



**THE SOCIETY FOR
EARTHQUAKE AND
CIVIL ENGINEERING
DYNAMICS**

AN ASSOCIATED SOCIETY OF THE
INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS



**WIND
ENGINEERING
SOCIETY**

EVENING MEETING

AT THE

**INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
ONE GREAT GEORGE STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON SW1P 3AA**

ON

**WEDNESDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2006 AT 6PM
DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

SPEAKER

JEREMY LARKEN

Octo

HELEN SHANNON

Octo

BRIAN LEE

PORTSMOUTH UNIVERSITY

CHAIRMAN

ANDREW CHAN

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

SYNOPSIS OVERLEAF

NON-MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Please note that there is no charge to attend.
Seats are allocated on a first come, first served basis.
Tea and biscuits will be served from 5.30pm - 6pm.

For further information please contact Pauline Arundel, Engineering Dept, at the ICE on
Tel: 020 7665 2236, or **Fax** 020 7799 1325 or **Email:** Pauline.arundel@ice.org.uk
Visit the SECED website at <http://www.seced.org.uk>

JEREMY LARKEN, DSO

OCTO

Disasters, natural and man-made, are a periodic global fact of life.

Jeremy will review practical approaches to:

- ▶ Disaster planning: scale, national, international perspectives.
- ▶ Public education: unreality and illusion; politics, reality.
- ▶ Warning practicalities: aim to save life and limb.
- ▶ Getting a grip – Leadership, resources, deployment, organisation.

HELEN SHANNON

OCTO

Most disasters individually are very low probability events. Yet they beset us, and will continue to do so. There is increasing consensus that global warming will add new dimensions. **How do we conduct useful Hazard Analysis and Risk Assessment?**

Some disasters are 'Unlikely' (say once every 10-100 years) or 'Likely' (every 5-10 years) – examples are Katrina / New Orleans and major earthquakes in areas of seismic activity. Others are Very or Extremely Unlikely, such as Pan Am Flight 103 falling on Lockerbie, but they occur.

Drawing upon work she has completed recently for the Government of Ireland, Helen will describe a practical approach to regional risk and how to use it sensibly - a sound methodology for the user that is true also to the mathematical complexities liable to be involved.

BRIAN LEE

PORTSMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Katrina – 5 months on: based on a tour of the New Orleans area on January 18th and 19th 2006

This talk will start with a review of the wind and storm surge conditions that actually occurred at the time that Hurricane Katrina made its landfall on August 29th 2005. From this review it is apparent that the storm surge on the Mississippi coast was comparable with that of the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004. It is also interesting to note the admission by the US National Hurricane Centre on December 20th 2005 that actual wind speeds at landfall were lower than those claimed at the time.

The talk will then present an overview of current building and infrastructure conditions in urban New Orleans and in the Mississippi Gulf coast area. Recovery is clearly proceeding at a remarkably slow pace and much evidence still exists which demonstrates the impact of the storm. Many questions remain to be answered about the decisions made at the time of the hurricane.