Building Organisational Resilience for the Construction Industry: New Zealand Practitioners’ Perspective

Z. Sapeciay, S. Wilkinson and S. B. Costello

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, The University of Auckland, New Zealand

Abstract

Purpose - Improving the resilience of construction organisations to natural disasters not only minimises the negative consequences to their organisations, but also helps to improve community resilience and the post-disaster recovery as a whole. However, little research has been conducted on how construction organisations deal with the risk of natural disasters. This study sought to explore New Zealand construction practitioners’ opinions on organisational resilience practice within the construction industry, based on survey and interview results.

Design/methodology/approach – A literature review was conducted to gather information on assessment tool for measuring organisational resilience, their characteristics and indicators. Subsequently, a set of questions was formulated to collate opinion from construction practitioners in New Zealand, using a questionnaire survey and semi-structured interviews. The objective was to explore the resilience practice within the construction sector on the development of resilient assessment tool for construction organisations.

Findings – This paper ends by revealing that the construction industry lacks resilience practice, especially from an organisational perspective. The findings suggest that the industry would benefit form resilience assessment tool to help foster resilience attributes both from an organisational and technical aspects. The adaptation of such tool could potentially enhance organisational capacity to recover quickly from crises and disasters.

Keywords - Key Indicators, Construction Organisations, Post-disaster Reconstruction, Organisational Resilience

Paper type – Research paper