
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Yi-Ming Wei is a Professor at the Institute of Policy and Management of the Chinese Academy of Sciences; and he was a visiting scholar at Harvard University in the USA in 2005.

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We very much value and appreciate the invitation from Editor-in-Chief Dr. Mohammed A. Dorgham in 2004 to serve as Guest Editors for the special issue of the *International Journal of Risk Assessment and Management* on Integrated Disaster Risk Management in the Asia-Pacific region. It is now our proud privilege to present this special issue. Our sincere thanks are due to the individual authors, anonymous reviewers, and the Journal's editorial team and staff for their invaluable contributions and efforts that has made this special issue possible. We wish to extend our sincere thanks to Professor Ying Fan, and Mr. J.T. Zhang for their kind help and suggestions. The support from NSFC under the grant No.70425001 is greatly acknowledged.

Recognising that effective disaster mitigation is crucial for human security, poverty alleviation and sustainable and equitable economic growth as well as environmental and resource sustainability in the Asia-Pacific region, the purpose of this issue is to promote, exchange, and disseminate research in various disaster risk management fields. Twelve papers that cover a variety of methods and tools for disaster risk assessment have been selected. This perspective is based on global trends in the 21st century towards integrated disaster risk management, anticipatory and proactive approaches for disaster reduction in the Asia-Pacific region, recent innovations in disasters mitigation planning and management, and case studies with contrasting disasters. Various kinds of natural hazards and disasters such as flood, geological hazard and meteorological disasters are discussed. Models and tools adopted to address the issues of risk management include

Decision Support System (DSS), Spatial Computable General Equilibrium (SCGE), Extreme Value Theory (EVT) and Genetic Algorithms (GA).

We sincerely hope that this special issue will help our readers to understand various risk management issues related to natural hazards and disasters and sustainable development of Asia-Pacific countries in the 21st century, and that it will provide valuable policy and managerial insights for practitioners, academics and policy makers.