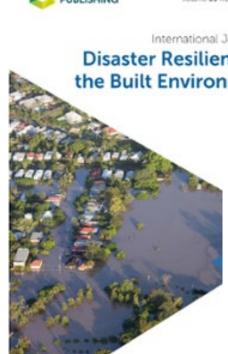
International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment

- Special issue in memory of Professor Samantha Hettiarachchi
- Guest Editor Priyan Dias
- Call for papers in 2019; Published in 2020, Volume 11, Issue 2
- 9 research articles & 1 editorial
- Approximately 5,600 downloads
- 2 research articles have already been cited in 10+ other articles





International Journal of

Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment

Guest editorial

Guest editorial

Early warning systems to reduce tsunami impacts

Professor Samantha Hettiarachchi, PhD (Lond), DIC, was a Senior Professor in Civil Engineering at the University of Moratuwa, and a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, Sri Lanka (NASSL). He made exceptional national and international contributions in the areas of coastal engineering, coastal zone management and disaster risk reduction. He was the Vice-Chairman and Acting Chairman of the steering group that installed the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWS), collaborating with 26 Indian Ocean rim states under the auspices of UNESCO/IOC, Under his leadership UNESCO/IOC produced a definitive guideline on Tsunami Risk Assessment, now in its second edition (UNESCO, 2015), In Sri Lanka, his expertise was used by Coast Conservation Department, the Lanka Hydraulic Institute (LHI), the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) and the National Science Foundation. He was consulted by the Governments of Indonesia and Oman, in

addition to that of Sri Lanka. Professor Hettiarachchi died at the relatively young age of 62 in April 2018, after a courageous battle against cancer. This special issue is meant to celebrate his life and work. It is appropriate that this gedenkschrift is carried in IJDRBE, because he collaborated very closely with its Chief Editors, being an editorial board member from its inception. He was also a keynote speaker at the 3rd International Conference on Building Resilience at Ahungalla in 2013, a conference series that is closely associated with this journal. The issue will be launched, fittingly in partnership with UNESCO too, at the 9th conference in the series to be held in Bali in January 2020. The actual call for papers was issued at a memorial lecture in Prof Hettiarachchi's honour, delivered in Colombo by Professor Eduard Kissling, Professor of Geophysics at ETH Zurich, under

There are nine contributions in this issue, titled Early Warning Systems for Reducing Tsunami Impact. Three of them are from Sri Lanka, which is to be expected given Prof Hettiarachchi's rootedness in his home context. However, there are others from Japan, Canada, Indonesia and Sweden; and two from the United Kingdom. The UK is where Prof Hettiarachchi engaged in most of his initial academic collaborations. He obtained his doctorate from Imperial College London working under Prof Patrick Holmes, in the course of which he developed links with HR Wallingford; and subsequently worked for a year in the Maritime Engineering Group of Ove Arup and Partners, London, It is only after the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 that he broadened his travels and interactions, many of which are reflected by the author affiliations in this issue.

Japan is a country that extended significant technical assistance to Sri Lanka soon after the tsunami. The Canadian paper is from the University of Calgary (jointly with LHI), which launched the International Institute for Infrastructure Resilience and Reconstruction (IIIRR), largely spearheaded by some Sri Lankan academics there. Indonesia is a key country that was involved in the IOTWS. The Swedish Lund University link is thanks to the European Union funded seven-country ASCENT project, intended to strengthen research and innovation capacity for the development of societal resilience to disasters. This project was led by Professors Dilanthi Amaratunga and Richard Haigh of Huddersfield University, who are the joint chief editors of IIDRBE and authors in two of the papers herein. Many of the other authors are Professor Hettiarachchi's students, two of them full professors - one at the



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- In 2021, we issued another call for a special issue on *Technology* enabled tsunami early warning: opportunities, gaps, barriers and challenges
- We did not receive enough papers to justify an issue
- However, after peer review, 3 related papers were accepted and are being published in regular issues





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153