

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

POST-DISASTER RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

20-21 MAY

2024

Galatasaray University,
Aydın Doğan Auditorium,
Çırağan Cad. No:36 Ortaköy
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Conference organized by IFEA

with the partnership of following institutions





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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE POST-DISASTER RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Post-disaster reconstruction is a complex and crucial process aimed at restoring the physical, socio-economic, and political infrastructures of cities affected by natural or human-made disasters. It is a major challenge as it involves restoring stability, trust, and normalcy in devastated communities.

When natural disasters occur, they often leave behind disrupted landscapes where health, education, communication systems, and basic infrastructure are severely damaged or destroyed. Local populations find themselves helpless and vulnerable, facing enormous difficulties in rebuilding their lives.

Post-disaster reconstruction refers to the process of restoring a community or region following a major disaster or catastrophic event. This can include natural disasters related to climate change such as hurricanes, floods, fires, as well as earthquakes in countries like Nepal, Haiti, Chile, Japan, or more recently in Afghanistan, Turkey, Syria, and Morocco last September.

The post-World War II reconstruction period was an important learning phase to understand the challenges and needs related to rebuilding cities after conflict. This period highlighted the importance of considering not only the material aspects but also the social aspects of reconstruction.

However, it is worth noting that comprehensive international frameworks for reconstruction and recovery were only developed from the 1970s onwards. This is partly explained by the increase in natural disasters, which underscored the need for guidelines and strategies to address these situations.

The Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action, adopted in 1994, focused on disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and relief efforts. In 2008, collaboration between the World Bank, the European Commission, and the UN led to the creation of tools such as Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA) and Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments (RPBA).

Turkey, which lies in an active seismic zone, has experienced numerous earthquakes throughout its history, causing great destruction and suffering.

One of the biggest earthquakes in the country's recent history was the 7.6-magnitude quake that struck Izmit in the Marmara region on August 17, 1999.

This earthquake claimed the lives of 17,480 people and injured tens of thousands more. On February 6, 2023, Turkey was struck by two earthquakes of magnitude 7.7 and 7.6, occurring nine hours apart centered on Kahramanmaraş, located in the eastern part of the country. The earthquake caused severe damage in Turkey in 11 cities in the region:

Adana, Adıyaman, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye, Şanlıurfa, and Elazığ. Several aftershocks, including one of magnitude 6.4 in Hatay on February 20, exacerbated the damage. According to official figures, at least 8,476 people lost their lives in Syria, while in Turkey, 518,009 homes were destroyed or severely damaged, and at least 50,783 people lost their lives.

After every disaster that causes destruction, we are faced with the problem of reconstruction. This conference aims to contribute to the discussion by opening up the subject to different dimensions and creating perspectives for the future.

Some key questions regarding city reconstruction after a disaster include: How to rebuild? Identically? By modernizing? Who will be involved in the reconstruction? What will be the role of local, national, and international actors? Which place will there be for displaced persons in post-disaster reconstruction? Rebuilding for whom? Is there a common approach to post-disaster reconstruction worldwide? What are the challenges and opportunities? How to consider cultural heritage and memory in the reconstruction process? Such questions can be multiplied.

Based on this assessment, the International Conference on Post-Disaster Reconstruction aims to shed light on post-earthquake reconstruction, focusing specifically on the city of Antakya/Hatay. The choice of Antakya is not accidental as it is a multilayered, multi-confessional, and multicultural city, making the context coherent with the framework of our international conference. If we focus on Antakya, it's not because we consider other cities to be less important, but because we want to shed light on other cities from there.

Through various case studies from different parts of the world, this scientific event will address the issue of reconstruction in a multidisciplinary framework, combining a technical dimension (seismology, geophysics, civil engineering, geology, earth sciences) and a social sciences perspective (architecture, sociology, anthropology, art history, archaeology, history, geography, economics, political science).



THEME 1: RISKS AND TECHNICAL DIMENSIONS IN POST-DISASTER RECONSTRUCTION

Earthquakes are natural phenomena that can cause considerable damage to buildings and infrastructure, with dramatic human costs. Discussions surrounding earthquake reconstruction involve how to re-plan cities to ensure long-term resilience and reduce disaster risks.

