



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the second edition of our new CEBRA Newsletter. CEBRA officially commenced on the 1st July 2013 and we have hit the ground running.

On the international front CEBRA was honoured to welcome a group of 25 Indonesian risk professionals for a half-day visit. The visit was arranged by Indonesian Center for Risk Management Studies and the Audit Board Indonesia. The attendees represented a range of fields, including; construction, mining, insurance, education, finance and transport.

Deputy Director Andrew Robinson was also putting the finishing touches on CEBRA's research partnership with the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries. This exciting opportunity is already seeing us collaborate on a number of research projects across a number of our research themes, including data mining, intelligence gathering, cost benefit and pathways.

Andrew was also busy helping the Department of Agriculture with their move to consolidate their post-quarantine entry operations into one site just outside Melbourne. CEBRA was on hand to conduct a workshop with 25 Department of Agriculture technical and managerial personnel to support them in the transition. The workshop included modelling and scenarios for a range of pathways and disaster scenario planning and risk mitigation.

CEBRA was pleased to once again sponsor and provide secretariat support for the 7th Annual Conference for the

"I am particularly pleased to say that there has been strong continuity in our research program since the move from ACERA to CEBRA."

Society for Risk Analysis. Our thanks go to Erica Kecorius for bringing together a well-run couple of days. This year, the program was hosted by Prof. Tom Kompas, who is at the ANU's Crawford School, and is also one of CEBRA's principal researchers. The SRA Conference program had a lot to offer across biosecurity, risk response, decision making and impacts on policy.

Our congratulations also go to the Department of Agriculture for winning the "Enterprise-wide risk management" at Comcover's annual Awards for Excellence in Risk Management.

While all this has been going on, our main focus has been to get the 10 research projects up and running.

I am particularly pleased to say that there has been strong continuity in our research program since the move from ACERA to CEBRA. Our team continue to deliver the following important ACERA initiated projects: *Improving ballast water risk tables (Now, CEBRA Project ID: 1301C)*, *Intelligence gathering and analysis (Project ID: 1303A)*, *Ornamental fish import surveillance systems (Project ID: 1305A)* and *Plant-product pathways and the Continuous Sampling Plan (Project ID: 1305B)*.

It is also excellent to see our researchers undertaking several projects in

collaboration with the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, including: *Data mining to improve risk profiling (Project ID: 1301A)*, *Market-based incentives for biosecurity compliance (Project ID: 1304C)* and *Handling uncertainty in the Risk-Return Resource Allocation model (Project ID: 1304B)*.

It has been a great start to CEBRA. I want to thank the Biosecurity Risk team in the Department of Agriculture for their fine administration, and all the CEBRA researchers for their energetic inputs to the early stages of our new projects. I look forward to continuing the good work well into the future.

Mark Burgman

Managing Director, Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis

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PROJECT UPDATE

On 24 June 2013 the Department of Agriculture Biosecurity Research Steering Committee endorsed the following projects as ACERA's final research output:

- Determination of effect of audits on pathway contamination rates for medium-risk stockfeed
- Measuring the cost of human morbidity from zoonotic diseases
- Post-border decision-support tools: A tool to support the decision to switch between eradication and containment of an invasion
- Ballast Water Risk Table Reconstruction
- Detectability of arthropods in fresh produce consignments
- Relative risk of different categories of imported biological products of animal origin
- The use of Manufacturer's Declarations as a biosecurity control for the import of biologicals
- A sampling framework and trial for the surveillance program



Indonesia's Center for Risk Management Studies and the Audit Board Indonesia visit CEBRA on 27 September 2013.

INDONESIAN VISIT

Members of the Indonesian Center for Risk Management Studies and the Audit Board Indonesia visited CEBRA on 27 September 2013.

CEBRA provided brief presentations by Professor Colin Wilks, PhD students Stuart Jones and Aaron Dodd, and deputy Director Andrew Robinson, each of which sparked considerable lively discussion. The visit was an excellent opportunity to compare notes on the challenges of process management under uncertainty and risk across a wide range of undertakings. We extend grateful thanks to the CEBRA staff, especially Ms Erica Kecorius, for their outstanding efforts on the day.

TALKING RISK

Annual conference of the Society for Risk Analysis (ANZ)



The 7th Annual Conference of the Society for Risk Analysis (Australia and New Zealand Chapter) was held 10-12 September, at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University. As in past years, CEBRA co-sponsored the event as part of its role in ensuring governments remain at the

forefront of practical risk assessment through the provision of collaborative, relevant and practical research outcomes.

The more than 100 participants represented a wide variety of disciplines and organizational interests, including the traditional fields of food safety, biosecurity, disaster preparedness, occupational health and safety, toxicology and chemical regulation; and increasingly prominent areas such as; gene technology, nanotechnology and climate change. The meeting provides a wonderful opportunity for members and like-minded professionals to share innovations and explore common ground in risk analysis, management and communication.

TALKING RISK *CONTINUED*

The conference was preceded by a full day workshop facilitated by risk analysts from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's National Center for Environmental Assessment, exploring human health and ecological risk assessment in regulatory settings. Alongside coverage of contemporary approaches to hazard identification, dose-response assessment, exposure assessment, and risk characterization, facilitators shared the US experience in discerning substance from whimsy and fashion among the many methods and protocols that risk researchers and practitioners tout.

Keynote speakers at the conference addressed topical issues in risk governance (Prof John Quiggan, University of Queensland),

the importance and ubiquity of jump-diffusion processes (Professor Tom Kompas, ANU) and the risks posed by chronic illness and its impact on families, government and the economy (Professor Deborah Schofield, University of Sydney).

A subset of presentations from the conference are available here;

www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/2013/index.html

Membership to the Society can be arranged via;

www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/membership.html

RISK MANAGEMENT IN GOVERNMENT

On the 31 August 2013 the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (now Department of Agriculture) was announced winner of the Enterprise-wide Risk Management Category at the Annual Comcover awards for excellence in Risk Management.

For a Department that has a portfolio covering so many areas of risk exposure, such as quarantine, primary production, trade, and pest and weed management; managing risk is necessarily a critical part of the business of government.

“Congratulations to the Department of Agriculture on their award and due recognition and to Comcover for its important work building a risk management culture across government.”

The work of CEBRA is focussed on better understanding and responding to Australia's, and increasingly the regions, biosecurity risks. And at a research level

there has been a strong track record of investment in understanding risk through initiatives such as ACERA and now CEBRA.

However, the major challenge flowing from all research of this nature is converting better understanding into better public policy and investment.

Across government, policy must be developed and delivered against tight budgets, so responding to risks must be efficient as well as effective.

Which is why it is so positive to see the Department of Agriculture being recognised for taking such a proactive approach to incorporating risk and risk management into the way it does business.

Congratulations to the Department of Agriculture on their award and due recognition and to Comcover for its important work building a risk management culture across government.

For us, working with a department that understands risks and incorporates risk as part of its business culture certainly puts us one step ahead.

