

NETWORK NEWS



Photograph: Family picture of representatives from 15 HEIs and associate partners involved in the ASCENT project, at the project coordination meeting in Manchester, UK

ASCENT Project Coordination Meeting in Manchester, UK

The ASCENT consortium held a coordination meeting in Manchester, UK on October 17th to 21st 2016.

The meeting was attended by representatives from each of the ASCENT consortium member institutions. Also attending the meeting, Mrs. G.D. Hemanthi Goonasekera, representing the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities as one of the associate partners of the ASCENT project.

Partners from the Asian countries presented their institutional reports on the analysis of research and innovation capacity baseline survey. Country representatives also presented the analysis at the national level. Some of the barriers to research and innovation capacity highlighted in these reports include the inadequate ICT

facilities, limited access to journals, rigid grant application procedure, lack of training, and the limited links to the industry. The reports also identified that maximising the benefit of the research hub, promoting international collaboration were also the keys to improve R&I capacity

One of the objectives of the meeting was to finalise the research training plan, based on the gaps and needs identified in the baseline survey. It was agreed that the first training event will be held in Weligama, Sri Lanka, on February 27th to March 4th 2017, hosted by the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna. The training event will include various topics on research methodologies, research supplementary skills, and university and industry relationship. The 3rd steering committee meeting will also run alongside the training event.

In addition to the face-to-face training, online sessions will also be delivered in order to maximise the impacts of the project. The online training platform will host asynchronous training courses and is made available for public. Asynchronous method was suggested by the consortium members as the best approach to online training where internet access and bandwidth are limited.

For further information on the ASCENT project, contact:

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or visit the website at
www.disaster-resilience.net/ascent.

7th International Conference on Building Resilience

Using scientific knowledge to inform policy and practice in disaster risk reduction

27-29 November 2017, Swissotel Le Concorde, Bangkok, Thailand

www.buildresilience.org/2017



The 7th International Conference on Building Resilience, with the theme 'Using scientific knowledge to inform policy and practice in disaster risk reduction', is jointly organised by the Global Disaster Resilience Centre at the University of Huddersfield in the United Kingdom, and Chiang Mai University, Naresuan University and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center in Thailand.

Reducing disaster risk is an issue cutting across different sectors, which requires trans-disciplinary and trans-boundary approaches with the support of the natural and social sciences, including for natural hazards and applied fields such as health, agriculture, economics, environment, engineering and technology. Science can and should play an important role in reducing risk and building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction charts the global course over the next 15 years. During the consultations and negotiations that led to its finalization, strong calls were made to develop practical, evidence based guidance to support implementation, ensure engagement and ownership of action by all stakeholders, and strengthen accountability in disaster risk reduction.

This conference will bring together the full diversity of the science community, policy makers, practitioners and researchers from all geographical regions, at local, national, regional and international levels to share state of the art research, and discuss how the science community will best support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The conference will also consider ways to support integration of Sendai with the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals).

Organised by

- Global Disaster Resilience Centre, University of Huddersfield, UK
- Naresuan University, Thailand
- Chiang Mai University, Thailand
- Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Thailand

In Association with

- Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities, Sri Lanka
- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
- International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment
- Advancing Skill Creation to Enhance Transformation (ASCENT), an EU Erasmus+ project partners

Contact information

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Mexico to host Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2017 in Cancun, May 22nd to 26th, 2017

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP), organised every two years, is a global forum established to raise global awareness on disaster risk reduction. The forum also serves as a platform for information exchange, discussion of latest development and updates, promoting partnership-building and knowledge sharing across different sectors.

The Global Platforms brings together participants from 172 countries, hosting representatives from national and local governments, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, mayors and parliamentarians, local communities, indigenous peoples, children and youth, persons with disabilities, and leaders from business, academia and science, under a common goal of improving the implementation of disaster risk reduction through better communication and coordination among the stakeholders.

Previous Global Platforms held in 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013 provide significant contributions towards the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). The HFA paved the way for its successor agreement, The Sendai Framework, which was adopted at the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Paris, March 2015.

“The conference aims to encourage countries and others to go beyond disaster management to addressing the risks that lead to greater losses from disasters, including poverty, unplanned urbanization, environmental degradation and poor risk governance.”

