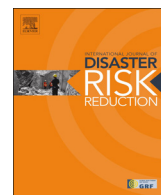




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## Review Article

## Revisiting the concept of development, disaster and safety management: The Quranic perspective

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## ABSTRACT

Economic development is accompanied by the use of an increasingly complex technology, especially in the process of industrialization. The technological threats will cause an unpredictable event such as industrial accident or even the worst scenario, industrial disaster. Thus, the purpose of this paper is to provide an overview linking the literature on how Islam views the objective of development as well as the industrial disaster and safety management system. To our knowledge, most of the studies with regard to disaster and safety management are technical and administrative oriented. The angle of spirituality and religiosity is always being disassociated, especially with what commonly is regarded as worldly affairs. In this paper we tried to discuss what Islam says about industrial disaster and safety of industrial activities and how it relates to Allah's commandment. We also highlighted the story about disasters from the Quran in brief and drawn the lessons learned. The risk assessment process relating to safety matter was also discussed alongside the priority (اولويات-*awlawayyat*) and comparison (مقارنة-*muqaranah*) approach. The sources of information are academic articles and books, religion texts, and internet websites. To this end, in order to incorporate the spiritual approach into the industrial disaster and safety management system, the tripartite concepts of vicegerency (الإستخلاف-*al-istikhlaf*), cooperation for righteousness (التعاون-*al-ta'awun*) and consultation (شورى-*shura*) are introduced.

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**1. Introduction**

UNISDR [54] has defined disaster as “a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources”. In general, disasters can be divided into two categories: natural disaster and man-made disaster. Natural disasters are disasters that occur as a result of environmental activities. This type of disaster is associated with the law of nature and regarded as a natural process, which is common. Earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes are among the most discussed examples. Despite all disputes, it is also termed as “Acts of God” [21,42,24]. The second category is a man-made disaster (technology), the disaster that occurs as a result of human activities or is anthropogenic. Quarantelli [46] uses the term “Acts of Man” to describe this type of disaster. Apart from the above two categories, some researchers added another type of disaster and termed it as a hybrid disaster ([14,1,22]). The hybrid disaster is a disaster that occurs due to the continuation or mixture of the above categories. However, even though the occurrence of natural disaster always claims hundreds of life and causes billions of property loss, but man-made disaster seems to be more complex and almost unpredictable and

frightening. This is because future technologies are almost unexpected and deduced to be increased in complexity. Due to this fact, we may not be capable of identifying their imminent dangers amidst their mushrooming development. Meanwhile, it will be worse if they cause insidious and chronic health issues to the posterity due to accidental exposures to release of hazardous and toxic chemicals. This threat has become even more challenging and (LaPhante and Kroll-Smith termed this as a chronic technological disaster) requires our ability to recognize the problem earlier as its impacts take a longer time to manifest [29].

Several initiatives have been taken by the world community to circumvent or reduce the negative implications of disastrous events (Fig. 1). Basically, these initiatives have the objective to prevent mortality, property loss and environmental damage. However, we cannot assume that the existence of these multifarious initiatives is ipso facto to eliminate such risks. In the opinion of the authors, it is less meaningful if the attempt to minimize the impacts of disasters merely emphasizes on the exogenous dimension of human life such as technical and administrative. Thus, the other side of the coin, which is the spiritual dimension, and which is often ignored, may need to be revisited. The religious values and norms should also be embedded, as it will be the best guidance towards a safer life and happiness. This is because God’s guidance is the best for human living,

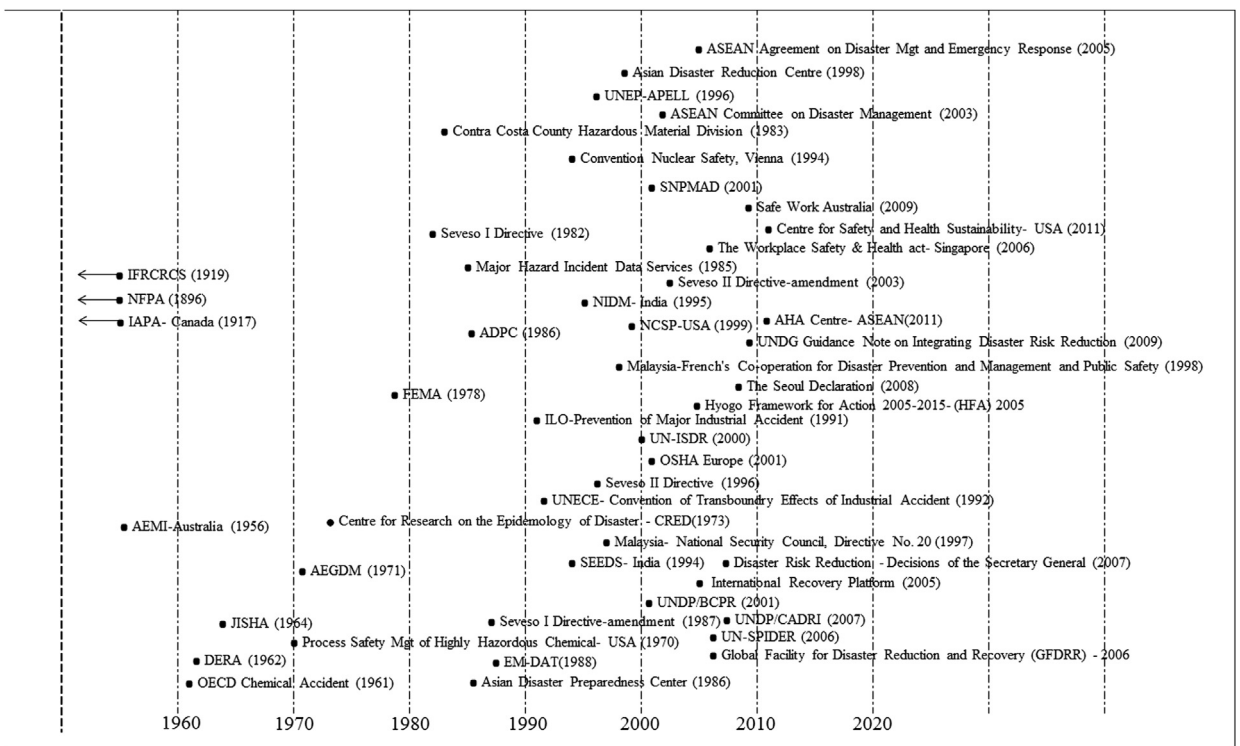


Fig. 1. Non-exhaustive initiatives related to safety management and disaster management.

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