

The Business Continuity profession and the wider Community.

Watching and listening to the news of various response teams responding to the recent events in Samoa and Indonesia has once again caused me to ask what could or should the Business Continuity profession – i.e. “Us”, be doing about this type of situation.

I recognise that we are not an emergency response focussed profession however I do wonder if we may well have a part to play in wider community recovery operations.

Since the early 2000's, involving a wide range of parties, there have been several major dialogues¹ on the topic of community recovery. It is my understanding that some initiatives have arisen out of these forums however I do not see that there is a fully connected, pan-community response capability.

And how can there be if organisations and their business continuity capabilities are part of that pan-community response capability.

When I think about this subject the questions that keep coming to mind are:

1. Could our skills be used in helping communities better prepare for disasters?
2. Could our skills be used in helping communities recover from major events?

If the answers to Questions 1 & 2 are YES then it naturally lead to the following questions:

- a) What should we be doing about it?
- b) How could we organise what we plan to do?
 - > Should it be organised as an industry response or an individual response?
- c) What training would we need to prepare ourselves for such work?

I would value your thoughts so please email me at nzrep@continuity.net.au as this little discourse is meant as an opener to a discussion that we need to be having so that our profession and the organisations that it supports can be fully part of the communities that we operate in.

For New Zealanders we can continue the discussion on Thursday 15 October as Continuity Forum's Disaster Awareness Week BC-@-Lunch Meeting.

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¹ For example Community Recovery Planning & Performance Workshop, May 2002 and NZ Recovery Symposium, July 2004