

Plenary speech



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Dr Kaushal Keraminiyage is an academic working at the Global Disaster Resilience Research Centre at the University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom. He has completed his doctoral studies in 2010 and he has been an active researcher within the disaster resilience research domain for more than 12 years. He has authored more than 100 publications, including book chapters, refereed journal articles, refereed conference papers and various high impact reports. Dr Keraminiyage is currently the principal investigator and a co-investigator of number of externally funded research projects within the disaster resilience subject domain, and many of his research projects are in collaboration with Sri Lankan higher education and other institutions. He has got significant experience organizing high profile research conferences at various international locations creating strong links with various Built Environment and Disaster Management experts and stakeholders. To date, 3 PhD students have completed their doctoral studies successfully under Dr Keraminiyage's supervision. He is also currently supervising a number of PhD studies, and engaged in conducting PhD assessments. He has been invited to conduct number of guest lectures at international academic and practitioner forums and facilitated number of doctoral training programmes both nationally and internationally and is a keen supporter of open source software and educational resources. In his research, he is keen to utilize his knowledge to investigate post disaster resettlement issues, complexities of built environment related projects, infrastructure interdependencies, process capability maturities and virtual collaborative environments.

Synopsis

Internal displacement is an inevitable consequence of disasters, which is a key consideration in disaster mitigation strategies. In the recent decades, disaster induced internal displacements occur in greater number across the world. In order to minimize the causes and attenuate the consequences of these displacements, governments and other concerned entities involve themselves in the process of resettlement to different degrees. However, the large-scale resettlements are often criticized for not addressing the long-term expectations of the affected communities. Long term satisfaction of disaster affected communities is a complex matter with so many interconnected variables. Success of a disaster affected resettlement programme not only depend on the expectations of the resettled communities, but also that of the host communities. This dynamic relationship makes the matter of long term satisfaction even more complex. Based on a series of studies conducted in Sri Lanka, the speaker attempts to explain the nature of this complex phenomena, using the concept of agent based simulation, in a bid to help relevant authorities to make informed decisions on planning and implementing successful resettlement projects.