

Wednesday, 02.06.2010 | 15:00 – 16:30

Plenary 7 b (WED 5.2): ICT for Environmental Risk and Crisis Management

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have an enormous impact on the way public and private actors gather and share information, regulate access to relevant knowledge, and communicate with each other. Effectively applied within society, government, or aid organisations, ICT can significantly contribute to risk reduction and disaster management (early warning, crisis management, loss estimates, etc.), and can serve as a tool to cope with poverty and foster sustainable development. On the other hand, the growing dependencies of public governance and private sector operations on ICT has generated new types of risks that potentially undermine security, privacy and stability in many areas.

How can ICT be applied as a tool for improved risk reduction and disaster management? What is the relevance of public private partnerships? How can resilience in ICT be improved?

Moderator:

**Henschel, Thomas
R.**

Mediationsakademie Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Details not available at time of printing!

Panellists:

Hattotuwa, Sanjana *Special Advisor to ICT4Peace Foundation, Colombo, Sri Lanka*



Sanjana is a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Policy Alternatives and Head of ICT and Peacebuilding at InfoShare, located in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He read English as an undergraduate in Delhi, India and was awarded an Advanced Masters in Conflict Resolution and International Relations from the University of Queensland, Brisbane with a Dean's Commendation for High Achievement. With significant research and field experience supporting civil society processes for conflict transformation in Sri Lanka, South Asia and beyond, Sanjana is widely recognised as a leader in the design and implementation of ICTs and new media for peacebuilding.

Through work at the ICT4Peace Foundation, Sanjana explores and strengthens the use of ICTs in crisis information management and peacekeeping initiatives at the United Nations. As a Fellow of the Center for Information Technology and Dispute Resolution at the University of Massachusetts, Boston Sanjana examines and gives input into processes related to Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) and peacebuilding, with a special focus on the integration of mobiles. In 2008, Sanjana was the first Sri Lankan to be awarded the prestigious News & Knowledge Entrepreneur Fellowship from the US based Ashoka Foundation in recognition of his work in Sri Lanka to leverage citizen journalism and new media in support of human rights, peace and reconciliation. Sanjana is the founding editor of Groundviews (www.groundviews.org),

an award-winning web based citizen journalism initiative now recognised domestically and internationally as one of the most vital sites for critical dissent in Sri Lanka. He writes frequently to traditional print and web media in Sri Lanka and internationally.

Labbi, Abdel



Research Manager IBM, Zurich, Switzerland

Dr. Abdel Labbi is a research manager at IBM Research -Zurich, where he is leading several research programs in information analytics with a strong focus on operational risk management using advanced mathematical and statistical modeling technologies. Dr. Labbi received a PhD in Applied Mathematics in 1993 from the University of Grenoble, France. He then worked for several years as a researcher and lecturer at the French National Research Center (CNRS), then at the Department of Computer Science of the University of Geneva, Switzerland. He published more than 100 papers in international conferences and journals in the information analytics area, especially in statistical modeling and risk management. In 2007, he published the Handbook of Enterprise Risk Modeling, J. ross Publ.

Shah, Haresh



Obayashi Professor of Engineering Stanford University and founder RMS, Newark, USA

Professor Haresh Shah has been a pioneer in the fields of risk analysis, earthquake engineering, and probabilistic methods for over 35 years. He has served Stanford University in many capacities, including Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering and Founding Director of the John A. Blume Earthquake Engineering Center.

Haresh Shah is the author of one book, has contributed to chapters in many books and has been an author or co-author of more than 350 technical papers and reports. He has been keynote speaker at many national, international conferences and has been a regular keynote invited speaker for many corporations.

Dr. Shah received a B. E. degree (1959) from Poona University, India, and degrees of M. S. (1960) and Ph. D. (1963) from Stanford University. Prof. Shah has received many awards, including the John S. Bickley Gold Medal for Excellence Award from the International Insurance Society for his sustained and outstanding contributions to the insurance industry. Dr. Shah was given a unique award as the “Top Seismic Engineer of the 20th Century” by the Applied Technology Council/Engineering News Record.

Villacis, Carlos



***Coordinator Global Risk Identification Programme GRIP, UNDP,
Geneva, Switzerland***

More than twenty years of experience advising local and central governments worldwide and implementing multi-disciplinary international initiatives for disaster risk reduction and sound emergency response and recovery planning. Mason Fellow at Harvard University's J.F. Kennedy School of Government. Former Technical Director of GeoHazards International, a California-based non-profit organization, and Visiting Scholar at Stanford University. Dr. Villacis has implemented multidisciplinary programs in more than twenty countries worldwide. Most of these projects were implemented in collaboration with international organizations, such as the United Nations, the World Bank, USAID, NATO, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



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