

SEMINAR III
SPACE SERVING HUMANITY: DISASTER PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

TUESDAY 14 MAY 2019
CHARLES CLORE HOUSE, 17 RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON WC1B 5DR

14:00 - 14:05 Welcome

Professor David Southwood ISPL Trustees' Chairman; Past Chairman, UKSA Steering Board

14:05 - 14:20 Disaster Events and Legal Framework

Professor Sa'id Mosteshar Barrister; ISPL Director

The United Nations defines a disaster as a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society. Disasters involve widespread human, material, economic or environmental impacts, which exceed the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. The UN Remote Sensing Principles establish rules for action and support in certain disasters.

14:20 - 15:00 The Nature and Evaluation of Risk;
Role of Satellites in Disaster Management in the Philippines

James Cemmell Vice President, Government Engagement, Inmarsat; ISPL Faculty

The increase in Black Swan or Perfect Storm events defines modern risk management practice. These “unprecedented errors” need to be met with fit for purpose risk management processes, attitudes and expertise (WEF 2019). To thrive in this highly uncertain environment, businesses require the risk management community to learn from those experienced and battle hardened. The concept of a Risk Petri Dish is invoked, using a natural physical disaster, to describe a vibrant site of study for the acquisition of such learning. The concept is applied to preliminary outputs from a recent disaster response project, in a partnership between the UK and Philippines governments, with business continuity, disaster management, evaluation and design expertise.

15:00 - 15:40 Multi-hazard risk in data poor settings

Dr Faith Taylor Lecturer, Department of Geography, Portsmouth University

Rapid and informal urban growth present a challenge to access up-to-date spatial data with which to understand risk and resilience, requiring detailed spatial data on the hazard and the elements exposed. The work presented here was done as part of the Urban Africa Risk Knowledge project (www.urbanark.org) using remote sensing techniques to coarsely zone an urban area into different infrastructure typologies in a method that can rapidly and systematically be applied to a range of towns and cities across Africa to assess multiple-hazard risk to infrastructure. It will outline some of the challenges and opportunities encountered putting research into practice and building capacity in cities across the global south and discuss how satellite data can support disaster risk reduction.

15:40 - 16:10 BREAK

16:10 - 16:50 The Disaster Charter Development and Operation;
Copernicus Contribution, its Emergency Services and the Role of the Sentinel Satellites

Professor Jan-Peter Muller Head, Imaging Group, MSSL, UCL;
ESA DRAGON PI Mapping Three Gorges landslides

The Disaster Charter was formed in October 2000 and has since grown in membership and activity. It was first triggered in 2004 after the Indian Ocean tsunami. Examination of the operation of the Charter in that case illustrates the range of services and assistance provided, while considering its development and current status. The Charter now has 17 space agencies and space system operators as members and 34 contributing satellite systems including those under Copernicus.

16:50 - 17:00 Closing Comments *Professor David Southwood*

Rapporteur: *Dr Christoph Beischl* Research Fellow, ISPL