Sources of the Public to Acquire Disaster Risk Information

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In recent years, natural disasters have resulted in enormous casualties and property loss across the world, pinpointing the engineering-oriented disaster prevention strategy is unable to catch up with the disaster changing speed. Governments should revise their disaster prevention strategies, and at the same time improve their ability to deal with emergencies, to interact with the public on disaster risk. This research asks how to communicate with the public on risks, and how to keep the public informed about updated disaster risk information. Firstly, this research argues that scientific data and methods are important to assess and quantify people’s resources of disaster risk information. Secondly, governments should formulate risk communication policies based on the mentioned scientific and quantified results. Lastly, governments should stress the importance of two-way communication, encourage people to share information with each other, and then formulate governance strategies through group discussions and democratic decision-making processes. Based on the mentioned arguments, this study uses a questionnaire survey to ask how different groups of people acquire risk information at everyday life, during disaster warning periods, and during emergencies. At the same time, this survey also investigates people’s willingness to forward disaster information through social media. The results of this survey allow us to establish quantified data and then use it for analyses to find effective ways of risk communication.