

SMART VILLAGES

AND RESILIENCE TO NATURAL DISASTERS

5 MAY 2016

Asia Research Institute Seminar Room, National University of Singapore



Photo © Jonathan Rigg

WWW.E4SV.ORG | WWW.ARI.NUS.EDU.SG

REGISTRATION | RSVP TO VALERIE.YEO@NUS.EDU.SG

Organised by



This workshop is organized and funded by the Smart Villages Initiative (www.e4sv.org), and hosted by the Asian Urbanisms Cluster of the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore.

The concept of 'smart villages' is intended as a rural analogue to 'smart cities' recognizing that nearly fifty percent of the world's population and seventy percent of the world's poor live in rural areas, and that we should have a similarly ambitious vision of development. In smart villages, energy access together with other key infrastructure accelerate the development of education and healthcare services, provision of clean water and sanitation, availability of nutritious food, and the establishment of productive enterprises bringing new sources of income into the village. Underpinned by technological advances, such developments provide substantial improvements in well-being and life opportunities, and a more equitable choice between remaining in rural communities and migrating to cities.

Being 'smart' should increase the resilience of villages to natural disasters. But does it, and if so, in what circumstances? This one-day workshop will address the following consequent questions:

1. How should we define resilience to natural disasters for rural communities?
2. What characteristics of a smart village could contribute to its resilience?
3. In developing the infrastructure of a smart village, particularly its energy services, how can we ensure that it supports achievement of the desired level of resilience?

The workshop will aim to promote active discussion around key issues concerning smart villages and resilience to natural disasters in Asia, as well as draw out messages relevant to academic researchers and to policymakers and make recommendations for future research questions.

CONVENORS

Dr John Holmes

University of Oxford & Smart Villages Initiative (www.e4sv.org)
E | john.holmes@earth.ox.ac.uk

Dr Terry van Gevelt

Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge, UK
E | tav22@cam.ac.uk

Prof Jonathan Rigg

Asia Research Institute & Department of Geography, National University of Singapore
E | jonathan.rigg@nus.edu.sg

Dr Michelle Miller

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
E | arimam@nus.edu.sg

SECRETARIAT

Ms Valerie Yeo

Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
E | valerie.yeo@nus.edu.sg

5 MAY 2016 (THURSDAY)	
09:45 – 10:00	REGISTRATION
10:00 – 10:30	WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
10:00	The Smart Village Concept John Holmes University of Oxford, UK
10:15	Defining Resilience in the Context of Natural Disasters Jonathan Rigg National University of Singapore
10:30 – 12:00	PANEL 1 – VIEWS FROM THE FRONTLINE: EARTHQUAKES, FLOODS AND DROUGHT
<i>Moderator</i>	Michael Douglass National University of Singapore
10:30	Alan Ziegler National University of Singapore Gopi Krishna Basyal National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), Nepal Alfred Arunkumar Kasam Agricultural Institute, India Mousumi Pervin Practical Action Bangladesh
11:30	DISCUSSION
12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH
13:00 – 14:30	PANEL 2 – STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF RURAL COMMUNITIES
<i>Moderator</i>	Michelle Miller National University of Singapore
13:00	Estuning Mei Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia Shorna Allred Cornell University, USA Tariq Zaman Universiti Malaysia Sarawak
14:00	DISCUSSION
14:30 – 15:00	COFFEE BREAK
15:00 – 15:30	DOCUMENTARY SCREENING – ICHIRO AND THE WAVE
<i>Moderator</i>	Isaac Kerlow Earth Observatory of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University
15:00	Ichiro and the Wave presents a unique and inspirational experience by a tsunami survivor. He was fishing near the coast of Banda Aceh, Indonesia, when the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami struck his boat. Stranded on an island during the devastation he wondered if he would ever see his family again. Not too many people have survived being so close to a tsunami. Ichiro's outlook remains remarkably positive in spite of having lost dozens of his extended family members.
15:10	DISCUSSION

15:30 – 17:00	PANEL 3 – LINKING ENERGY ACCESS WITH RESILIENCE
<i>Moderator</i>	Terry van Gevelt University of Cambridge, UK
<i>15:30</i>	Dipendra Bhattarai Practical Action Nepal Wendy Guerra International Consultant
<i>16:30</i>	DISCUSSION
17:00 – 17:10	BREAK
17:10 – 17:40	IDENTIFYING POLICY MESSAGES AND FUTURE RESEARCH QUESTIONS
<i>Moderator</i>	John Holmes University of Oxford, UK
17:40 – 17:50	CLOSING REMARKS
	Bernie Jones Smart Village Initiatives Jonathan Rigg National University of Singapore
17:50	END OF SYMPOSIUM