



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

Introduction of the track

Within the broader domain of crisis management (including the different phases such as disaster risk reduction, response and recovery), the humanitarian context presents unique challenges for the design and deployment of information systems. While interpretations of the term '*humanitarian*' vary, it is generally associated with actions and operations that seek to alleviate human suffering the face of crises as diverse as armed conflicts, epidemics, famine and natural disasters. These crises often occur in fragile environments characterized by low incomes, sparse infrastructure and in some cases low levels of IT skills. Also, the response to these crises is often international in nature, generating the requirement that information systems foster information sharing and processing both locally and globally.

Representatives of donor agencies, governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, Red Cross Movement, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), scientific and research institutes, academia, the media and private sector met at the Global Symposium+5 in Geneva in 2007 to endorse crucial humanitarian information management principles (among which accessibility, inclusiveness, interoperability, impartiality, and sustainability), and issued a Symposium Final Statement expressing a common vision of the central role of information in support of effective humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery.

As such, this track invites paper submissions that intend to showcase research results or practitioner cases that help overcome these unique challenges, in developing information systems artifacts, methods or theories that help further develop humanitarian scholarship.

Suggested topics (non-exhaustive list):

- Humanitarian Disaster Risk Management
- Humanitarian Information Management
- Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management

- Humanitarian Free and Open Source Software (FOSS)
- Humanitarian Service and Science Engineering
- Humanitarian Disasters and Health
- Communications with affected Communities
- Advocacy and Donor Mobilization
- Peace or Social Change

Special Sessions:

In addition to the general track, this track also includes the following special sessions:

- Information inclusivity in humanitarian relief operations - for quality collection, dissemination and use
- IT for Crisis Management in Africa
- Improving ICT-use in crisis management & peace-building (ICT4Peace)
- Modelling of Humanitarian Operations
- Humanitarian Logistics Processes and supporting IT Systems

For detailed information regarding special sessions, please consult each Special Sessions' Call for Papers.

Track co-chairs

Carleen Maitland – Penn State University, USA

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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.

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.