

Genesis

- DTI concerned about the loss of competitive edge by the London market
- Managing Agents required to improve estimates of aggregated exposures disaster scenarios
- Composites reviewing reinsurance purchase arrangements
- Brokers shifting to fee based income and seeking to differentiate themselves through technical advice





Current Status

- Budget of £960,000 to spend over three years from 1st September 1997
 - £480,000 from DTI Sector Challenge
 - £480,000 from Consortium members
- Administered by the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge (a component institute of the government environmental science funding body - the Natural Environment Research Council or NERC)
- Currently two full time employees
 - James Orr and Lance Garrard



Tropical Cyclone Forecasting

- Establish a new methodology for
 Seasonal prediction of Land-falling
 Tropical Cyclones in three oceanic
 basins
- Awarded to
 - The Meteorological Office (project management)
 - University College London (Benfield Greig Hazard Research Centre)
 - Reading University







TSUNAMI Linkag Insciant and Science

Extreme Weather in Northern Europe

•Improve the prediction of extreme events and the assessment of risk from major European weather events

Spatial estimates of the probability and correlation of the occurrence of severe weather events, with varying degrees of severity, and predict changes in the climate
Consider the value of "teleconnections" in the understanding of climate periodicity and trends, so allowing improved forecast accuracy

•Awarded to

- University of East Anglia (Climatic Research Unit)
- University College London (Department of Statistical Science with support from Imperial College)







UK Flood Risks

Project Aims

- Consider the "availability and affordability" issues for UK flood insurance in the light of expected developments during 1999
 - New Environment Agency flood maps
 - IoH Flood Estimation Handbook
 - University of Dundee's Report of Flood Claims Costs
 - New Halcrow Reports
 - Weak Links in sea defense
 - The Thames upstream from the Barrier
 - LIDAR digital elevation mapping
- Joint with the ABI





Tsunami Risks

• Deliverables

- Publish a guide to the Tsunami phenomenon
- Develop a world hazard map
- Further the understanding of risk assessment

• Awarded to

• Coventry University and University College London (Benfield Greig Hazard Research Centre)

• Financial Support from the HSE









Uninsured Losses

- Understand how uninsured losses impact
 - Individuals
 - Companies
 - Local governments
 - Central governments

• Awarded to

- Surrey University, Centre for Environmental Strategy
- International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis









Extreme Value Statistics

- Identify new mathematical methods for forecasting future losses
- Analysis of insurer data sets using novel methods
- Awarded to
 - The Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Studies in Cambridge
- TSUNAMI consortium follow-up
 - Translating methodology for practical use (Mark Dixon courses)
 - Industry study group led by Peter Taylor (DP Mann) established - Y2K study started at University of Cambridge







Reliable Estimates for Return Periods

• Example Comparison

Return Period for Major UK Windstorm Storm

Exponential Pareto GPD Industry Estimate 487 years 187 years 333 years <50 years



Projects under Consideration

Localised wind enhancement

- Utilising new models of wind gusting from local topography to understand how to interpolate average wind speeds from climate models
- Correlations of macro-economic parameters and insurance losses
 - Explore correlations between economic parameters and insurance losses to utilise economic forecasting for improved estimates of future losses



Satellite Risks

• Understand the risks to satellites from

- High energy particles
- Magnetic storms
- Meteorite showers
- Space debris

Project under consideration involving

- University College London (Mullard Space Science Laboratory)
- British Antarctic Survey (Physical Sciences
 Division)











Communication

• TSUNAMI organises

- Meetings, workshops, seminars, informal luncheons and conferences to stimulate discussions of the underlying aims of the initiative
- Workshops held
 - El Nino, earthquakes, quantified risk assessment, Y2K, new mathematical methods for extreme value analysis The Millennium Bug from an insurers perspective
- Web Site (www.nerc-bas.ac.uk/public/tsunami)
 - Multiple levels of access



Communication

- Joint Seminars between the Insurance Industry and the Research Community
- Spring 2000 TSUNAMI conference at the Royal Society
- Science Strategy Workshop







Summary

• TSUNAMI is seeking to improve the competitiveness of the UK insurance industry through the better application of the results of R&D

• TSUNAMI articulates the user need, develops project scope with consortium members, puts a research team together and monitors the progress of the project

• TSUNAMI funds research through fast track projects, announcements of opportunity and contracted research

- TSUNAMI also organises and funds workshops and conferences
- TSUNAMI II possible but organise as an entity