

# CERG-C 2011 Opening Conference

April 19, 2011, 17h15  
Room 001 (ground floor)

## The M 9.0 Tohoku (Japan) earthquake : domino effects of an urban disaster



The deadly combination of an earthquake of magnitude Mw 9.0, an extremely destructive tsunami and a major industrial accident has never been seen before. The fact that a so advanced and safety conscious country can be so badly affected was a surprise and, for many, a waking signal.

This disaster might prefigure what can be expected in the future due to rapid urbanization and industrialization in disasters prone countries. The increasing concentration of population and industrial infrastructures will make the border between natural and man made disasters thinner and thinner. As a consequence, most mechanisms for prevention, preparedness and response are no longer fully adequate and must be enhanced to handle efficiently the future multifaceted emergency.

by

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