SEMINAR
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Disaster Resilience and the Role of the Construction Industry - Lessons from New Zealand

Professor Suzanne Wilkinson
Deputy Head of Department and Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at The University of Auckland

Date: October 4, 2017 (Wednesday)
Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Venue: Room 6-12B, Haking Wong Building, The University of Hong Kong

ABSTRACT
The large-scale reconstruction in Christchurch following the 2010/11 earthquakes has generated a substantial demand for construction activities and highlighted deficiencies in the resilience of the construction sector. Improving the resilience of construction organisations to natural disasters can minimise the negative consequences to their organisations and help improve recovery. Improving the resilience of construction organisations also helps to improve community resilience. This talk will explore how the New Zealand construction industry coped with disaster recovery and rebuilding in Christchurch. This presentation will argue that the construction industry lacks resilience practice, and presents ideas on what the industry could do to improve. The presentation will contend that the industry would benefit from improved resilience which could potentially enhance the industry’s capacity to recover quickly from disasters.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Suzanne Wilkinson is currently Deputy Head of Department and Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at The University of Auckland. She has a PhD in Civil Engineering (Construction Management) and a Bachelors (Hons) degree in Civil Engineering.

Suzanne works on projects in construction management, innovation, resilience and recovery, including recovery from disasters, recovery management, build back better and the management of the construction industry in disaster environments. She has extensive research experience, including over 150 international and national publications. Suzanne currently works on New Zealand Government funded projects on resilience for Auckland and the recovery of Christchurch, particularly around how the construction sector can assist disaster recovery. Suzanne also leads the construction innovation project - a study to improve innovation uptake in the NZ construction industry.

Suzanne is the Director of the Centre for Disaster Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction (www.cdrres.auckland.ac.nz), a Centre aimed at providing timely, relevant and independent research to help communities better improve resilience and manage their post-disaster activities. Suzanne is also a research leader with Resilient Organisations (www.resorgs.org.nz), a co-Director of The University of Auckland’s Urban Research Network and leader of Transforming the Building Industry Research Theme under a National Science Challenge (www.buildingbetter.nz).

- ALL ARE WELCOME -

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