

Editor's Introduction

Modern Society is a competitive society. Reducing existent costs is the ultimate goal of risk analysis and crisis response, which is an important means to enhance the competitiveness. In the present issue of Journal of Risk analysis and Crisis Response (JRACR), Volume 4, Issue 1 (2014), such efforts have been embodied in these papers.

This issue contains 6 papers, which can be divided into four categories: risk management, human health risk, and risk analysis and risk assessment.

The risk management includes three papers. The first paper "Risk Mitigation in Managing a Mega Project - A Case Study of Gomal Zam Dam Construction" by George Wang, Wei Hu and Colin Duffield, provides the background information of the Dam, the specifics of the project and challenges encountered. It also presents the countermeasures and management techniques used under the multitude of uncertainties in this mega infrastructure project, the management lessons learned during the six years construction. The second paper "Average Life Expectancy as a Criterion for Regional Risk Management" by Prof. Timashev, describes principles and methodology of average life expectancy as a criterion for regional risk management. The third paper "On Risk and Disability – Investigating the Influence of Disability and Social Capital on the Perception and Digital Communication of risk" by Jörgen Sparf and Susanna Öhman, aims to examine how disabled people's risk perception and preference for digital risk communication channels are influenced by disability in itself and by social capital. In this paper, A quantitative survey (N=6 500) was carried out in Sweden showing that while disability is not influential, social capital is. This differs from the results of previous studies on other population groups, which show that group specific factors do influence risk perception. This study suggests that due to the importance of social capital, institutions communicating risk information should build strong relationships with (local) disability associations and networks in order to communicate more effectively.

There is one paper on human health risk, "New England Compounding Center Meningitis Outbreak: A Compounding Public Health Crisis" by Bolanle A. Olaniran and Juliann C. Scholl, that focuses on assessment of the NECC Meningitis Outbreak using the Anticipatory Model of Crisis Management (AMCM). Using the AMCM principles, it was found that NECC did not engage in an adequate vigilant decision making process.

There is one paper on the risk analysis. The paper "A Cooperative Game Theoretical Approach to Risk Analysis, Using Network Structure" by Jun-ichi Takeshita and Hiroaki Mohri, introduces the framework for a cooperative game theoretical approach to risk analysis using network structure.

The risk assessment includes one paper "Review of the strengths and weaknesses of risk matrices" by Mustafa Elmontsri. Risk matrices are commonly encountered devices used for rating hazards in different areas of risk management and almost in all industries. The apparent simplicity and transparency of risk matrices have made it very popular but recent research has identified a number of mathematical defects with risk matrices. This review article looks at the development of risk matrices and provides some of the advantages and disadvantages about the three types of risk matrices. Risk matrices are helpful tools for risk assessment as they use quantitative measures to ensure consistent method of determining risk but organizations should adjust the design and size of risk matrices to suit their needs.

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