

NETWORK NEWS



Photograph: Family picture of representatives project coordination meeting and research colloquium participants, Weligama February 27th 2017

ASCENT Project Coordination Meeting and Research Colloquium

The ASCENT consortium held a coordination meeting and research colloquium in Weligama, Sri Lanka on February 27th to March 4th 2017.

ASCENT Project successfully concluded 6 day training program and consultative meeting held in Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka and Fisherman Bay Hotel Weligama on 4th March 2017. The inauguration ceremony of the Training Workshop & Discussion Forum 2017 was held in the S.K.Charles auditorium of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna on 27th February 2017 where more than 100 of invitees were gathered.

Senior Professor Gamini Senanayake, the Vice-Chancellor University of Ruhuna was the chief guest at the inauguration who also delivered an informative presentation related to focal areas for disaster resilience building in

Sri Lanka. Dr. Nayana Alagiyawanna Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, Professor K.L. Wasantha Kumara, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna; Principal Coordinator, Professor Dilanthi Amarathunga and co-coordinator Professor Richard Haigh of the ASCENT Project, Global Disaster Centre of University of Huddersfield and Co-coordinators of the ASCENT Project in University of Ruhuna, Professor (Emeritus) K.D.N. Weerasinghe and Professor C.M. Navaratne graced the occasion.

The main theme of discussion at the ASCENT training workshop and discussion forum 2017 was "Research Methodologies for Disaster Resilience building". There were 75 academics from University of Huddersfield and University of Central Lancashire UK, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Mid Sweden University, Sweden, Tallinn University of

Technology, Naresuan University and Chiang Mai University Thailand, BRAC University, Patuakhali S&T University and University of Dhaka in Bangladesh and Universities of Colombo, Moratuwa and Ruhuna in Sri Lanka who participated and shared experiences.

After the successfully 6 days training program and consultative meeting at Sri Lanka in March 2017, the interim report has been submitted to EU by WP2 in April 2017, whereas WP4 is currently developing a trial course in the Virtual Learning Environment platform.

For further information on the ASCENT project, contact:

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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

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Fieldworks for Master Student in Disaster Management Programme - Social Policy Analysis and Research Center (SPARC), Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo

The Social Policy Analysis and Research Center (SPARC), Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo in partnership with the School of Global Health (CSGH), University of Copenhagen organized Soca three-weeks field course for students following the Masters Programme in Disaster Management .

The field work (2017) was conducted in Ruwanmaduwa and Kiwulekada villages in the Anuradhapura district of the North Central Province of Sri Lanka. Assistant Professor Emmanuel Raju, the course leader of the Masters



“The field work (2017) was conducted in Ruwanmaduwa and Kiwulekada villages in the Anuradhapura district of the North Central Province of Sri Lanka”

appreciated the wealth of knowledge that they gained through the entire exercise and the high standards maintained by the SPARC team in organizing the

programme and for the guidance provided by Dr. Nishara Fernando and also the concise and comprehensive interpretations of the interpreters. The field training programme allowed both the partners to share knowledge and expertise on application of VCA tools, to identify unique features of the local informal disaster management systems and modes of resilience of the villagers in Ruwanmaduwa and Kiwulekada.



programme and Ms. Mariel Britanico, Program Coordinator accompanied the students in the excursion.

At the end of the training students and staff from Copenhagen University highly

Social Policy Analysis and Research Center (SPARC)

Dr Nishara Fernando
Director
website: sparc.cmb.ac.lk

Promoting Erasmus+ Project as an International Collaboration Opportunity



In 24 April 2017, Dr. Phisut Apichayakul (NU) joined as the guest speaker to share among academics in Thailand about his experience on Erasmus+ project in the “Erasmus+ Seminar and Info Day” at Chiang Mai University, which was organised by Chiang Mai University and EU Delegation.

Dr. Sarintip Tantanee (NU) was invited to participate in the Erasmus+ Regional Seminar for Asia on 23-25 May 2017, at Ho Chi Min city, Vietnam. The seminar’s objectives are to explain the opportunities for Asian countries in Erasmus+

programme as well as providing their opportunity to enhance their network. Erasmus+ is an EU-funded programme offering a wide range of opportunities for mobility of individuals, capacity building and internationalization of institutions and modernisation of higher education institutions and systems.

Complementing Erasmus+, the European Union Marie Skłodowska-Curie action also offers opportunities for researcher mobility and cooperation.



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. Sarintip Tantanee and Dr. Ezri Hayat

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