The technical dimension plays a crucial role in post-earthquake replanning. In this context, the place and role of earth sciences and engineering are inevitable in finding adequate answers to the following questions in post-disaster reconstruction:

What is the role of geologists, geophysicists, and engineers in finding solutions to minimize damage and effectively rebuild in earthquake-affected areas?

Can city centers affected by earthquakes be rebuilt in the same location? What is the role and importance of earth sciences and engineering in planning disaster-resistant cities?

In this panel, we will seek answers to these questions. The purpose of this theme is to emphasize how cities can prepare and rebuild themselves in a technically sound manner to be more resilient in the face of disasters.

THEME 2: MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES (CASE STUDIES) IN THE POST-DISASTER CONTEXT

Throughout history, numerous cities have been devastated by both human-made and natural disasters, a trend that continues in certain regions of the world today, resulting in the destruction of urban areas. These disasters often lead to massive destruction of essential infrastructure such as housing, roads, schools, and healthcare centers, leaving behind disrupted landscapes. The process of post-disaster reconstruction and recovery aims to rebuild these infrastructures to facilitate a return to normal life. Through this panel, we aim to explore various case studies of post-disaster reconstruction to gain more concrete perspectives on the challenges and successes encountered in this complex process.



THEME 3: HERITAGE AND URBAN MEMORY IN RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION

One of the essential questions following a natural disaster is the reconstruction of affected historical cities, raising issues of heritage and memory in the context of reconstruction. The question of heritage preservation arises as a primary concern in reconstruction efforts.

Prepared by UNESCO and the World Bank, Culture in the Reconstruction and Recovery of Cities (CURE) highlights the role of culture in reconstruction. Within this framework, two recommendations elaborated by UNESCO, namely the «Recommendation concerning the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL),» and the “Warsaw Recommendation on Recovery and Reconstruction of Cultural Heritage, 2018, emphasize the role of heritage in post-crisis urban recovery.

Reimagining cities through cultural heritage and memory after a disaster prompts us to ask how cultural heritage and memory can guide urban planning.



THEME 4 (ROUNDTABLE): THE ROLE AND ENGAGEMENT OF CIVIL, PUBLIC, AND PRIVATE ACTORS IN POST-DISASTER RECONSTRUCTION

Actors indeed play an essential role in post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction. They can include national and international institutions, individuals, private actors, volunteer groups, and many others. They can contribute in various ways to the planning and execution of reconstruction projects. The purpose of this panel, where we will discuss with different actors, is to understand the roles that actors play in post-disaster reconstruction.



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Monday, 20th May

9:15-9:45 Welcome coffee

9:45 -10:10 Welcome speech and introduction, Prof. Gülçin Erdi & Mehmet Tayfur

THEME 1: RISKS AND TECHNICAL DIMENSIONS IN POST-DISASTER RE-CONSTRUCTION

Moderator-Discussant

Prof. Sinan Özeren, Istanbul Technical University Eurasia Institute of Earth Sciences (EIES)

10:15 Tectonic Implications of the February 2023 earthquakes

Prof. Semir Över, Iskenderun Technical University (ISTE) Civil Engineering Department

10:30 Advantages and challenges in post-earthquake Reconstruction with Seismic Isolation for Resilient Cities

Prof. Cenk Alhan, Mert Hacıemiroğlu (MSc) Istanbul University - Cerrahpasa, Civil Engineering Department

10:45 Planning for Urban Recovery in Antakya: Observations from the Earthquake Engineering Field Investigation Team (EEFIT) Mission to the Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes

Prof. Cassidy Johnson, University College London, The Bartlett Development Planning Unit

11:00 What risks correlated with technicist responses to cope with an earthquake in Istanbul? Lessons for the urban risk factory

Dr. Youenn Gourain, Ecole des Ponts ParisTech – LATTS

11:15-12:30 Discussion

13: 00-14:00 *Lunch break*

THEME 2: MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES (CASE STUDIES) IN THE POST-DISASTER CONTEXT

Moderator-Discussant

Prof. Denis Bocquet, ENSA de Strasbourg

14:15 Reconstruction of the coastal line after the earthquake and tsunami 2010 in Chile

Prof. Ivan Cartes Siade, Director of the Department of Urban Planning and Design, Universidad del Bío-Bío

14:30 The state and post-disaster reconstruction of L'Aquila, Italy Governance and Spatial dilemmas and how they were not resolved.

