

Celebrating Disaster ‘Non-Events’: a Call for research papers/case studies

With global progress on effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and resilience, the world is awash with *good* news of non-events: cyclones that did not kill thousands, earthquakes where buildings did not collapse, and fires that did not kill hundreds. These massive successes often go unnoticed, however, **to continue global success and investment in DRR, these achievements must be shared.**

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted in 2015 at the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction underlined [the four priorities for action](#): 1) Understanding disaster risk; 2) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; 3) Investing in DRR for resilience; and 4) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to ‘Build Back Better’ in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

There is an urgent need to “Invest in DRR for resilience” to create preventive measures for successful ‘non-events’. Funding agencies, in both philanthropy and government need more comprehensive success measures to make informed and trusted funding decisions, yet, standard methodologies cease to exist. By sharing “non-event” case successes, decision-makers have the basis in which to invest in disaster prevention policy.

The Multi-Hazards Program under the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) in collaboration with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is calling for research papers and case studies of “Non-Events.” **The effectiveness and value of DRR measures must be supported by scientific evidence and data.**

The top two papers will be recognized by APRU and IFRC and announced at the 2020 Asia Pacific Science and Technology Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 16-17 March 2020.

Timelines/Requirements

Deadline for submission of abstract (2 pages maximum): **July 30, 2019**

The abstract must include the following information:

- 1) Background
- 2) Type of event (e.g. flooding, heatwave, landslide, drought, earthquake, etc.) and what risks had been foreseen and acted upon?
- 3) What steps were taken to prevent the event from escalating into a disaster?
- 4) What are the consequences if one of the critical steps were missed?
- 5) What were the key lessons learned?

- Abstracts should not exceed 2 pages.
- Abstracts must be submitted in English to Dr Takako Izumi (Associate Professor, Tohoku University/APRU Multi-Hazards Program Director) at izumi@irides.tohoku.ac.jp
- Selection will be conducted by APRU multi-hazards experts in collaboration with IFRC.
- The authors of the shortlisted papers will be notified in 3 weeks after the deadline of the abstract. The authors will be asked to submit a full paper by **December 20, 2019**.

Top two papers are considered for:

- ✧ a possibility to be published in an international journal “Progress in Disaster Science” (the gold open access publication fee (USD 550) will be waived)
- ✧ further promotion and strategy to highlight the research findings at regional and international levels.