ISCRAM

NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 No 1 March 2011

It's here!

The first ISCRAM Newsletter! The newsletter will become a regular feature of the International ISCRAM Association, helping us build the community and share ideas, experiences, developments, etc. This first issue contains much information and many requests for help. ISCRAM is young; though we are soon to meet again in Lisbon for our 8th conference – who would have thought where that first workshop in 2004 would lead. But in organisational terms we are young. We have been an international association for barely 2 years and most of our efforts over that time have focused on putting in place sound finances and management processes to deliver our objectives. But these are now swinging into place and we can address our objectives more directly.

To remind you, ISCRAM is a non profit making body aiming to:

- promote research and development, exchange of knowledge and deployment of information systems for crisis management, including all social, technical and practical aspects of information and communication systems used or to be used in all phases of management and mitigation of emergencies, disasters and crises.
- promote and facilitate cooperation between all parties, including researchers, practitioners, professionals, technical and other experts, policy makers, involved in the management or evaluation of emergency conditions, disasters and crises.

The newsletter – to become a regular feature of ISCRAM – will help us achieve these ends. And to do that we need help!

As you will see, as you turn the pages of this issue, many of the sections are place holders, indications of how *you* might help by joining the Newsletter team and helping us develop it building the ISCRAM network, bringing together people and ideas. Please volunteer to help. My email is a few lines below and I should be delighted to hear from you.

The newsletter will chart and help catalyse our success, but remember it is our community and our impact on crisis response and management that will be that success.

Simon French
Newsletter Editor
simon.french@mbs.ac.uk

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Message from the President

I am delighted and proud to take this opportunity to welcome you to a new ISCRAM activity: the first edition of the ISCRAM Newsletter. The ISCRAM community has been growing steadily since the very first ISCRAM activity in 2004 when we held the first ever ISCRAM workshop in Brussels. Throughout the years that followed this first event, we have steadily expanded our activities: the 2004 workshop evolved into a full-blown conference – we are at the 8th edition this year! – that is a reference in the wider information systems and crisis management communities; we have grown an additional annual conference in China, and we do hold a bi-annual summer school for PhD students in Tilburg. Students at the PhD summer school of 2009 started with an ISCRAM activity letter, to which reference is made further on in this newsletter, we are on Facebook and we do have a LinkedIn group. As such, this is a great time to create a channel through which we can regularly inform you of everything that is going on globally. I am therefore grateful to Professor Simon French for having taken this initiative and producing this very first Newsletter on a very short notice. I am sure it will be the start of another great ISCRAM tradition, and I am inviting all of you to help us make that happen by contributing your news to a future issue.

Kind regards,
Bartel Van de Walle

Your ISCRAM Membership

O.K. folks, let's be honest! We need your money! But above all we need your support. ISCRAM membership is annual and we need you to renew or join the association. You can do this at www.iscram.org, where you can follow links to pay through PayPal or via wired transfer, and you can also join or renew as you register for ISCRAM2011. Membership brings several and an increasing number of benefits ranging from reduced ISCRAM2011 conference fees to the excitement of receiving this newsletter(!) as well as:

- Reduced fees for ISCRAM-China and the ISCRAM summer school
- ISCRAM Live and the website (watch for the relaunch!)
- Access to ISCRAM conference proceedings
- membership of ISCRAM groups on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, ...
- A 10% discount on the online subscription fee for the International Journal of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (www.igi-global.com/ijiscram)

Current full membership is €90 for full members with a range of reduced rates for different classes of members.

ISCRAM Board and Board Elections

Your current ISCRAM Board is:

Bartel van de Walle (President)
Susanne Jul (Vice-President)
Frank Fiedrich (Treasurer)
Gerhard Wickler (Secretary)
Paul Burghardt
Simon French
Tim Grant
Mark Haselkorn
Murray Turoff
Song Yan

According to the ISCRAM constitution, every year one third of the board members should stand for re-election. Of the current 10 board members, this implies that 4 people have to take up the challenge of re-election, and declare their board seats vacant. This year, Simon French, Frank Fiedrich, Song Yan and Bartel Van de Walle will stand for re-election; also board member Paul Burghardt has decided to step down. This means that 5 positions will be

declared vacant for the following election, and every ISCRAM member is invited to stand for one of these vacant board positions. More information about the application process will be announced shortly, and the actual board election will take place during the General Assembly meeting at ISCRAM2011 in Lisbon.

