AFTER GREAT DISASTERS: AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF HOW SIX COUNTRIES MANAGED COMMUNITY RECOVERY

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Great natural disasters are rare, but their aftermath can change the fortunes of a city or region forever. In their new book, After Great Disasters (Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2017), Johnson and Olshansky report on their 25 years of collaborative experience and firsthand research on the roles of government in successful disaster recovery in the United States, Japan, China, New Zealand, Indonesia, and India. The U.S. case highlights the increasing centralization of state and federal involvement in recovery with the 2001 World Trade Center disaster, 2005 Hurricane Katrina—previously detailed by the authors in Clear As Mud: Planning for the Rebuilding of New Orleans (APA 2010)—and 2012 Superstorm Sandy. Lessons from the six countries can help communities and government leaders better organize for and implement recovery after future disasters. The cases also illustrate how post-disaster reconstruction offers opportunities to improve construction and design standards, renew infrastructure, create new land use arrangements, reinvent economies, and improve governance. If done well, reconstruction can help break the cycle of disaster-related impacts and losses, and improve the resilience of a city or region.

SPEAKERS:
LAURIE A. JOHNSON
ROBERT B. OLSHANSKY

Laurie A. Johnson, PhD AICP
Laurie Johnson is an internationally recognized urban planner specializing in disaster recovery and catastrophe risk management. She began her planning career working with San Francisco Bay Area communities that would soon be impacted by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and has since developed an extensive portfolio of disaster recovery expertise in planning and rebuilding following earthquakes, landslides, floods, hurricanes, and man-made disasters across the U.S. and the world. This includes the Loma Prieta and 1994 Northridge earthquakes, the 1997 Grand Forks North Dakota flood, 1995 Kobe and 2011 Tohoku Japan earthquakes, 2005 Hurricane Katrina, 2008 Sichuan China earthquake, and the 2010-2011 Canterbury New Zealand earthquake sequence. In 2006, she was a lead author of the recovery plan for the City of New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina and then coauthored the 2010 book, Clear as Mud. Planning for the Rebuilding of New Orleans, with Robert Olshansky. Laurie and Dr. Olshansky are also coauthors of the 2017 book, After Great Disasters: An In-depth Analysis of Six Countries Approaches to Community Recovery. She is also a lead author of the 2014 Planning Advisory Service (PAS) report of the American Planning Association (APA) entitled Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery. Next Generation, and is currently advising the City of Oakland, CA and Wellington, New Zealand on their pre-disaster recovery planning efforts. Dr. Johnson is a visiting project scientist at the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center (PEER) at the University of California-Berkeley and chairs the U.S. National Advisory Committee for Earthquake Hazards Reduction. She is a long-standing member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, the American Planning Association and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. She holds a Doctor of Informatics degree from Kyoto University, Japan and a Master of Urban Planning and Bachelor of Science in Geophysics, both from Texas A&M University.

Robert B. Olshansky, PhD, FAICP
Robert B. Olshansky, Ph.D., FAICP, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has studied recovery planning and management after numerous major disasters around the world, including ones in the U.S., Japan, China, Taiwan, India, Indonesia, and Haiti. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation and Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and in 2004-05 and 2012-13 he was a Visiting Professor at the Disaster Prevention Research Institute at Kyoto University. Along with Laurie Johnson he co-authored Opportunity in Chaos: Rebuilding after the 1994 Northridge and 1995 Kobe Earthquakes (available online), Clear as Mud: Planning for the Rebuilding of New Orleans (APA Press, 2010), and After Great Disasters: An In-depth Analysis of How Six Countries Managed Community Recovery (Lincoln Institute, 2017). In 2014 he co-edited a special issue of the Journal of the American Planning Association on Planning for Disaster Recovery.