Strategic Pathways Towards Disaster Resilience- Leveraging National Land and Geospatial Systems

Abbas Rajabifard (Australia)

SUMMARY

The world is facing an increase in the frequency and severity of natural disaster events which threaten the social, environmental and financial foundations of communities. And while these events cannot be prevented, their impacts can be limited. One strategy to meet these challenges is to leverage resources at hand, adopting the 'create once, use many times' viewpoint. It is in this line of thinking that the research project: improving the impact of national land and geospatial systems on disaster resilience has emerged. National land administration systems are well established in many countries, housing land, geospatial information and sophisticated data management systems including SDIs. These resources already facilitate disaster risk management practices, however wider application and incorporation of this information for improved disaster resilience has not been made clear at individual country levels. This talk aims to create awareness of the benefits of improving land and geospatial integration, and to describe the inherent challenges, by providing empirical insight from a strategic World Bank project on land resilience. The talk then presents a strategic roadmap and a country action plan template to address these gaps in knowledge.

Bio:

Professor Abbas Rajabifard is Head of Department of Infrastructure Engineering and Director of the Centre for Land Administration and Spatial Data Infrastructures at the University of Melbourne. He is also Chair of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network, which is a strategic research and training arm for member states to address UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Prof Rajabifard has spent his career researching, developing, applying and teaching SDI, land administration and spatial enablement and strategies to deliver benefits to both governments and wider society. He has widely consulted and published in these areas. His current research is on the design and development of Urban Analytics Data Infrastructure to support SDGs, land resilience and smart cities and communities.