

PRESS RELEASE

12 July 2005

Natural Hazards for Insurers: Class of '05 Presentation Day is Hosted at Lloyd's

Benfield Hazard Research Centre (BHRC) hosted a Presentation Day for students on the 2004-5 academic session of its UCL-based Postgraduate Certificate course *Natural Hazards for Insurers* at The Old Library, Lloyd's on Friday, 8 July 2005.

Eight students representing five companies from the re/insurance industry gave presentations of their final Independent Reports as part of their overall assessment for the course, which is run in association with the Under 35's Reinsurance Group and accredited by the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII).

The presentations were as follows:

- **Earthquake prediction and forecasting: does good seismic science mean good business for the Lloyd's insurance industry?** Stephen Gentili (Cathedral Capital)
- **Seismic risk in the Cascadia Subduction Zone** Alan Milroy (XL Insurance)
- **Seismic hazard in Italy** Laura Calmeyer (Wellington)
- **Mitigating the impact of natural hazards: the value of preparedness versus response** Cassy Brand (Wellington)
- **Implementation and evaluation of a flood risk index** Anne-Claire Serres (Benfield)
- **The Thames Gateway: a study of conflicting pressures** Pauline Keenan (Ace)
- **Climate change: impacts on European windstorms and the insurance market** Katy Fairweather (Benfield)
- **Caribbean hurricane: island loss correlation** Edward Sweet (Ace)

Dr Chris Kilburn, the Deputy Director of the BHRC and Dr Benjamin Lloyd-Hughes, a Research Fellow at the BHRC-led Tropical Storm Risk consortium judged the presentations and presented bottles of Champagne to Edward Sweet from Ace and Anne-Claire Serres from Benfield for making the best presentations.

Professor Bill McGuire, Benfield Professor of Geohazards and Director of the Benfield Hazard Research Centre said:

"This was another successful year for the Natural Hazards for Insurers course which has now been running for three years. This year's presentations were the most diverse yet, with the eight students covering a broad range of natural hazards topics.



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I congratulate all of the students for their hard work and enthusiasm for undertaking a rigorous academic course whilst maintaining their full time careers.”

-ENDS-

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Notes to Editors:

PHOTOGRAPH 1 (P7080003.JPG)

(L to R): Professor Peter Sammonds (Professor of Geophysics at UCL) Dr. Benjamin Lloyd-Hughes (UCL & Tropical Storm Risk), Edward Sweet (Ace), Anne-Claire Serres (Benfield), Dr. Chris Kilburn (Deputy Director, UCL's Benfield Hazard Research Centre).

PHOTOGRAPH 2 (P7080005.JPG)

(L to R): Professor Peter Sammonds (Professor of Geophysics at UCL), Pauline Keenan (Ace), Dr. Benjamin Lloyd-Hughes (UCL & Tropical Storm Risk), Katy Fairweather (Benfield), Ed Sweet (Ace), Cassy Brand (Wellington), Anne-Claire Serres (Benfield), Laura Calmeyer (Wellington), Dr. Chris Kilburn (Deputy Director, UCL's Benfield Hazard Research Centre), Alan Milroy (XL Insurance) and Stephen Gentili (Cathedral Capital).

About Natural Hazards for Insurers

Natural Hazards for Insurers is a unique part-time Postgraduate Certificate course organised by the Benfield Hazard Research Centre at University College London.

The course, which is run in association with the Under 35s Reinsurance Group at Lloyd's, is designed to provide participants with a better understanding of the full range of natural hazards, the processes that cause them, and the means by which their impacts on the market can be mitigated or avoided. It is taught by top hazard scientists at UCL and other leading academic institutions as well as market practitioners and is suitable for re/insurance professionals including brokers, underwriters, risk managers and actuaries.

The two 8 week taught modules – Geological & Geotechnical Hazards and Meteorological Hazards – are timetabled to run in October-November and January-February, thereby avoiding, as much as possible, the year-end renewal season.

The course is accredited by the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) and the award of the Certificate counts towards fulfilling Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements and qualifies as a 'major achievement' towards FCII.

**Applications are now being accepted for the 2005-6 academic session of *Natural Hazards for Insurers*. The registration deadline is 2 September 2005, with the course starting on 29th September 2005. For further information and an application form please contact Professor Bill McGuire at w.mcguire@ucl.ac.uk

About Benfield Hazard Research Centre:

With sixty researchers and practitioners, Benfield Hazard Research Centre is Europe's leading multidisciplinary academic hazard research centre. BHRC comprises three groups: Geological Hazards, Meteorological Hazards & Seasonal Forecasting, and Disaster Studies & Management. The Centre is based at University College London, one of the world's leading universities and, along with Oxford and Cambridge, one of the UK's top three multi-faculty teaching and research institutions. www.benfieldhrc.org

BHRC is sponsored by Benfield, the world's leading independent reinsurance and risk intermediary. Benfield's customers include many of the world's major insurance and reinsurance companies as well as Government entities and global corporations. Benfield employs over 1,700 people based in over 30 locations worldwide. www.benfieldgroup.com