



Research, discuss, implement... The Disaster Resilience Conference

Above: Dr. Richard Haigh speaking at the opening ceremony of the International Conference on Building Resilience

The International Conference on Building Resilience. Organised by the Centre for Disaster Resilience (CDR) from the School of the Built Environment with colleagues from RMIT University Australia, and in association with UNDP Sri Lanka the Disaster Management Center, Ministry of Disaster Management, the Central Environmental Authority, Ministry of Environment and the RICS Disaster Management Commission, recently held its interdisciplinary conference, at the Sri Lankan World Heritage site, Kandalama.

Working closely with the local organisers and hosts; the Chamber of Construction Industry Sri Lanka, University of Moratuwa, University of Peradeniya, and University of Colombo, this International Conference on Building Resilience welcomed over 125 international academics, practitioners, professionals and policy makers concerned with interdisciplinary approaches to disaster risk reduction and the development of sustainable communities and cities. The conference had a particular focus on the challenges associated with reconstruction of communities in a post-war environment.

Incorporated into the programme were keynote addresses by respected government officials, leading industrialists and implementers along with distinguished local and international academics. Chief Guest, Minister of External Affairs, Hon Professor G L Peries, and Guest of Honour, Mrs Marina Mohamed, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management Sri Lanka, welcomed delegates and provided an important policy context for the subsequent debate, highlighting national priorities and action plans. They also established an expectation that the conference will

serve as an impetus for further action in helping Sri Lanka to tackle the challenge of disaster risk. With a busy and varied programme, which also featured several workshops led by leading industrialists and academics; presentation of 109 research articles and conference outcomes that will be used to support the 2010-2011 United Nations World Disaster Reduction campaign 'Making Cities Resilient', a busy and productive time was had by all.

Research knowledge gained and shared at the conference will be available to a wider audience as all accepted papers were published in the conference proceedings and selected papers will also be published in a special issue of the International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment, by Emerald Publishing.

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