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The Institution of
Structural Engineers

International Association
for Bridge and
Structural Engineering



Global Alliance for
Disaster Reduction



MONASH University



International Strategy
for Disaster Reduction

Joint Working Commission for Disaster Reduction on Coasts

MISSION

The most massive operation of disaster relief and reconstruction of all time followed the earthquake and tsunami of 26th December 2004. The reconstruction has proceeded with limited guidance on how best to reduce the impact of future tsunamis or other natural hazards to an acceptable level. It is estimated that expenditure on disaster risk reduction *before* disaster strikes is seven times more cost effective in saving lives and restoring normality to affected communities.

Recognising that coastal communities are subjected to more intense hazards of meteorological origin than others, in addition to the hazards of inundation and rising sea levels (from global warming) unique to coasts, the Joint Working Commission on Disaster Reduction on Coasts was formed soon after the disastrous tsunami of 2004.

The JWC is supported by

- the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN ISDR)
- the Global Alliance for Disaster Reduction (GADR)
- the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE)
- the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE)
- Engineers Australia (EA)
- Monash University, Melbourne Australia

The JWC has the mission to produce a *Guide to Disaster Reduction on Coasts* which can be used to reduce the impact of natural hazards *before* they occur. A committee with international members currently from Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Pakistan and Thailand and an even wider spread of consultants and links to research institutes has been formed to develop the *Guide*. The primary expertise is in structural, coastal and risk engineering, and management.

The format of the *Guide* will be consistent with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, in which “Sustainable development, poverty reduction, good governance and disaster risk reduction are mutually supportive objectives.” A *Guide* in three tiers appropriate to local communities, regional governments and professionals is envisaged in order to achieve the necessary community consultation and consensus necessary to achieve the objective of disaster reduction. The development of the *Guide* will be complemented by trial implementation in selected coastal communities with the assistance and cooperation of regional government and NGOs.

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