USM Disaster Research Nexus: Development of Tsunami Research and Resilience

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The infamous 2004 Andaman tsunami and several major natural disasters that occurred worldwide in rapid succession in recent times have highlighted the urgent need to be prepared and to be resilient to such disasters since prevention is not an option. Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) has long recognized the responsibility of a university to the society in which it operates and has recently formed the Disaster Research Nexus (DRN) within the School of Civil Engineering to spearhead research and development in natural disaster mitigation programs and resources within the university and community to mitigate the adverse effects of natural disasters. Collaborating with other international research institutions, DRN will co-ordinate the development of technology, human capability, awareness and expertise to better understand, monitor, model and manage the risks associated with these natural disasters. This paper will present a brief exposition on the aspirations of DRN with a primary goal of exploring and establishing the potential of active and fruitful collaboration among participating research institutions and government agencies towards achieving resilience in communities affected by these disasters.

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