

PANEL DISCUSSION

Insurance as a Catalyst for Urban Resilience: Protecting Cities from Climate-Driven Business Interruption

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ORGANIZERS



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DESCRIPTION



Extreme weather events, climate-driven disruptions and cascading service failures increasingly threaten urban systems. While attention often focuses on physical damage, the more profound impact is frequently business interruption – small and medium enterprises, transit services, municipal service functions, and overtime costs for emergency response.

This session will explore how insurance – going beyond indemnification – can serve as a strategic instrument for urban resilience by:

- Covering business interruption losses faced by cities and their service ecosystems.
- Incentivizing adaptation investments (e.g., premium discounts, performance-linked underwriting).
- Supporting innovative resilience finance (e.g., guarantees for resilience-linked debt, resilience bonds).
- Enabling cities to shift from reactive recovery to proactive adaptation and continuity of operations.

Target participants

City-government officials (climate/adaptation/finance), insurance and re-insurance practitioners, risk modelling firms, municipal finance specialists, academics and researchers in resilience, infrastructure and climate risk, and representatives of small-business and transit stakeholders.

Session format and audience engagement

The session will comprise a short framing presentation, followed by a panel discussion featuring representatives from the insurance industry, city officials, and insurers, with audience Q&A and interactive breakout (or facilitated discussion) on crafting city-insurance pathways.

Call for contributions / abstracts

We welcome proposed papers, case studies or practical projects addressing any of the above themes. Submission may follow the [standard guidelines of ICONHIC](#) for curated sessions. Accepted contributions may be invited for oral presentation or poster.