



ISCRAM2009
**The 6th International Conference on Information Systems for
Crisis Response and Management**

Gothenburg, Sweden
May 10-13, 2009
<http://www.iscram.org>

TRACK: Humanitarian Actions and Operations

CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR A SPECIAL SESSION ON

IT for Crisis Management in Africa

Session ID: Humanitarian 2

Motivation

Information Technology is widely perceived as being one of the key enablers for facilitating development throughout the world, with technologies such as satellite communication and mobile systems already integrated into crisis management processes in many developing countries. However, the introduction of these technologies for better crisis management systems poses considerable challenges on a wide range of levels, including the political environment, the regulatory framework, the available infrastructure and public acceptance.

Within Africa, the increasing number and growing complexity of crisis situations and the limited interest of the international (R&D) community for the continent, communities and organisations are often all too vulnerable to the consequences of major disasters. Structural, logistical, operational and financial weaknesses create obstacles to the development of lifesaving capabilities and technologies for responding to and dealing with crises.

This session invites papers focusing on the design, development, use and evaluation of crisis preparedness, prevention, monitoring, response and management systems in Africa. We welcome case studies, practitioner reports as well as academic research within this theme.

Topics

Contributions are solicited that focus on the design, development, use and evaluation of ICT for the prevention, monitoring, response or management of natural (floods, fires, droughts,...), social-political (conflicts, refugees) or industrial disasters and that are situated in the African context with respect to:



- *IT infrastructure (web, satellite communication, broadband, wireless, sensor networks,...);*
- *IT Adoption and Use;*
- *The use of IT for Advocacy and public communication (for instance on 'silent' crises or for community communication);*
- *IT for grass-roots social change.*

Type of contribution:

This session allows academic and practitioner contributions

- **Academic contribution:** we invite researchers from academia or research labs to present their research or research-in-progress papers. Prospective presenters submit a regular research (or research-in-progress) paper.
- **Practitioner contribution:** we invite practitioners to present their practice or experiences in information systems development, use or needs. Prospective presenters submit a short practitioner paper or a Powerpoint presentation along with an abstract.

Important Notice:

- All submissions must be formatted according to the ISCRAM 2009 formatting guidelines. Templates and instructions are published on www.iscram.org.
- All submissions must be submitted through the ISCRAM 2009 conference paper submission web page at www.conftool.com/iscram2009. Instructions for the ConfTool system can be found on www.iscram.org.
- All papers and presentations will go through a double-blind review process, leading to a decision of (conditional) acceptance or rejection.
- Accepted papers will be included in the ISCRAM 2009 program and published in the official proceedings if and only if
 - (1) the paper is formatted according to the instructions,
 - (2) the authors sign the copyright transfer form and
 - (3) one of the authors registers for the conference and pays the registration fee before the cut-off date for early registration.
- Authors who have multiple papers accepted can only register for and present one paper at the conference; co-authors need to register separately.



Session Chairs:



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Important ISCRAM 2009 Dates:

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Submission deadline: | January 11, 2009 |
| • Notification of conditional accept: | February 16, 2009 |
| • Final submission revised paper: | March 1, 2009 |
| • Final author notification: | March 9, 2009 |
| • Early registration deadline: | March 22, 2009 |



- Conference: May 10-13 2009

About ISCRAM:

The ISCRAM Community is a worldwide community of researchers, scholars, teachers, students, practitioners and policy makers interested or actively involved in the subject of Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management. At its annual international conference alternating between the US and Europe, the ISCRAM Community gathers to present and discuss the latest research and developments in this growing area during an interactive and stimulating 3 day program. The ISCRAM Community also organizes an International Summer School for PhD students and ISCRAM-CHINA, an annual conference for ISCRAM research in China. All information on ISCRAM can be found at <http://www.iscram.org>

This year the conference will be held from 10-13 May at the Göteborg University located in Gothenburg, Sweden. The conference will be hosted by the Viktoria Institute and the IT-university of Gothenburg. All details on this conference will be made available via the ISCRAM website mentioned above.