Building on this success, the ultimate function of the GP is to give stakeholders opportunity to share experience and develop strategic guideline for the implementation of global disaster risk reduction agreements: the 2005 Hyogo Framework for Action and its post-2015 successor the Sendai Framework.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction highlights the importance of the GP in forging partnership; periodical assessment of the implementation progress, best practice and knowledge sharing on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes, and investments; promoting the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors.

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) is the UN entity responsible for coordinating the organization of the Global Platform and supporting the regional platforms and Ministerial meetings on disaster risk reduction.

Before the establishment of the Global Platform for Dis-

aster Risk Reduction, an Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Disaster Reduction, led by UNISDR, met regularly between 2000-2005. The purpose of the Task Force was to serve as the main forum within the United Nations to discuss the issue of disaster reduction and in particular for defining strategies for international cooperation at all levels in this field.

This year, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) will be held in Cancun, Mexico on May 22nd to 26th. The Global Platform, as recognized by the UN General Assembly (UNGA), is the main forum at the global level for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development and the review of progress in the implementation of international instruments on disaster risk reduction.

This conference will focus on how to reduce loss of life and economic losses from disasters caused by manmade and natural hazards. Several thousand representatives of governments, international organizations and civil society are expected to attend the event, which comes at a time when millions are food insecure because of a very strong El Niño.

The conference aims to encourage countries and others to go beyond disaster management to addressing the risks that lead to greater losses from disasters, including poverty, unplanned urbanization, environmental degradation and poor risk governance.

Texts are extracted from:

www.unisdr.org and www.preventionweb.com

For more information on Global Platform DRR 2017, please visit

<http://www.unisdr.org/archive/48290>

<https://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/global-platform>

Global Platform for DRR 2017

Dates: 22-26 May 2017

Location: Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico

Contact: UNISDR

Phone: +41 229178907-8

Fax: +41 227339531

e-mail: isdr@un.org

Tallinn University of Technology Promoted the Outcomes and Achievements of the CADRE Project



Photograph: Dr. Emlyn Witt presented CADRE outcomes and achievement

A seminar was held in the Estonian capital Tallinn on the 1st of November 2016 to promote the outcomes and achievements of the CADRE (Collaborative Action towards Disaster Resilience Education) project. Stakeholders from local and national government, professional bodies, construction sector companies and academia attended the event.

CADRE is a European Union funded project that aims to address current and emerging labour market demands in the construction industry to increase societal resilience to disasters. It seeks to mainstream disaster resilience in the construction process by:

- Identifying the key knowledge gaps that must be addressed within the construction industry;
- Developing a professional doctoral programme that integrates professional and academic knowledge;
- Creating world-class curricula and modules to support the programme.

Delegates were appraised of the key knowledge gaps uncovered by the project and the methodology followed in finding them. Details of the proposed professional doctoral programme and some of the programme modules were shared and discussed at the seminar.

The event also featured presentations by representatives of government and industry highlighting disaster resilience and sustainability aspects of urban planning, construction technology and construction management.

CADRE Project Consortium:

- University of Huddersfield, UK
- Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania
- Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia
- Northumbria University, UK
- United Nations International Strategy for

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The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



 **TALLINNA TEHNIKAÜLIKOOL**
TALLINN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

 **northumbria**
UNIVERSITY

 **FSLGA**



Write for ASCENT Newsletter

The ASCENT project provides an opportunity for people to share knowledge and experience. This newsletter is written by the ASCENT membership for the ASCENT membership, and also for other readers working with national and international NGOs, UN agencies, government and donor institutions, academics, and independent consultants.

We, the Editors of ASCENT newsletter, welcome contributions from ASCENT partners and associate partners. We are also pleased to consider articles submitted by anyone involved in research capacity building within the context of disaster resilience. If you have knowledge and experience to share, please consider making a contribution.

The scope of contributions should be consistent with the aims of ASCENT. Typically, we welcome contributions in the following categories (word counts are advisory):

- News and reports from activities and events linked to the project (100 - 500 words)
- Reports on developments in the field / projects that are being investigated by partners – these do not have to be activities directly linked to the project, but should be relevant to project partner institutions (100 - 500 words)
- Useful Resources – relevant publications, websites (up to 20 - 40 words)
- Upcoming events (20 words)

We welcome suggestions for alternative types / styles of contribution. If you have an idea for an article that you would like to develop, the Editors would be pleased to discuss it with you - send an email to Dr Ezri Hayat (e.e.hayat@hud.ac.uk)

The Editors reserve the right to edit any contribution.

This edition of ASCENT newsletter was edited by Dr. Ezri Hayat

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