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# Disaster Management and Human Health Risk II

Reducing Risk, Improving Outcomes

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## Preface

The second International Conference on Disaster Management was reconvened in 2011 in Orlando, Florida following the success of the first meeting held at the Wessex Institute of Technology in the New Forest, UK. Florida is no stranger to the increasing number of natural disasters affecting millions of people around the world, having periodically suffered the ravages of hurricanes, with a recent disastrous sequence of four hurricanes delivering devastating blows to the State from both Gulf and Atlantic coasts in 2004. Most recently, Florida's economy was seriously affected by the Deep Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in spite of its coastline being mostly spared from any major damages.

The Conference attracted outstanding contributions from researchers throughout the world. The collected works, published in this book, reflect the excellent work of all contributing authors and the care taken by the Scientific Advisory Committee and other colleagues in reviewing the presentations.

The modern world faces a wide spectrum of threats from human-made disasters that can be attributed to the failure of strained and antiquated industrial and energy installations as well as the deliberate sabotage from terrorists and vandalism during violent political upheavals. Added to this is the ever present threat from natural causes ranging from biological pandemics to earthquakes and Tsunamis.

The most recent tragic event is the Sendai 9.0 magnitude earthquake and the ensuing Tsunami that struck Japan resulting in devastating loss of life and property. Thousands of people lost their lives in one state alone with the numbers soaring as of the writing of this preface. Characterized as Japan's most severe crisis since WWII, this disaster is compounded with the threat of major failures and explosions at Japan's nuclear facilities. It is to the victims of the Sendai disaster and to the Japanese people that we dedicate this conference.

The Editors  
Orlando, USA, 2011



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