Constructing an Urban Future: The sustainability and resilience of cities – infrastructures, communities, buildings and housing.

• Paper / Proposal Title:
  Building resilience through collective engagement

• Format:
  Written paper and presentation

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• Abstract (300 words):
  The basic premise of the study is that the collective engagement of the citizens in a disaster-prone city helps transform their city to a resilient city. Many urban managers encourage citizen participation by providing a venue for citizens to engage in public issues including that of city planning and management. Citizen participation is important in building a cohesive community, empowering its citizens, and enhancing their sense of ownership of their community and city as a whole. The research underscores that collective engagement and action have an influence in the transformation of a city.

  The study will use the concept of resilience in the socio-ecological systems context to build a conceptual framework on the transformation process. Cities are ecological systems with both natural- and built-environment characteristics. Cities are complex multi-dimensional systems with both social (human) and ecological (natural and built environments) tied together. The changing landscape and continuous exposure to disturbances put pressure on the social and ecological systems of a city.
This study seeks to present panarchy as a concept that can be used for understanding city resilience and transformation. The goal is to provide an overview of the socio-ecological systems framework and its relevance in understanding cities and disaster resilience. First, it offers a background of the socio-ecological approach in urban planning. Second, it presents the socio-ecological systems framework and its relevance in disaster resilience. Third, it attempts to expound on the panarchy concept of Holling and Gunderson by providing a conceptual framework for transforming disaster-prone cities to resilient cities.

**Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Theresa Audrey O. Esteban is an urban planner by profession who has been in the development field for more than 16 years. She has managed urban planning, environmental, disaster risk management, water and sanitation, and social development projects in the Asia-Pacific region funded by multilateral development organizations. Ms. Esteban was the co-author of a chapter for the ADB publication Green Cities entitled A Water Secure Future. She was the Team Leader for the Contribution to Change Philippines Appeal Project where she worked closely with the methodology authors from Oxfam and University of East Anglia. She is the main author of the final report available on: http://www.alnap.org/resource/19629. Her recent publication is Collective engagement: picking up after the storm, a chapter in the book Urban Governance in the realm of complexity, discusses participation, community, and disaster recovery. Ms. Esteban currently holds a PhD position at the Erasmus University Rotterdam Graduate School of Social Science and the Humanities.