'RORA'

RISK ON RISK ANALYSIS
Program 2014 - 2020

As the world drives faster and harder towards dependency on software based risk analysis solutions, the lack of critical input in both analysis and assessment introduces a 'wild card' in the integrity of the risk analysis, assessment and control measures introduced to ensure service delivery, capacity and capability of critical infrastructure within municipalities. Risk analysts, capable of delivering innovative and robust risk mitigation for critical infrastructure, often do so through combined practical experience of crisis, management during the event and understanding essential enablers towards recovery. The introduction of 'Risk on Risk Analysis is an un-necessary ingredient and can only serve to dilute the integrity of the RSA – meaning that it would render the Risk & Vulnerability Analysis (RSA) invalid and potentially fail to achieve it's objective.

To understand, and manage, risk effectively one must first understand the interconnect between potential scenarios, the global, national or local cause and the local ripple effect having impact on the community. The ability to understand methodology, such as R.A.I.D. is as much a mind-set as an absolute requirement, as 'assumption and dependency', left un-checked, can creates a living virus in a calculated risk mitigation.

An example, from Zone C, West Bank, Palestinian Authority, was service delivery based on an assumption. An assumption was made that; 'The utility company generates power and distributes it across the region. Therefore, electricity will be available to operate communication systems, fuel pumps, heating and lighting'. The 'Risk on Risk Analysis was a direct result of failing to understand the lowest common denominator taking effect. When civil unrest occurred and basic living requirements declined, those people left lacking physically took what they could to use as a means of trade and barter. In this instance, groups between 2-3 people, risked their own safety by throwing 'grappling' hooks and rope over heavy duty power lines, connected to a four wheel-drive and simply dragged the cable to the ground where it was recovered for the copper content.

Global dynamics change on an ever-increasing basis. Risk analysis produced to manage risk must, therefore, be considered a living analysis and should not be left unattended in a rapidly changing world. Thus, ensuring the integrity of the data, control measures and ultimate preparedness for a time of crisis. At a time when Sweden's MSB (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency) has produced a robust action plan for the protection of critical services, new regulations, reporting tools and acknowledged the necessity for including climate change in the risk analysis – what more could be done to reduce the potential effect of 'Risk on Risk Analysis'?

ISSS Chairman, Philip Wayer, concludes; "Based on the significant platform that MSB has initiated, paving the way for 2014 to 2020 the key variable in RSA activities would be the physical analysis and how it is implemented in each municipality. Dependent on it's size and available funds, municipalities may either outsource to the private sector or perform an RSA themselves utilizing internal resource". Wayer believes that the areas of innovation and inter-connect present the most significant challenge for the protection of critical infrastructure. "This challenge can be effectively and efficiently met through a post-RSA verification process, ensuring the integrity of the RSA and crisis preparedness planning, supported with a structured review, in the event of pre-defined changes in specific global, national or local events.