

An International Conference on
**Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after
Disasters in China: Best Practices and Lessons
Learned**

November 15-16, 2012

An event of the

Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters

John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies

University of Massachusetts Boston, USA

&

China Program Center

University College

University of Massachusetts Boston, USA

Conference location:

University of Massachusetts Boston, USA

Conference partners and collaborators

Renmin University, Beijing, China; Sichuan University, Chengdu, China; Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China; Shanghai Jiaotong University, Shanghai, China; Dalian University of Technology, Dalian, China; Ritsumeikan Research Center for Sustainability Science, Japan

The Context

On November 8, 2011, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlström, noted that China “experienced more major reported disasters” in 2010 than any other country. They included successions of severe droughts and dust storms in Yunnan, Guizhou, Guangxi, Sichuan, Shanxi, Henan, Shaanxi, Chongqing, Hebei and Gansu; the Yushu earthquake; and, floodings and landslides in Guizhou and Gansu, which affected more than 230 million people in 28 provinces, municipalities and regions as well as the evacuation of 15.2 million people.

Conference Objectives

The central goal of this conference is to examine best practices and lessons learned in reducing the socio-economic impact of various forms of disasters on vulnerable communities in China and to share these with the international community. For example, UNICEF has noted that children usually represent over “50 to 60 per cent of those affected by disasters, whether through loss of life or from diseases related to malnutrition and poor water and sanitation - conditions that are exacerbated by disasters.”

Presentations at this conference will focus on the themes listed below with a view to providing insight into what has worked in China under specific post-disaster conditions that could be improved upon and appropriately applied to reconstruct safe and sustainable communities in other parts of the world. Recommendations from the conference would provide policy advice and practical assistance which should improve the efficiency and effectiveness of reconstruction policies as well as the monitoring of implementation processes and outcomes everywhere.

Suggested Conference Themes

- Sustainable Land use Planning Mechanisms, Traditional Mitigation Practices and Public Policies for Managing Floods and Floodplains
- Culture-based Post-disaster Support Mechanisms for the Poor
- The Role of Public/Private Sector Partnerships in Reducing the Impact of Natural Hazards and Other Types of Disasters on Vulnerable Communities in China
- The Role of Chinese Entrepreneurs, Commerce, Industry and Community Participation in Disaster Risk Reduction and the Improvement of Local Disaster Resilience
- The Role of Chinese Media
- Strategies for Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into Business Planning and Physical Risk Management Practices in China
- The Role of Chinese Policy-makers and Community-based Grassroots Organizations in Pre- and Post-Disaster Urban and Rural Development and the Reconstruction of Infrastructure, Public health, and Schools
- Housing Finance Instruments Before and After Disasters
- The Roles of Women, Children, the Elderly and the Disabled in Post-Disaster Reconstruction
- Post-Disaster Urban Reconstruction Policy Formulation and Implementation Processes
- Assessments of Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Efforts by Multilateral Agencies in China
- Reinforcement of Existing Building Design and Regulations in China's Cities and Towns in Order to Make the Buildings Earthquake-proof
- The Response of International Humanitarian Agencies to Disasters in China
- International Case Studies of Best Practices in Post-Disaster Reconstruction
- Post-disaster participatory planning, housing, and community reconstruction programs and projects

There will be a special session on "3/11 Disaster and Its Rescue and Post-Disaster Rebuilding in Japan"

Who should attend?

We welcome interdisciplinary approaches and proposals presented by scholars, researchers, public policy makers, governmental representatives and Non-Governmental Organizations from China and other countries globally.

Submission of abstracts and papers (extended)

- Abstracts will be accepted in English (simultaneous translation will be provided during the event)
- Abstracts (200 words); and, a Biographical sketch (150 words) should be sent as e-mail attachments (in Word format) to: crscad@umb.edu
- In the subject line of the e-mail, please write "CRSCAD NOVEMBER 2012 CONFERENCE"
- Deadline for the submission of abstracts – September 1st, 2012
- Notification of acceptance of abstracts – September 30th, 2012

Registration fee: US\$300.00

It does not include accommodation in Boston or ground transportation. The fee should be paid (in US funds) by international money order, Credit Card or a check drawn on a United States bank and payable to "University of Massachusetts Boston."

For disability-related accommodations, including dietary accommodations, please go to www.ada.umb.edu

For further information about the workshop, please go to:
http://www.umb.edu/crscad/events/china_2012/ or call 617.287.7116

