

Taking Stock and Taking Action: Disaster Research and the Challenges Ahead

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In 1991, G.J. Hoetmer wrote in the introduction of the text book *Emergency Management: Principles and Practices for Local Government* stating “emergency management is the discipline and profession of applying science, technology, planning, and management to deal with extreme events that can injure or kill large numbers of people, do extensive damage to property, and disrupt community life. When such events do occur and cause extensive harm, they are called disasters”.

Since the last celebration of the Disaster Research Center of 2004, our global society as experienced horrific natural, technological and manmade events such as the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami killing over 230,000 people in fourteen countries; the tsunami of 2011 destroying coastal communities of Japan’s Sendai region with complicating radioactive fallout from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant; the killer hurricanes Katrina and Sandy during 2005 and 2012 respectively, and the Deep-water Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Let us not forget the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the constant terrorist attacks and senseless gun violence here and abroad.

Also since 2004, we have seen new policies such as the National Disaster Recovery Framework, the National Mitigation Framework, and the upcoming National Prevention Framework and the National Preparedness Framework along with state and local policy procedures. Technological advances since then have brought to society Mark Zuckerberg’s Facebook founded in 2004 in his Harvard University dorm room; Jack Dorsey’s Twitter of 2006; the I-phone of 2007, and the I-pad of 2010, all of which have revolutionized the way our society communicates.

**SO WHAT IS YOUR DEAL?! WHO WOULD TAKE STOCK IN IT? WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?
WHAT IS THE RETURN ON INVESTING TIME AND FUNDS?**