Prof. Alessandro Coppola, Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies

14:45 Impact of the El Haouz-Morocco earthquake on cultural heritage

Abderrahim Kassou, Karim Rouissi, ICOMOS Morocco

15:00 Community engagement in emergency relief: A case study of post-blast Beirut port in 2020

Nicolas Gilbert, PhD (c) ENSAS/Université de Strasbourg

15: 15-16:30 Discussion

Tuesday, 21th May

THEME 3: HERITAGE AND URBAN MEMORY IN RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION

Moderator-Discussant

Dr. Didem Daniş, Galatasaray University

9:30 Cultural heritage in the wider earthquake-stricken region (Türkiye)

Dr. Miklós Kerekes, Liszt Institute Hungarian Cultural Center

9:45 What the morphohistory of Antioch provides about recovery after the earthquake?

Dr. Tuğçe Tezer, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Department of Urban and Regional Planning

10:00 [De|Re] Generation of a Multi-layered Heritage Place: Post-Earthquake Antioch-Antakya

Prof. Ayşe Güliz Bilgin Altınöz, METU - Middle East Technical University, TAÇDAM

10.15-11:30 Discussion

12:00-13:00 *Lunch break*

THEME 4 (ROUNDTABLES): THE ROLE AND ENGAGEMENT OF CIVIL,PUBLIC, AND PRIVATE ACTORS IN POST-DISASTER RECONSTRUCTION

ROUNDTABLE 1: LOCAL ACTORS AND INSTITUTIONS

Moderator-Discussant

Dr. Bülent Batuman, Bilkent University

13:15 Presentation of a new TUBITAK Project

Dr. Bülent Batuman, Bilkent University

13:25 The effects of the February 6 earthquakes on the social and commercial life of Antakya and Iskenderun, and the challenges of redeveloping the city

Hikmet Çinçin, President, Antakya Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Levent Hakkı Yılmaz, President, Iskenderun Chamber of Commerce and Industry

13:35 Activities of Hatay Planning Center post-earthquake

Gürkan Akgün, Deputy Secretary General of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

13:45 Experiences in the Context of City and Architecture in Antakya after February 2023; Determinations and Evaluations

Emir Cekmecelioğlu, Research assistant at Mustafa Kemal University, Chamber of Architects, Hatay

13:55 Is it possible to preserve the cultural heritage in Antakya?

Dr. Anna Maria Beylunioğlu, NEHNA

14:05-14:45 Discussion

14:45-15:00 *Coffee break*

ROUNDTABLE 2: NATIONAL ACTORS AND INSTITUTIONS

Moderator-Discussant

Dr. Miklós Kerekes, Liszt Institute Hungarian Cultural Center

15:00 As an example of civil initiative: Ortak Akıl Antakya

Prof. Ece Ceylan Baba, Yeditepe University, Initiative Ortak Akıl Antakya

15:10 Hatay Master Plan

Bünyamin Derman, Architect, Turkey Design Council

15:20 Works carried out by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism after the earthquake

Çağrı Öztürk, Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Culture and Tourism

15:30-16:10 Discussion

ROUNDTABLE 3: INTERNATIONAL ACTORS AND INSTITUTIONS

Moderator-Discussant

Prof. Gülçin Erdi, CNR, IFEA

16:10 UNESCO's Action for the Recovery of Culture in Emergency Situations, UNESCO's '*Revive the Spirit of Mosul*' Initiative

Sara Grandin, UNESCO

16:20 World Bank support to earthquake reconstruction and recovery

Laurent Debroux, World Bank Türkiye

16:30 UNDP's Role in Response and Recovery in the aftermath of the February 6th Earthquakes

Mustafa Ali Yurdupak, UNDP Türkiye

16:40 The role of the banking sector in post-disaster support, reconstruction and economic resilience

Marine Karcher, French Development Agency (AFD)

16:50-17:40 Discussion

17:40-17:50 Closing speech, Mehmet Tayfur, PhD(c) ENSAS, IFEA



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