

Editor's Introduction

The present issue of *Journal of Risk analysis and Crisis Response (JRACR)*, Volume 2, Issue 1 (2012) contains 8 papers. The former 5 contributions are written in English and others in Chinese with English abstracts. The papers can be divided into five categories: natural disaster, environmental risk, crisis management, industry safety and investment risk.

There are three papers in the first category, the paper “Volcanic Risk Perception, Locus of Control, Stress and Coping Responses of People Living Near the PopocatÉPetl Volcano in Mexico” by Esperanza López-Vázquez and Maria Luisa Marván, presents the difference between coping strategies of people living near the Popocatépetl volcano in Mexico. The residents with a limited educational background were more likely than those with higher education to use passive coping strategies. The paper “A Study on Residents’ Risk Perception in Abrupt Geological Hazard” by Anping Pan, carried out a questionnaire survey in Qingyuan County of China to understand residents disaster perception and actual evacuation behaviors. The results show that most of the population considers that their possessions and services would be affected. 54.9% residents in geological hazard risk believe their lives will be threatened. The paper “Research on Risk Assessment and Regionalization of Forest and Grassland Fires” by Li, Wu, Lv and Zhang, suggests a risk regionalization of grassland fire in Inner Mongolia. The authors consider rule of fires, distribution of high temperature points, characteristic of distribution of vegetation types, and the extent of road coverage.

The second category, the “Environmental Pollution and Human Health Risks near a Hazardous Waste Landfill. Temporal Trends” by Rovira, Mari, Schuhmacher, Nadal and Domingo, presents the human health risk assessment associated to the human exposure to polychlorinated dibenzo-*p*-dioxins, dibenzofurans and metals for the population living near a hazardous waste landfill in Catalonia, Spain. The current health risks in the area were within acceptable ranges, but it is recommended to continue the monitoring.

The paper in the crisis management category is “How Crises Model the Modern World” by Lagadec and Topper. The authors believe that “black swans” are increasingly becoming the norm and proposed a new theoretical vision of crisis and crisis management. Their recommendations include leadership, rapid reflection force, facing the real world and the center for transatlantic relations advanced seminars.

There are two papers in the industry safety category. The first paper “Perception of Risks in Nanotechnology: Determining Key Aspects in Chile” by POZO, Schmessane and et al., provides preliminary base-line data on public perceptions about the risks associated with nanotechnology and analyzes the current development of nanotechnology in Chile and the risks associated with the incorporation of this new technology. In the country, the main risks associated with nanotechnology relate to the lack of legislation and/or

regulations in Chile in the area of science and technology. The second paper “A Method for Assessing Risk Rating of Natural Gas Pipeline Based on Accident Statistics” by Xu, Liu, Guo and Ji, analyzed 199 natural gas pipeline leakage accidents occurred in China and proposed a method to assess the natural gas pipeline risk rating.

The last category includes one paper “Evaluating of Loan Guarantees Between Parent and Subsidiary Based on Vulnerable Option” by Li, Zhou and Lei, gives the valuation model under two different security methods, theoretically analyzes the influence of such critical factors as companies asset value and equity ratio to loan guarantees’ value and provides theoretical basis for the decision-making of loan guarantees.

In 2012, more people are wondering any threats to the Earth. Yes, the Mayan calendar ends on December, 2012, but very few people believe that we are in the risk of the end of the world. Meanwhile “black swans” are increasingly becoming the norm, human risk analysis technology and crisis response capacity are growing rapidly.

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Editor-in-Chief
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