

# Centre for Disaster Resilience

## Inspire in Bangladesh

**Dr Udayangani Kulatunga, a member of the Centre for Disaster Resilience, here at the University recently visited Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) in Bangladesh to understand and explore disaster management activities carried out in this country. Her visit to PSTU was sponsored by British Council's INSPIRE Exploratory research grant.**

**U**nderstanding the what, when, why and where of a disaster situation is the most important element of undertaking good research that can provide good evidence to open up solutions and fast responses which are critical to recovery post disaster. The main aim of Udayangani's visit was to explore opportunities to create a strategic partnership between Salford and PSTU in carrying out collaborative research and teaching activities. During her visit she met with undergraduate students who are currently enrolled on the BSc in Disaster Management programme which is the first bachelors' degree programme in this subject area in South Asia. Udayangani also addressed a disaster management learners and a practitioner group on the flood

management initiative. Whilst visiting PSTU she also carried out site visits in the areas affected by floods and cyclones and visited housing reconstruction activities which had developed following disasters.

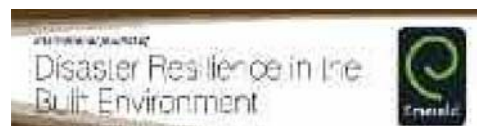
Udayangani's visit was a success and she plans to further expand her research partnership with Bangladesh and has submitted several research applications. This will help her to further expand the "disaster risk reduction" and "impact from culture on disaster risk reduction" research themes within the centre.

If you would like more information on Udayangani's research contact her at: [U.Kulatunga@salford.ac.uk](mailto:U.Kulatunga@salford.ac.uk)

**In this Centre, we're not just researching into Disaster Resilience and associated activities, were writing about it!**

Through the Centre's International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment, published by Emerald insight and Edited by the Centre's Dr. Richard Haigh and Professor Dilanthi Amaratunga, we are highlighting new and exciting knowledge, via peer reviewed papers, from colleagues across multi disciplined/multi themed research strands, colleagues from other research areas across academic institutions both nationally and internationally providing evidence based practice for the wider academic community, national and international strategic agencies, construction companies and anyone who is witnessing, aiding and developing disaster areas across the world, can utilise the research knowledge published in this journal to better prepare and develop for the future.

To visit the Journal's website go to:  
[www.emeraldinsight.com/ijdrbe.htm](http://www.emeraldinsight.com/ijdrbe.htm)



## Rics Cobra 2010 Conference

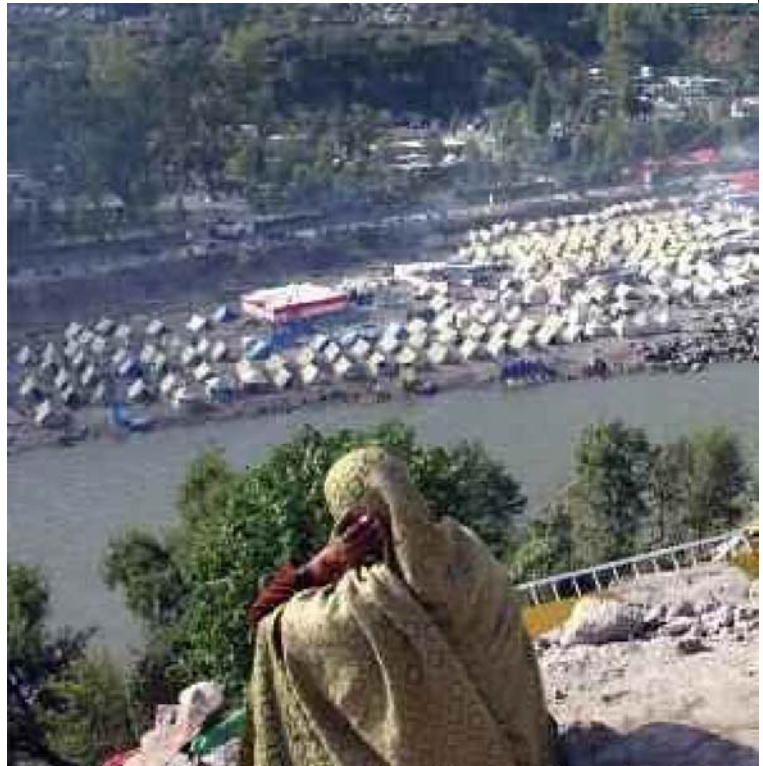
The University's Centre for Disaster Resilience, recently organised and hosted a special Disaster Management stream as part of its partnership with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) in association with the International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment, all done as part of The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' (RICS) COBRA 2010 International Research Conference. Dr Chaminda Pathirage and Dr Kaushal Keraminiyage from the Centre for Disaster Resilience at the University co-chaired the session.

**A**iming to stimulate research ideas and views by exploring a range of perspectives from which the Built Environment is able to contribute towards improved resilience to disasters, the session succeeded in bringing together many researchers and postgraduate students from around the world and by doing so the international postgraduate community presented and discussed their research in order to facilitate networking among researchers and to widely disseminate the existing knowledgebase.

This Disaster Management session attracted more than 35 scholarly written research papers and presentations relating to many themes: disaster mitigation and response; climate change and disasters; disaster resilience and risk reduction; knowledge management and disasters; skills and human resource aspects of disaster management, gender and disaster management; building design and management in reconstruction. All the research papers presented during this session have been published in the formal proceedings of the RICS COBRA 2010 conference. It was a successful session with stimulating and thought provoking papers and discussions, culminating in the highlight of two expert keynote addresses delivered by Professor Dilanthi Amaratunga, from the University of Salford, and Dr Suzanne Wilkinson, from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Two best paper awards were given by the International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment, in two categories; the experienced researcher and the postgraduate researcher.

A special themed issue using selected papers from the session will be published in the International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment, further spreading the expertise available in this area. After the success of the special stream in this year's RICS Conference the Centre plans to continue its association with RICS in holding disaster management special streams in years to come.

If you would like further information on the special stream contact: [c.pathirage@salford.ac.uk](mailto:c.pathirage@salford.ac.uk) or [k.keraminiyage@salford.ac.uk](mailto:k.keraminiyage@salford.ac.uk)



## United Nations Development Programme Recognition

**Real world research is at the ethos of the University of Salford and never more so than here at the Centre for Disaster Resilience, researchers in this Centre, don't just write about the topic from afar, they are on the ground researching and working with the people whose lives are most affected by these international disasters and, importantly, working with the agencies that have to regroup and develop devastated communities and their built environment.**

**T**he United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has endorsed the activities being carried out by the Centre for Disaster Resilience and in particular UNDP recognises the Centre's efforts in Sri Lanka, looking at its aimed capacity development for strengthened ownership and sustained results on disaster mitigation and reconstruction, its work on the development of institutional frameworks on disaster risk management (DRM) and promotion of efforts to

decentralise it and for helping to streamline various local DRM efforts under a common platform. The Centre plans to put forward a joint programme of activities together with UNDP, in order to strengthen current work and lead forward into future research and mutual programmes.

If you would like to know more about the above developments contact:

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