



## News Release

### **Hazard & Risk Science Review is launched at Monte Carlo Rendezvous**

#### ***New annual publication brings the latest science in hazard and risk research to the insurance industry***

MONTE CARLO, 13 September 2004 -- A new annual publication, the *Hazard & Risk Science Review*, researched and edited by Professor Bill McGuire of the Benfield Hazard Research Centre (BHRC) at University College London and jointly sponsored by Benfield and PartnerRe, is launched at the Monte Carlo Rendezvous.

The Review provides a link between the science and insurance worlds, with an overview of new natural hazards research that has been published over the last 12 months. Focusing on the four major hazard areas – atmospheric, geological, hydrological and climate change – the publication introduces emerging themes and techniques that may impact how the insurance world views risk.

Key topics covered in the first issue include:

- New science in Hurricane and Typhoon forecasts
- New methodologies for predicting giant landslides and volcanic eruptions
- Is the Gulf Stream weakening? Big changes in the North Atlantic circulation

The publication's editor, Professor Bill McGuire, Professor of Geohazards and Director of the Benfield Hazard Research Centre commented, "Every year, thousands of scientific papers addressing natural hazards are published in hundreds of journals and e-journals. Many of these papers contain information that is of direct relevance and considerable importance to the insurance and reinsurance markets, but which can take several years to filter down from academia to the business world. The *Hazard & Risk Science Review* is designed to accelerate this process by drawing attention to new and pertinent research themes and results from key publications in 2003-2004."

Bill McGuire and his research team at BHRC reviewed a wide range of published work in major scientific journals and selected a small sample that they considered to be particularly relevant to the interests of those involved in catastrophe insurance and reinsurance.

Bill McGuire added, "The summary text provides an introduction to the original work and its authors and attempts to set the science in a broader context. We believe the Review will prove an invaluable resource to the market, by providing a conduit from the arena of academic research to the business world."

Grahame Chilton, Chief Executive of Benfield commented:

"Benfield has a long standing commitment to research, commenting on global industry trends and issues as well as topical market issues. We believe The Review will be an important new reference which will assist insurers and reinsurers alike in developing knowledge on emerging risk science."

Patrick Thiele, President and Chief Executive Officer of PartnerRe added, "PartnerRe has always been committed to providing links between academic research and the business of risk, as we have demonstrated in the development of our own catastrophe models. We also have a history of providing the industry access to information in the catastrophe research area, and by supporting this publication we continue that tradition."

The *Hazard & Risk Science Review* is online at [www.benfieldhrc.org](http://www.benfieldhrc.org) and printed copies can be obtained by contacting [BHRC@benfieldgroup.com](mailto:BHRC@benfieldgroup.com).

**For further information, please contact:**

Alison Burgess or Chris Gatland  
Benfield  
London  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7578 7047 / +44 (0) 7957 351036  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7578 7485  
[alison.burgess@benfieldgroup.com](mailto:alison.burgess@benfieldgroup.com)  
[chris.gatland@benfieldgroup.com](mailto:chris.gatland@benfieldgroup.com)

Celia Powell  
PartnerRe  
Bermuda  
Tel: +1 44 1 292 0888  
[celia.powell@partnerre.com](mailto:celia.powell@partnerre.com)

Professor Bill McGuire  
Benfield Hazard Research Centre  
London  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7679 3637  
[w.mcguire@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:w.mcguire@ucl.ac.uk)

**Notes to Editors:**

**About Benfield Hazard Research Centre:**

With over fifty 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. BHRC is sponsored by Benfield, the world's leading independent reinsurance intermediary and risk advisory business. [www.benfieldhrc.org](http://www.benfieldhrc.org)

**About Benfield:**

Benfield is the world's leading independent reinsurance intermediary and risk advisory business. Its customers include many of the world's major insurance and reinsurance companies as well as government entities and global corporations. Benfield operates from more than 30 locations worldwide. The company is listed on the London Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol BFD. [www.benfieldgroup.com](http://www.benfieldgroup.com)

**About PartnerRe:**

PartnerRe Ltd. (NYSE:PRE) is a leading global reinsurer, providing multi-line reinsurance to insurance companies. Risks reinsured include property, casualty, motor, agriculture, aviation/space, catastrophe, credit/surety, engineering/energy, marine, special risks, other lines, life/annuity and health, and alternative risk transfer solutions. At year-end 2003, total revenues were \$3.9 billion. As of June 30, 2004, total assets were \$11.8 billion, total capitalization was \$3.3 billion and total shareholders' equity was \$2.7 billion. The company's major reinsurance operations have ratings of AA- from Standard & Poor's, Aa3 from Moody's, A+ from A.M. Best, and AA from Fitch. [www.partnerre.com](http://www.partnerre.com)