The Willis Research Network: bridging the gap between science and practice

Geoffrey Saville and Rosa Sobradelo

Willis Towers Watson, Willis Research Network, United Kingdom (rosa.sobradelo@willistowerswatson.com)

The Willis Research Network (WRN), the academic research network managed by Willis Towers Watson, a leading global advisory, broking and solutions company, last year celebrated 10 years helping develop research and solutions to meet the challenges of understanding risk and resilience.

The WRN was formed in 2006 to build practical links between science and technological innovators, industry leaders, and policy makers to tackle the changing risk landscape facing the global re/insurance industry. Through the WRN, Willis Towers Watson has teamed up with more than 50 research focussed institutions to develop dynamic and innovative solutions to the challenges of risk and resilience. As the WRN continues into its next decade, it will aim to build on the multi-disciplinary body of research to forge tangible outputs and applied products for the risk management world.

The WRN has sponsored dozens of research fellows worldwide who have been responsible for hundreds of peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations (in industry and academia) and industry reports and briefings. Through regular industry seminars and blogs, the WRN serves as a platform for new ideas, promoting thought-leadership in the financial sector. It is also involved in many collaborative efforts including the Global Earthquake Model, Oasis, and the Engineering for Climate Extremes Partnership to name a few.

This submission will highlight some of the flagship projects from the WRN, from inception to application, as well as the successes and lessons learnt through close co-production scientific research over the last decade.