

Higher education session: the role of academia

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- Dialogue between academics and policy makers:
  - Hazard mapping at macro scale exists in Turkey, but what is missing is risk mapping. It's a priority for Academics, but hasn't been converted into policy circles.
  - Dialogue should encompass all stakeholders. Academics can provide a 2 way bridge between knowledge and experience.
  - There is tension, missing link, vacuum between macro level ( eg IPCC models) and micro level (local knowledge).
  - Academia has a crucial role to play: role of "translator": facilitate exchange of information. Not really good at it. Work with partners like Red Cross (chain of information).
  - Academia can help legitimise local knowledge, show evidences of things that work at community level.

## 2 When it comes to exposure to risks: different perceptions.

- After the Marmara Earthquake in 1999, different lobby groups emerged with conflicting interests and perceptions: which ones prevail? This can provide an excuse to government for not acting.
- In that context, what should be the position of academics? Academia tends to be projected as neutral, but nothing is neutral. Impartial referee? Risk of being used by these lobby groups.
- Academics can be contracted by different group. What if their findings do not fit with the commissioner's agenda?
- Avoid imposing solutions to local communities: What is needed is not experts, but "inerts".

3. Communication issues: theme that emerged in various discussions.

- Tricky task because not only different actors, but also different levels, different realities.
- Academia has a crucial role to play as a mechanism for exchange information. There is scope for improvement. Example: filmmaking and video as a communication tool (info better welcomed if imparted by peers( eg farmers in Malawi). Repackaging information.
- Provention can support young researchers. (continue grantee programme).
- Provention can help open doors by making introduction. Could be a “dating agency” between researchers and practitioners, org.
- Not only financial support.
- Young researchers, fresh graduates need work experience, but real internships opportunities are limited.