

**Dr George Walker**

Honorary Research Fellow
Aon Benfield Analytics Asia Pacific

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Recent Articles and Papers

- “Modelling Vulnerability to Wind Damage – A Review.” *Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering*, 38:9 pp 1031-1039, 2011 .
- “Comparison of the Impacts of Cyclone Tracy and the Newcastle Earthquake on the Australian Building and Insurance Industries”, *Australian Journal of Structural Engineering*, Vol.11, No.3, 2011 pp:283-293.
- “Is Flood Insurance Feasible – Experiences from the People’s Republic of China”, *ADB Sustainable Development Working Paper*, No.5, Asian Development Bank, 2009. (with, Lin, T. And Kobayashi, Y.)
- “A Proposed Framework and Approach to Earthquake Micro-insurance.” *Proc., 14th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering*, Beijing, 2008. (DVD)
- “Earthquake Insurance: An Australian Perspective”, *Australian Journal of Structural Engineering*, Vol.8, No.1,2008.
- “Insuring Climate Change: Implications for the Insurance Industry.” In Tang, K. (Ed) *The Finance of Climate Change: A Guide for Governments, Corporations and Investors*, Risk Books, London, 2005 (with C. Crosthwaite and A. Punter)
- “Catastrophe Risk Models for Asia from a User Perspective.” In Gurenko, E.N. (Ed.) *Catastrophe Risk and Reinsurance: A Country Risk Management Perspective*, Risk Books, London, 2004.
- “Pricing catastrophe risk.” In, Britton, N.R. (Ed.) *Catastrophe Risks and Insurability*, Aon Re Australia, 2003.

Background

George joined Aon in October, 1994 as Research Director for what was then Alexander Howden Reinsurance Brokers Australia subsequently becoming Head of Strategic Development in Aon Re Australia until retiring from full-time work in 2004, continuing part-time as a Senior Risk Analyst until 2010. Previously, he was Assistant Chief of CSIRO Division of Building Construction and Engineering for 5 years, and before that spent 21 years as Senior Lecturer and then Associate Professor in Civil Engineering at James Cook University of North Queensland – where he is now an Adjunct Professor.

Experience

With a PhD in Earthquake Engineering, after experiencing Cyclone Althea which hit Townsville in 1971, he became an expert in wind engineering, particularly in relation to the design of houses to resist extreme winds. He led the investigation of the damage to Darwin from Cyclone Tracy and played a major role in the changes to building standards which followed. During the last 30 years he has increasingly specialised in the assessment of catastrophe risk to insurance companies, and is one of the pioneers of the introduction of catastrophe insurance risk modelling in Australia. During recent years special areas of interest have been the technical design and management of disaster insurance schemes, including micro-insurance, and the implications of climate change for the insurance industry.

He has played an active role in various government, standards, and professional committees during his 45 years of professional life. He was a peer reviewer of the financial sections of the IPCC reports on climate change for 10 years . He is principal author of over 200 publications in the fields of wind and earthquake engineering, catastrophe insurance and climate change. In 2013 inducted into the Queensland Engineering Hall of Fame

Current Role

George formally retired from Aon Benfield Analytics Asia Pacific in 2010 but has continued his association on a retainer as an Honorary Research Fellow. He is also an Adjunct Professor at James Cook University and Queensland University of Technology.

Professional Qualifications

- B Engineering (Civil) (1st Class Hons), 1960, University of New Zealand.
- M. Engineering (Civil), 1961, University of New Zealand
- PhD (Earthquake Engineering), 1966, University of Auckland
- Fellow, Institution of Engineers Australia
- Fellow, Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand
- Fellow, Australian Institute of Building

Presently Serving On:

- International Standards Organisation Sub-Committee TC59/SC15 – Performance standards for houses. Chairman. (1997 – present)