

SMART SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE EMERGENCY AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

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Abstract: This editorial article introduces the reader to vol. 43 of *Information & Security: An International Journal* containing papers presented at the 24th TIEMS Annual Conference in Kyiv, Ukraine. The volume is structured in four sections: Assessing Risks of Natural Disasters and Industrial Catastrophes; Disaster Risk and Resilience Management; Concepts and Solutions for Critical Infrastructure Protection; and Risks Related to Conflict and Contributions of the Military to Disaster Risk Management with a final section representing relevant education and training courses in Ukraine and TIEMS.

Keywords: natural disasters, industrial catastrophes, risk, disaster risk management, resilience, critical infrastructure protection, CIP, civ-mil coordination, volunteers, honeypot, TIEMS.

The 24th Annual Conference of The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS) took place in Kyiv, Ukraine from 4-7 December 2017. About 100 experts from North and South Americas, Europe and Asia participated for the first three days of the conference and many attended the guided tours on the fourth day to the Chernobyl exclusion zone: the Chernobyl nuclear power station and the Duga-3 radar installation which is known in the West as the Russian Woodpecker (Chernobyl-2) as well as the medical and emergency centre in Kiev. There were 62 oral and poster presentations and a small technical exhibition. Experts exchanged the latest scientific results and practical experience in emergency management, disaster risk reduction and the increasing environmental risks of the war-torn Donbas region in South-Eastern Ukraine.

Authors of selected papers were invited to contribute to a special issue of *Information & Security: An International Journal (ISIJ)*. This volume is the result of our efforts, with two issues, structured in four sections.

The first section presents advanced methods and tools for assessing risks of natural disasters and industrial catastrophes. The section includes four articles presenting respectively the use of:

- network models to analyse the vulnerabilities of an urban natural gas pipeline network system on the example of Beijing's gas pipeline system;¹
- remote sensing methods to map secondary pollutant redistribution and thus refine the landscape-morphological regionalization of a particular region of Ukraine;²
- longitudinal data from satellite-based radar interferometry to map geodynamic risks in an urban area;³ and
- mapping of neotectonics for the territory of the Ukrainian Shield to better estimate radon emanation as a source of radiation hazard.⁴

Section Two deals with disaster risk and resilience management and includes articles on elaborating approaches to reduce risk of waterborne diseases in Zimbabwe by rigorous statistical and expert analysis of vulnerabilities,⁵ the creation of a Local Safety Index to improve leisure sports safety management in Korea,⁶ and a methodology to utilise the combined effect of technical standards and legal norms towards resilient infrastructure and sustainable development of settlements.⁷

The third section includes three articles by Ukrainian authors analysing the progress and the challenges of introducing in practice the concept of critical infrastructure protection (CIP). In the first article Dr. Oleksandr Sukhodolia from the National Institute of Strategic Studies⁸ of Ukraine describes the development of the concept and the challenges in its implementation in view of the variety of stakeholders and the multitude of competing security agendas.⁹ In his focus is the Green Paper on CIP,¹⁰ elaborated with international assistance. The second article is by the same author, providing overview of the organisation and the outcomes of a table-top exercise intended to facilitate the understanding of the concept underlying Ukraine's Green Paper on CIP and the requirements for multiagency cooperation in its implementation in the particular instantiation of critical energy infrastructure protection.¹¹

Section Four looks into risks related to conflict, cyberattacks and contributions of the military to disaster risk management – issues that are usually beyond the focus of emergency managements and yet may be of crucial importance for a successful resolution of a crisis. It starts with a comprehensive treatment by Valeri Ratchev and Todor Tagarev in the EU DRIVER project¹² of the evolving legal, policy frameworks,¹³ modalities and specific capability contributions of armed forces to disaster response and relief operations.¹⁴ The next article looks into the crucial role played by

volunteers in zones of armed conflict building on experience in Syrian refugee camps in Jordan.¹⁵

As usual, the Monitor section wraps up this volume with presentation of the experience of Ukraine's Taras Shevchenko in educating first line emergency managers in geomatics¹⁶ and presentation of TIEMS – The International Emergence Management Society.

References

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