

THE PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
AN ASSOCIATE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
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MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE
on **TUESDAY, 15th JUNE 2010 AT 6.30 pm**
IN THE BOOTHROYD ROOM, PORTCULLIS HOUSE*

(Please recheck the room allocation on <http://www.scienceinparliament.org.uk> on the day)

**VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS, CATASTROPHIC EARTHQUAKES & TSUNAMIS –
HOW CAN WE REDUCE THE TOLLS ON HUMANITY?**

Addresses by

Professor Steve Sparks FRS
University of Bristol

Dr Rui Pinho
Secretary-General of the Global Earthquake Model

Dr Tiziana Rossetto
Director of Earthquake and People Interaction Centre (EPICENTRE)
Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering
University College London

**Eyjafjallajökull and Katla threaten the lifestyle & economy of the Western World
What are the likely risks from volcanism for the Nations around the North Atlantic?**

**Eight out of ten of the world's megacities are located on active tectonic boundaries
What can now be done to help protect people, their homes, economy and lifestyle?**

Rapid Population Growth and Urbanisation have also generated fresh challenges:

1. Earthquake engineering and seismology have demonstrated that the most damaging and deadly earthquakes are not necessarily those with the greatest magnitude.
2. The geological formations on which cities are built and standards of building construction are more relevant when considering risks to human life and habitation.
3. Engineers and Scientists with relevant knowledge and training are capable of identifying the areas of greatest potential risk and frequently do so.
4. A range of engineering solutions are available to reduce the risk of human habitation in active tectonic zones.
5. Experiments with shaking tables and recent earthquake events have demonstrated that it is possible to create "LIFESAFE" buildings and that the costs involved can be small, amounting to no more than 5-10% of overall building costs for new structures.
6. The information required to predict the likely incidence of severe earthquakes is also improving.
7. As a result, loss of life is generally preventable, although possibly beyond the limited financial resources of the world's fastest growing and poorest populations.

**SO WHY IS THE NUMBER AND COST OF DISASTERS INCREASING?
WHY DON'T GOVERNMENTS IN COUNTRIES AT HIGH RISK PAY MORE ATTENTION TO
THE INFORMATION THAT IS READILY AVAILABLE TO THEM IN ORDER TO HELP SAVE
THE LIVES AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE?**

Lord Jenkin of Roding

President

The Meeting will be followed by an informal reception

*The Boothroyd Room can be accessed via the Embankment Entrance to Portcullis House