

IFRC-TISS International Roundtable Conference

on

“Disasters and Forced Migration: A Global Overview”

October 24-25, 2016

In recent times human migration and forced displacement both due to natural disasters and conflicts is a reality that nations and humanitarian agencies are confronted with. Even though the genesis of these two kinds of migration are different viz. Floods, earthquakes, forest fires on one side and war and armed conflicts on the other end, the fundamental uprooting of the lives of people and struggles in moving to newer lands has a lot in common.

Between 2008 and 2014, 184.6 million people were forced from their homes due to floods, earthquakes, tropical storms, volcanic eruptions, and other natural disasters, with 19.3 million newly displaced in 2014, according to the latest available data from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). The quantum of mankind displaced due to armed conflicts is equally staggering. In 2015, more than a million asylum seekers and migrants had illegally crossed into Europe in need of international protection, most of them fled from their country of origin due to war, violence and persecution. According to the most recent publicly available United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates, by the end of 2015, nearly 65 million people worldwide were displaced either within or beyond their country's borders due to war and violence. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that at least 5,400 migrants died or went missing in 2015 globally.

Forced Migration is also expected to increase with the growing concerns of climate change. The IPCC Working Group II in its assessment report in 2014, explicitly recognized that “Climate change over the 21st Century is projected to increase displacement of people” and “can indirectly increase risks of violent conflicts in the form of civil war and inter-group violence by amplifying well-documented drivers of these conflicts such as poverty and economic shocks”

Some of the questions that emerge out of the forced migration dynamics are: How do we shape the understanding of forced human migration and displacement due to disasters in the context of climate change? Are there any fundamental differences in recognizing the rights of displaced populations as those who flee from conflicts and violence vis a vis those uprooted by natural disasters? Do we need to recognize forced migration due to disasters as a matter of injustice, law and sovereignty? What are the current paradigm encompassing the role of the state, the migrant and the host population in case of displacement and acceptance in both natural and man made

crisis? What are the challenges that need to be addressed and how can we build integrated approaches to deal with them?

TISS in partnership with IFRC proposes an international round-table conference to engage with questions such as those posed above to facilitate discourse amongst the participants on the understanding of forced migration and displacement in the context of both natural as well as man-made crises.

Sub Themes:

- Disasters and Forced Migration.
- Contradictions in Global Governance: Role of State, Host Population and the Migrants.
- International Humanitarian Interventions & Civil Society Response: Strengths and Challenges.
- Critical Approaches to Humanitarian Principles: Reflections from field based practices.

Call for Abstracts

We invite academicians, practitioners and researchers to submit abstracts (not more than 500 words) which focuses on the questions outlined above to alumni.ifrctiss@tiss.edu by **not later than August 31st, 2016**. The abstract must contain authors' names, institutional affiliations, contact number, email and postal address. **Authors will be notified of acceptance of Abstract by September 10, 2016.**