



Canadian Risk & Hazards  
Network  
(Knowledge and Practice)

[www.crhnet.ca](http://www.crhnet.ca)

*HazNet*

Réseau canadien d'étude des  
des risqué et dangers  
(connaissances et pratiques)

Volume 1 No. 1 Summer 2009

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## WELCOME FROM THE CO- PRESIDENTS

Welcome to CRHNet's inaugural newsletter, *HazNet*. We hope that you will enjoy the information and articles that have been provided. It is our hope that you will take this opportunity to share the information with your colleagues and to contribute to future editions.

We are very pleased to hold the 6<sup>th</sup> **Annual CRHNet Symposium in Edmonton on November 23 to 26<sup>th</sup> 2009**. Please read about the speakers and events planned for this conference on page 11 of this Newsletter. We hope to see you there!

**Ron Kuban, Ph.D**

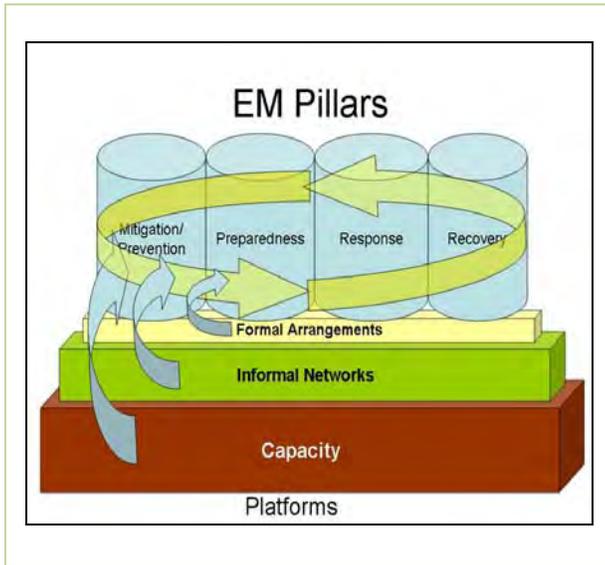
President

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Co-President

extreme examples of this, calling them fantasy documents. The figure below is a modification of the CEM cycle that also portrays the platforms upon which the pillars rest. It still suffers, however, from portraying the pillars as separate, when in fact they have fuzzy boundaries.

Figure 1 EM Cycle and the Platforms that Support it.



Also not explicit in the model is how vulnerable communities are created through complex social processes. The book by Wisner et al (2004) presents a well-known model (called the Pressure and Release model) that describes this process in detail. Other models that are potentially very useful to emergency managers include the CARE<sup>4</sup> household livelihood model, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA-Q634-91) model for risk assessment (which can be adapted to emergency management), and Normal Accident Theory (Perrow, 1984)

By having a number of models in one’s toolkit and by using them selectively, depending upon the nature of the problem and the desired outcomes, the

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([http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/CRA/HLSA2002\\_meth.pdf](http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/CRA/HLSA2002_meth.pdf))

process of risk management can be made more effective.

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**MANY STRONG VOICES  
AGAINST THE CLIMATE  
CHANGE CRISIS**

By: The Many Strong Voices Team

As climate change continues to take a toll on communities, new and creative efforts are also continuing to determine how to deal with this long-term disaster and its spin-off effects. One such project, that is called “Many Strong Voices” <http://www.manystrongvoices.org>, joins

communities from around the arctic and from the 52 Small Island Developing States (SIDS; <http://www.sidsnet.org>) in recognition of the similar vulnerabilities to climate change experienced by both regions.

Many Strong Voices, launched in December 2005 by the United Nations Environment Programme, brings together arctic and SIDS participants to share and enhance knowledge and expertise about, and to collaboratively devise strategic solutions to, climate change challenges. Those involved include international organisations, government agencies, nongovernmental organisations, indigenous peoples' organisations, research institutes, communities, and individuals whose livelihoods are strongly tied to sustainable management of natural resources. The programme's aims are to:

- Assist in strengthening these regions' role in negotiations on greenhouse gases and on climate change adaptation.
- Design a comprehensive climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessment across the SIDS. • Raise awareness about the effects of climate change on vulnerable regions.
- Increase understanding of needs and solutions.
- Motivate action on addressing and preventing climate change's adverse impacts. The focus is catalysing local action across the arctic and the SIDS, recognising the important and complementary contributions of sound research, outreach, and lobbying.

While external and top-down interventions and exchanges are useful for supporting local action, the most effective manner of reducing vulnerability and living with climate change is through community-

based initiatives. Many Strong Voices provides the inspiration, impetus, and opportunity to build and maintain community-based processes related to climate change which are solidly based on sustainability principles, policies, and practices. Throughout, one important theme has been recognising that climate change is just one challenge and opportunity amongst many others facing these regions.

Other ongoing concerns include other forms of disasters, rapid rural-to-urban migration, population growth, the potential loss of languages and cultures through emigration, gender and minority inequities, manipulation by and dependence on rich governments and corporations, and degradation of natural resources. These multiple stressors must be considered simultaneously to ensure that tackling one problem, such as climate change, does not create or exacerbate other problems emerging from the myriad of social and environmental crises that challenge these communities. Dealing with climate change should contribute to addressing these other issues and vice versa. With such comprehensiveness, cooperation, and exchange, Many Strong Voices will be heard, leading to action locally and globally for positive change.

(for more information, contact Ilan Kelman through <http://www.ilankelman.org/contact.html> )



**One of Fiji's outer atolls, highly vulnerable to sea level rise (photo by Ilan Kelman).**