
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Jean-Luc Wybo is Professor at Ecole des Mines de Paris and Ecole de Chimie de Paris. He holds an Engineering degree and a PhD from the University of Nice. He is Director of the MSc programme in Industrial Risk Management. His research fields are safety culture, prevention of crises and organisational learning.

In this second issue of IJEM Volume 3, nine countries are represented. The papers present a wide spectrum of emergency management matters, from simulation models to practitioners' point of view, from national planning in China to the management of individual experience in mining organisations. This diversity in the nature of contributions to IJEM is encouraged to support academics and practitioners in addressing the complexity of emergency management activities.

Zhong *et al.* (China) introduce the current state of emergency management in China. They give us an opportunity to know more about the recent evolution of China. The paper presents an overview of the different aspects of emergency management: regulations for work safety and prevention of major industrial accidents, planning and preparedness at national and regional levels, state of research and future developments.

Bertsch and Raskob (Germany) tackle the important problem of transparency in decision-making. With the increase of media and public demand for information and justification from authorities, methods are required to assess how decisions are taken. The authors discuss these matters and propose an application in the nuclear industry.

Jungert *et al.* (Sweden) present an analysis of some key aspects of crisis management, in order to assess requirements for decision support systems. They then introduce a computer architecture fitted to the current organisation of crisis management, based on a network of stakeholders cooperating in uncertain situations.

Kanno and Furuta (Japan) present a simulation model of an emergency management organisation, seen as a single entity with a cognitive process of input-decision-action cycle. The authors use this model to develop computer agents in a multi-agent simulator. The emergency response of the whole organisation is simulated by interactions among, and activities by, various types of organisation agents. Test simulations are carried out using the scenario of an actual emergency exercise for an earthquake disaster.

Roed-Larsen and Stoop (Norway and The Netherlands) present an overview of the recent evolution in the field of accident investigation. The authors have identified a series of trends: distinction between juridical inquiries to assess responsibilities and accident investigation to identify sources of improvements, extension of analysis from causes to resilience, and finally the development of victim care and family assistance.

Vaught *et al.* (USA) address the question of conservation and management of knowledge in risk-prone activities such as mining. Nowhere has this outflow of employees and expertise had a greater impact than in the mining organisations' ability to respond to emergencies. This paper argues that a knowledge management approach can be used to prepare future mine emergency responders, using stories of past emergencies.

Robert *et al.* (Canada) present a paper dealing with the assessment of damage caused by floods. Their method takes into account various types of damage associated with the potential magnitude of the event. This way, managers have the opportunity to participate in the assessment of the intensity/damage curves that may facilitate their decisions about protective actions.

Graham and Spennemann (Australia) present an important problem that is rarely at the centre of emergency management: the consequences of disasters on cultural heritage. The authors have used a postal survey sent to a number of cultural heritage managers in Australia. The quantitative data obtained through the survey provides an opportunity to identify and investigate a number of attitudinal barriers.

Normand (Canada) is a typical example of a highly committed emergency manager, involved in the prevention and mitigation of emergencies and accidents at the community scale. In his paper, he introduces in his enthusiastic tone, some of the key points to ensure success in such a job.