ISCRAM2011 Lisbon

Organisation of our 8th conference in Lisbon from May 8th to 11th is well underway. We expect there to be over 100 presentations including three plenary sessions from leading researchers and practitioners, a vibrant poster and demo session, some tutorials, the regular doctoral colloquium and a lively social programme. Full details are at:

www.iscram.org/iscram2011.

Visit the site and register now. Early registration closes on March 23rd, 2011 and you can renew your membership of ISCRAM at the same time.
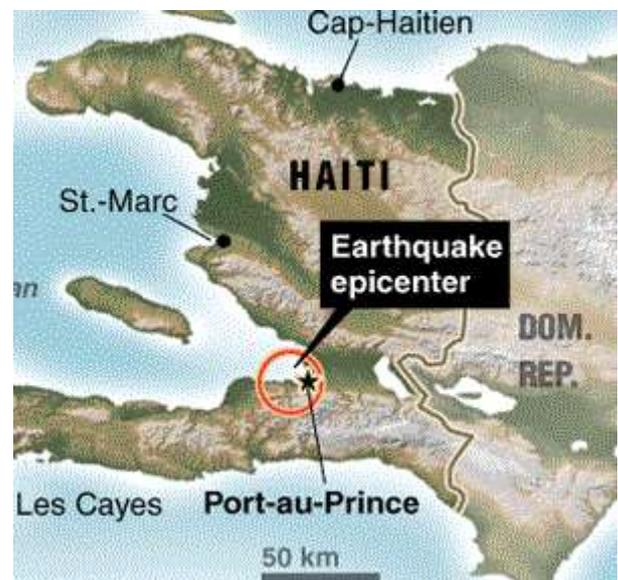

For those of you who have not visited Lisbon, it is a delightful city: full of historical roots, great food and drink and, above all, the Lisboetas will welcome you to their city with a smile and a warmth that you will remember for a long time.

ISCRAM Summer School

The 4th ISCRAM Summer School will take place in Tilburg from August 17 to 26, 2011. The format and structure of the summer school has been totally revised, focusing on information systems and logistics aspects of humanitarian response. The program has been developed by Bartel Van de Walle (University of Tilburg) and Paulo Goncalves (University of Lugano), while internationally renowned organisations such as UN OCHA, JRC Ispra, ICT4Peace and B-FAST have joined as foundational partners and will contribute to the contents of the summer school. The theme of the 2011 summer school is the Haiti Earthquake. More information can be found at:

http://iscram.org/live/summerschool2011

The deadline for applications is June 1st, 2011

Future ISCRAM conferences

Planning for ISCRAM2012 has begun with a location set and a team in place. Watch for an announcement very soon! Moreover, we are in negotiations about the location of ISCRAM2013 and an announcement on that will also follow soon. The ISCRAM Board is now turning its mind to ISCRAM2014 and looking for bids to host that. One of the board's key objectives over the past couple of years has been to secure and improve our conferences with longer planning cycles. We are getting there.

Governance, Constitution and By-Laws

As a community and conference, ISCRAM has been active for nearly a decade, but as a formal international non-profit organization, ISCRAM is less than two years old. Most non-profits rely on three key documents to govern their purpose, structure and oper-ations: (1) the foundational statutes, or Constitution, that establish the broad structure and fundamental principles of the organization; (2) the higher-level procedures, or By-Laws, that operation-ally interpret and are consistent with the Constitution; and (3) the day-to-day operational guidelines, or Policies and Procedures, that capture the way the organization has agreed to do its business within the structures of the two higher-level documents. ISCRAM's Constitution was formalized in June 2009 as part of the process that established it as a registered international non-profit under Belgium law, but we do not as yet have formally approved By-Laws, nor have we formally gathered our operational practices into a Policies and Procedures document. The current ISCRAM Board is busily working on just that, with the aim that our first By-Laws will be ready for consideration by the General Assembly at our upcoming international conference in Lisbon. We look forward to working with the General Assembly to establish a sound foundation of principles, structures and operations that will serve our growing and vital organization for many years.

