

Talk to the occasion of the

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From Kobe to Sendai. Tracing Progress in Risk Discourse and Analysis
for Informing Risk Management and Climate Adaptation

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Risks associated with natural disasters and climate change rank high among global socio-economic sustainability challenges. These risks, the outcomes of coupled socio-ecological systems' interactions, can lead to large adverse developmental consequences (erosion of livelihoods, increase in poverty, loss of human, economic, environmental and social assets, migration) and have been at the centre of attention of disaster management and climate negotiations. Concepts, methodologies, methods and metrics associated with risk have been of fundamental and increasing saliency for informing policy and action on these interlinked challenges. The talk traces the evolution in conceptualisation, modelling and

assessment as well as policy related to risk analysis for the examination and management of disaster and climate risks. Building on work done by the presenter with many colleagues, the central line of argumentation of the talk is to show how thinking and analysis on disaster and climate-related risk over the last few years has seen important evolution towards broad-based debate concurrently encompassing epistemological, instrumental, reflective and participative discourses, thus providing great potential for informing action on key challenges associated with extreme event risks across multiple scales along the science-society interface..