

# DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Putting research into practice

Speculation not extrapolation: Preparing  
for hazards in a futures context



# A DRR CONUNDRUM AND CHALLENGE

- A conundrum – the more we understand the complexity of hazards, the less organisations with humanitarian roles and responsibilities are able to deal with them
- Complexity and uncertainty – futures planning and speculation as a valued objective
- A challenge – enhancing the capacities of organisations to deal with complexity and uncertainty



# ORGANISATIONS IN A *FUTURES* CONTEXT

Anticipation

Adaptive capacities

Collaboration

Innovation





# HAZARDS AS FUTURE CRISIS DRIVERS: THREE SPECULATIVE PERSPECTIVES

- Dams and earthquakes in a Himalayan context
- Climate change and radiation leakage in the Ferghana Valley
- The end of Vietnam's "living with floods" programme





# DAMS AND EARTHQUAKES IN A HIMALAYAN CONTEXT





# CLIMATE CHANGE AND RADIATION LEAKAGE IN THE FERGHANA VALLEY





# THE END OF VIETNAM'S "LIVING WITH FLOODS" PROGRAMME



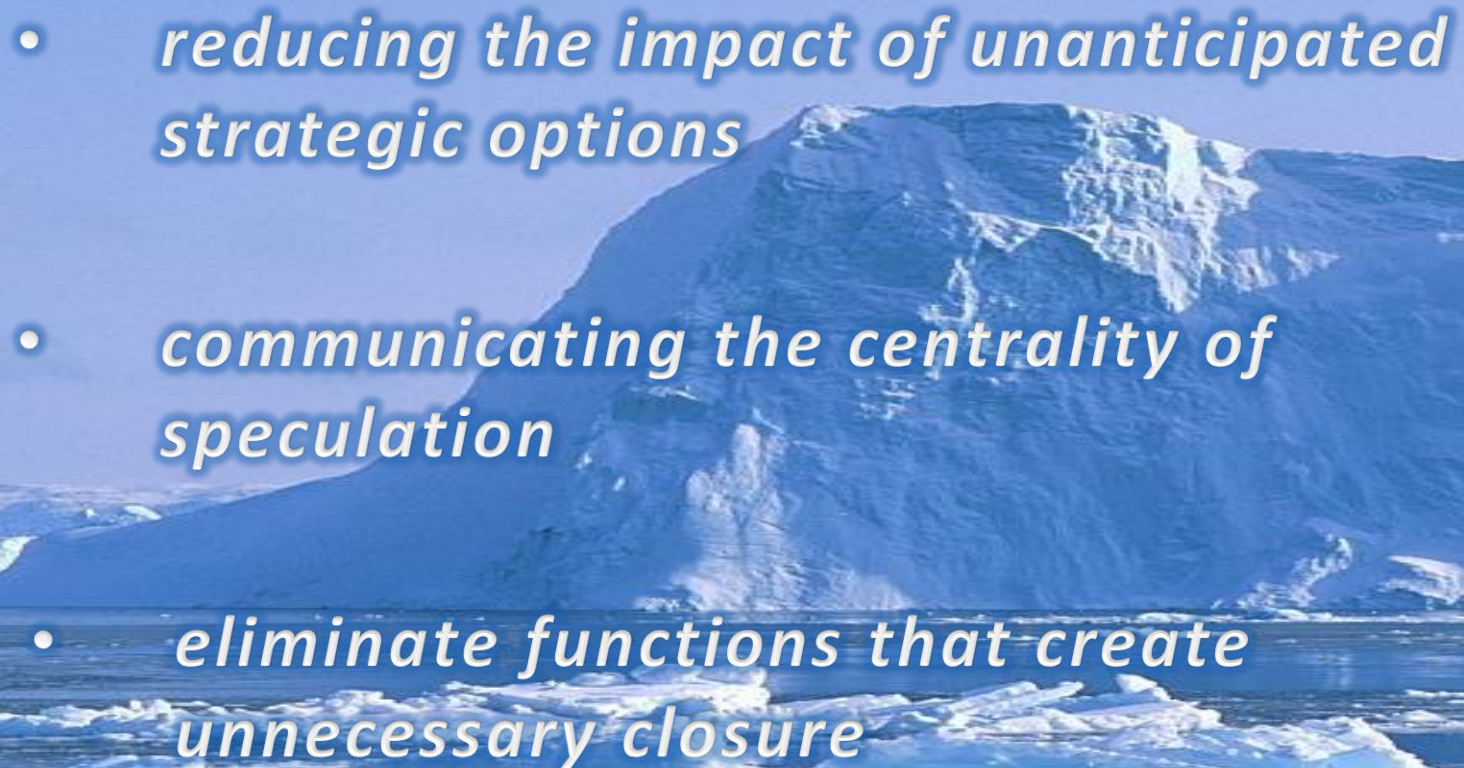


# THE CONUNDRUM AND THE ORGANISATIONAL CHALLENGE

- *planning as a priority*
  - ✓ expanding planning time-frames
  - ✓ organisational understanding that speculation is a main-line activity
  - ✓ harvesting ideas and expertise from a wide array of resources
  - ✓ expanding planning time-frames
- *the art of systematic speculation*
- *the hazards of risk aversion*



# THE ORGANISATIONAL CHALLENGE AND DECISION MAKING

- *reducing the impact of unanticipated strategic options*
  - *communicating the centrality of speculation*
  - *eliminate functions that create unnecessary closure*
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PLANNING FROM THE FUTURE