CALL FOR EXTENDED ABSTRACTS

Deadline for Submissions: January 5, 2018
https://cooperation.epfl.ch/2018tech4Dev/Call2

DO YOU HAVE AN INNOVATIVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM CASE STUDY? THEN CONSIDER SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT FOR

Session SE17-DRR
"People-centered Early Warning Systems for Natural Hazards"

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INVITED PARTICIPANTS AND SESSION FORMAT

System managers, researchers and other stakeholders with experience in people-centered EWSs for natural hazards are welcomed participants to the session, which will be structured as an interdisciplinary round-table to discuss and exchange ideas on the development and operation of such systems. Particularly encouraged is the participation of people with experience in EWSs deployed in areas of the Global South. The most significant case studies will be selected for oral presentations (10 minutes) in the first part of the session. Authors of quality extended abstracts not selected for oral presentation will be invited to present their research by means of a Poster. The session will include a final open discussion on strengths, weaknesses and lessons learned in the development of people-centered warning systems.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

This session will discuss community-based and people-centered approaches to the design, management and maintenance of early warning systems (EWSs) for natural hazards. We are seeking practitioners or researchers with experience in early warning systems for different natural hazards, e.g. floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis, in different geographical contexts. We are looking for presenters who can cover different aspects related to the innovation, development and management of efficient and effective EWSs. Case studies of operational EWSs will be expected, highlighting both the positive and the negative aspects of the systems.

SESSION ABSTRACT

Many recent international initiatives have been highlighting the importance of early warning systems (EWS) for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and community resilience. To be effective, EWSs for natural hazards need to have not only a sound scientific and technical basis, but also a strong focus on delivering to the people exposed to risk (Basher 2006). The seventh global target of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) is to "substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030". Current shortcomings in the conception and applications of EWS often undermine risk reduction at the local level (Baudoin et al., 2016). This session focuses on people-centered warning systems for different natural hazards by using an interactive and interdisciplinary round-table format and by encouraging the participation of practitioners and researchers with experience in warning systems for e.g. floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis. The discussion will be stimulated by the presentation of strengths, weaknesses and lessons learned from a series of case studies in different geographical, geo-environmental and cultural settings. Particularly encouraged are case studies for EWSs deployed in areas of the Global South.

QUESTIONS LEADING THE DISCUSSION

The session will address a number of questions that are relevant for the development and management of efficient and effective EWSs. How effective are EWSs in reducing the risk to life of the community members, compared to other DRR measures? How effective are operational people-centered EWSs, compared to more traditional top down and expert-driven systems? What are the common features and the differences of EWSs deployed for different natural hazards? How do social, economic, political and cultural factors affect the effectiveness of people-centered EWS? How do participatory approaches for designing and managing EWSs contribute to building community resilience? What are the most common errors made by practitioners in the implementation of operational people-centered EWS? What are the most effective monitoring strategies employed in people-centered EWSs? What's the role of communication and education in people-centered EWSs?

Interested?
Do not forget to submit your Abstract before January 5, 2018
Tech4Dev 2018 Online Submission System: https://www.conftool.com/Tech4Dev2018/