Mark Haselkorn
Chair, Working Party on By-Laws

Publications and Academic Standards Committee

The ISCRAM Board has approved the start of the Publications and Academic Standards committee. Current members are Tim Grant (chair), Simon French, Murray Turoff, and Julie Dugdale. The first thing we are doing is to distil best practices (e.g. reviewing) from the experience of the organizers of the past three or four ISCRAM conferences. Then we want to benchmark the quality of what we offer ISCRAM members and conference attendees. Comments welcome!

We could do with two more members to help; volunteers please to tim.grant.iscram@gmail.com .

Tim Grant
Chair, Publications and Academic Standards Committee

ISCRAM Activities Report

Ever had a great idea for a paper or project and wondered if there there was someone in the ISCRAM community with similar interests? Wouldn't it be great if there was an up-to-date overview of what everyone in ISCRAM is working on.

The ISCRAM Activities Report aims to create this overview. We collect project abstracts from ISCRAM community members which are compiled into a convenient report and published online twice a year. There was a call for contributions with a closing date of March 1st, 2011, but late ones would still be welcome.

Read more or immediately submit an entry on:

http://www.iscram.org/activities

Please let us know what you are working on. We rely on your contributions to make this initiative a success.

Bas Lijnse, Jörn Franke, and Anna Gryszkiewicz

Editor's note: We will develop strong working links between the ISCRAM Newsletter and ISCRAM Activities Report.

News of Members

Simon French is retiring from Manchester Business School; but neither from research nor ISCRAM. Simon sees retirement as an opportunity to do real research which has the potential to achieve something real rather than score highly on citations or dubious impact factors.

Please send any short items of News to the Editor: simon.french@mbs.ac.uk

Your letters and feedback

There aren't any!!!! But we would love some! Please send any comments, suggestions, feedback and general thoughts about ISCRAM interests to the editor: simon.french@mbs.ac.uk.

Future plans for the Newsletter

There are many more sections that we might include in the newsletter. Perhaps

- News from the Board – regular reports about what the board is doing but more exciting than minutes.
- Grant and research calls. Funding possibilities.
- Research pages. Reports of projects that ISCRAM members have. Maybe requests for information or to co-ordinate with related projects?
- Doctoral support pages: ISCRAM has always promoted and supported its student members. How can the newsletter help them network and seek mutual support? Ideas?
- Interviews with members from the ISCRAM community. It would be fun to hear in a candid interview what drove Bartel to bring us all together.
- Lists of preprints available and new publications.

- Doctoral theses submitted and successfully defended
- Book reviews – we haven't got any free copies to send out, but maybe you have read something interesting.
- ….

Please send in your ideas to the editor (simon.french@mbs.ac.uk) and even better volunteer to set up and edit such sections!

Also what form should the newsletter take. This is a standard A4 produced in word and published as a pdf, circulated electronically. Should it simply be an email with links to sections on a website? Not so easy to read in the bath that, but maybe you wouldn't! ISCRAM Live has set itself the objective of breaking boundaries and using ICT to network us in innovative ways. What format of newsletter might best fit with that?

Help Wanted

To deliver our plans for the newsletter we need a small team of volunteers to help write, gather and edit sections. If you are interested in helping in anyway from collating a list of preprints to interviewing some of the key figures within ISCRAM and the crisis management and response community, please email me as soon as possible (simon.french@mbs.ac.uk). We have the ISCRAM2011 issue to get to press by the end of April.

Next Issue

The next issue of the Newsletter will be published and circulated at ISCRAM2011. Please submit articles, letters, etc. by April 18th, 2011.

ISCRAM China 2011

Stop Press: the ISCRAM China 2011 Conference will be held in Harbin from 29 Oct to 31 Oct 2011. More details in the next issue of the Newsletter.

iscram 2011

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http://iscram2011.lnec.pt

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