Geophysical Research Abstracts
Vol. 14, EGU2012-11648, 2012
EGU General Assembly 2012

Three different lenses for social capacity building: Bridging the gap between practice and theory

M. Supramanaim and M. Di Masso

Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals(ICTA), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona(UAB),Barcelona,Spain (meera.supramaniam@gmail.com)

This paper presents the outcomes of the CapHaz-Net project's Regional Hazard Workshop on Heat- Related Hazards: Droughts, Forest Fires and Heat Waves (RHW), focusing on Catalonia (Spain). CapHaz-Net deals with social capacity building for natural hazards in a systemised way, at three levels of interaction: individuals, communities, and organisations. This paper looks at the outcomes of the RHW from a three-fold perspective. These different framings come out of a cyclic analytical process of linking practice and theory. The workshop was composed of administrators, community and academics aligned to a particular hazard. Initially grouped according to hazards, participants were asked the simple questions of How does the hazards affect us? What is being done? How to improve? and How do we work together? The first perspective frames the outcomes of the group sessions as expressed by participants in the aforementioned three levels. As a result, the minutes are the first documentation of the workshop. A second perspective is an explicit attempt to link the findings of the minutes to CapHaz-Net's theoretical framework, this is, social capacity, risk governance, social vulnerability, risk perception, risk education, and risk communication. A deliverable on Lessons Learnt and Challenges with Regards to Heat-Related Hazards is the second documentation, representing this perspective. Finally, the workshop is re-analysed relative to a social capacities typology developed within the project: knowledge capacities, motivational capacities, network capacities, financial capacities, and governance capacities. It is a relevant exercise as an effort to assess this typology as a potential tool for communities and organisations.
The novelty of the RHW on Heat-Related Hazards was to bring together people who are usually isolated in their work with heat-related natural hazards. Through this new configuration, the necessity of translating across hazards emerged. Bringing together the three analytical perspectives we present here allows us to focus on the translation necessary in finding a common way of conversing about natural hazards between scientists, practitioners and communities.