

**SPECIAL EDITION**  
**RISK MANAGEMENT**

**Guest Editorial**

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This special edition of the *International Journal of Event Management Research* focuses on risk. Today, risk is a core area of research and practice in event management and event management research. I have been involved as both a practitioner and an academic researcher in the field of tourism risk and crisis management for two decades. However, the significance and the range of issues unique to event risk management was revealed to me when I was asked to teach the event risk management subject at Master's level at the University of Technology-Sydney in 2013. Risks pertaining to crowd control, temporary structures, responsible service of alcohol, VIP and performer protection, event insurance, event perimeter security, occupational health and safety, storage, heating and hygienic service of food and beverages were among the many issues covered in event risk management. I found it a humbling experience attempting to master the many complex issues which are central to event risk management to a class in which one quarter of my students were event risk management professionals. I enjoyed the challenge enough to repeat it with enthusiasm in 2014. A major change affecting the field of event risk management in recent years has been the growing level of legislation which covers and influences the governance of event risk management.

The Editor in Chief of this journal gave me a wide brief to seek contributions for this special edition. Consequently, while most articles pertain to events, some also address risk issues related to tourism. This edition includes both academic and practitioner papers. I am delighted that this edition includes contributions from the USA, Japan, India, Israel, Spain, Australia and New Zealand; so it is truly an international edition.

The two practitioner contributions come from the USA and Japan. Dr Peter Tarlow, President of US based *Tourism and More Consultancy* is one of the world's most respected academic practitioners of event risk management. His article discusses and explains TOPPS (Tourism Oriented Policing and Protection Services). The TOPPS Concept was devised by Dr Tarlow and is widely employed by police services in both North and South America and is invaluable for the policing of tourism precincts and events. Tarlow's fluency in English, Spanish and Portuguese enables him to train police forces in every country in both continents of the Americas. The second practitioner article was written by Mr Masato Takamatsu who is the CEO of *Japan Marketing Co.* Mr Takamatsu is widely recognised as one of Japan's outstanding practitioners of tourism risk management. I had the privilege of working with him briefly in Okinawa in 2012 during his extended contract with the Prefectural government of Okinawa to develop a tourism risk and crisis management plan. Mr Takamatsu and his team have now positioned Okinawa to promote this group of islands in the far south of Japan as the world's safest tourism destination. Mr Takamatsu's paper discusses the Okinawa tourism crisis management initiatives.

Our academic papers come from many sources and deal with a variety of topics encompassing the theme of risk management. Simone Eisenhauer, Daryl Adair and Tracy Taylor, from the University of Technology-Sydney, Australia, have focussed on neoliberalism and mega events security legacies arising from the 2010 FIFA World Cup staged in South Africa. The paper focusses on Capetown and poses important questions about whether security measures imposed during a mega event continue to erode liberal democratic values in a host city after the event. This is a question relevant to every city or country which has hosted a mega event or is planning to do so. Professor Eli Avraham from the University of Haifa, Israel has focussed his attention on spotlight events as a tool for destination image restoration. Eli's paper demonstrates the linkage between events and tourism and his paper discusses the tourism legacy from South Africa's hosting of the 2010 World Football Cup.

Sandeva Khajuria and Suvridha Khanna from the University of Jammu and Kashmir in India have explored the issue of risk management at religious pilgrimage destinations in India focussing on a case study of Shri Mata Vasno Devi. This issue has important implications for religious pilgrimage destinations and attractions worldwide which attract both the pious and the criminals and that minority of unscrupulous travel industry profiteers who prey on them.

Brent Moyle and Mathew Lamont from Southern Cross University, Australia, along with Millicent Kenelly from Griffith University, Australia, have explored the impact of the cancellation of the Ironman event in New Zealand in 2012 and its implication for contingency planning of events. As they explain in their paper, outdoor events are highly vulnerable to natural forces, especially the weather.

The final paper in this edition comes from Spain. Diego Rodriguez-Toubes together with Jose Antonio Fraiz Brea from the University of Vigo contribute a paper named *Scary Crises* which examines the influence of negative events during 2011 on tourist perceptions of national destinations. The specific events are in Egypt (the Uprising of Jan-Feb 2011), Morocco (a suicide bomb attack on a café Marrakesh, Jana (the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami) and Mexico (ongoing drug related violence). The issue examined is the degree to which incidents in specific locations impacted on the perception of an entire country.

I sincerely hope that readers will gain considerable enlightenment from the varying approaches to the issue of risk as they impact on to events and the associated tourism industries.

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