million people, causing 8,000 deaths and over £40 billion worth of damage and disruption.

Several studies have been initiated to assess the impact of climate change and extreme weather events on the whole of society. To name a few: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) weather scenarios, Pitt review and the Stern review. In addition to these major reports, there have also been several other reports initiated in the UK by the Association of British Insurers (ABI), The Environment agency, The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA). These reports identify the impacts of various EWEs and measures to overcome the growing problem. The Stern Review (2007), for instance, predicts that the average global temperature could rise by 2-3 degrees within the next fifty years, leading to many severe impacts such as melting glaciers, rising sea levels, decline of ecosystems etc. In addition to the gradual change of climatic conditions, climate change is expected to increase the intensity and frequency of EWEs. IPCC, in



its special report presented at its 34th session held in November 2011 stated that the frequency of hot days are likely to increase by a factor of 10 in most regions of the world and that heavy precipitation will occur more often. Given this context, it has become a necessity to enhance the resilience of infrastructure and other built assets, especially those which are vulnerable to the climate change and EWEs, in order to counteract the threat of such events and to ensure their continuous operation. More sustainable initiatives need to evolve to overcome the disruption and to enhance the adaptation and coping capacities of individual households and the business sector. In line with the special themed issue as described above, IJDRBE calls for contributions by academics, policy makers and professionals in the built environment and other multidisciplinary fields.

The special themed issue will cover the following subjects:

- Assessing resilience and adaptive capacity of existing infrastructure
- Assessing attitudes of built environment professionals to climate change induced extreme weather
- Preparing for extreme weather events – short term and long term measures
- Small and medium enterprise initiatives to cope with extreme weather
- Integrating adaptation planning into built asset lifecycle
- Assessment of risks and vulnerability to extreme weather
- Tools and techniques for more accurate extreme weather forecasting
- Stakeholder engagement initiatives for extreme weather risk management
- Policy making initiatives to manage extreme weather events.

High quality original papers with content within the scope of the stated theme are invited. All papers will be subjected to the journal's usual double-blind peer review process.

Submission

At this stage, we are calling for abstracts along with a proposed title. These will be reviewed against the themed issue scope, and IJDRBE's aim and objectives. Please refer to the Journal Website for more details www.emeraldinsight.com/ijdrbe.htm. Relevant authors will be asked to submit full papers.

Guest Editors

Any queries or abstracts should be submitted to:
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Important Dates

Deadline for abstract submission	30 January 2012
Decision and call for full papers	27 February 2012
Full paper submission	2 July 2012
Results on full paper acceptance and invite for corrections	1 October 2012
Final papers sent to the publisher	19 November 2012
Expected publication	January 2013

International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment (IJDRBE) www.emeraldinsight.com/ijdrbe.htm is the only journal to promote research and scholarly activity that examines the role of building and construction to anticipate and respond to unexpected events that damage or destroy the built environment. The journal is now indexed and abstracted in SCOPUS.

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