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Original Citation

Malalgoda, Chamindi, Amaratunga, Dilanthi, Haigh, Richard and Keraminiyage, Kaushal (2014) Professional doctorate: Applicability to the construction industry in developing societal resilience. In: FACE 2014 Annual Conference | Collaborate to Widen Participation: to, through and beyond HE, 2-4th July 2014, University of Salford. (Unpublished)

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Professional doctorate: Applicability to the construction industry in developing societal resilience

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With the increase in occurrence of high impact disasters, the role of Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) in enhancing the disaster related knowledge and skills of construction professionals is highly recognised. HEIs are expected to contribute to both theory and practice in the development of societal resilience to disasters through the development of curricular and modules to update the knowledge and skills that employees have obtained in the past. Doctoral education is identified as one of the methods in upgrading the knowledge of the construction professionals in this regard. Due to shortcomings of the traditional doctoral programmes in addressing the needs of the industry and professionals, professional doctorates have become increasingly recognised. As such professional doctoral programmes have been considered as more appropriate in developing knowledge and skills of the construction professionals. In this context, the aim of the paper is to introduce the concept behind the professional doctoral programmes and the applicability of those programmes to the construction industry in developing societal resilience. The paper is based on an on-going EU funded project, CADRE, the aim of which is to address current and emerging labour market demands in the construction industry to increase societal resilience to disasters. The project will develop an innovative professional doctoral programme that integrates professional and academic knowledge in the construction industry to develop societal resilience to disasters. Accordingly a structured professional doctoral programme will be developed which reflects how the construction sector and its professionals could contribute in achieving resilience for increasing threats from natural and human induced hazards. CADRE has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author/s, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use, which may be made of the information contained therein.