

▶ Press Release

The event

Pavia, Italy - On **January 21 2015** the [GEM Foundation](#) will celebrate the official release of the [OpenQuake Platform](#) with a great event in Pavia, Italy. Partners, scientists, academics and stakeholders from all over the world will actively participate with presentations and speeches on risk assessment and its applications to risk reduction and prevention, bringing some concrete examples and best practice. Dedicated booths will give in-depth information about the platform and will allow hands-on experience on the available resources. Qualified technical staff will provide all necessary support in testing the platform resources and learning about the services provided by GEM.

The much appreciated presence of **Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction, will open the event and address the progress achieved within the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 priorities and the way forward envisaged for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

Further information about the event can be found at the following link:
<http://www.globalquakemodel.org/openquake/about/>

A **PRESS CONFERENCE** will be held on **January 19 2015** at the GEM Foundation headquarters to give technical explanations and ensure a full understanding of the OpenQuake platform's functions and applications within the context of earthquake disaster risk reduction.

Please confirm your attendance by sending an email to: luna.guaschino@globalquakemodel.org. For all those unable to guarantee their presence there will be offered a chance to join the press conference remotely. More questions can be addressed to the GEM Twitter account **@GEMwrlld** with the hashtag **#OQRelease**. Please find also attached a copy of the full programme of the day.

The platform

The web-based **OpenQuake Platform** will be freely available from January 2015 to the international community for modelling, viewing and **exploring earthquake risk worldwide**. It will serve as a hub for professionals and stakeholders from around the world to apply GEM products and obtain results on risk assessment and understanding that will inform **risk management, risk prevention, scientific research and much more**.

The interactive features of the platform will allow for the continuous contributions of the GEM community around the world and will play as a dynamic environment to share knowledge and resources. Specifically, in the **Calculate** section users can integrate open-source applications with homogenized data and models and run calculations from global to local scale by using the **OpenQuake Engine** – a state-of-the-art software developed by GEM. In the **Explore** section they can leverage geospatial technologies to investigate earthquake hazard and risk in a specific area of the world or combine datasets to produce their own maps. And finally in the **Share** section they are facilitated to share results with the entire community, while discussing methodologies and approaches.

Take your own tour on the platform and ask GEM to provide you with a temporary account by sending a request to: luna.guaschino@globalearthquakemodel.org

The global benefit

“Economic losses from disasters triggered by natural events are rising—from \$50 billion each year in the 1980s, to just under \$200 billion each year in the last decade. In addition, the economic losses sustained by lower- and middle income countries alone over the last 30 years are equivalent to a third of all development assistance in the same time period, offsetting the tremendous development efforts of governments, multilateral organizations, and other actors”. (*From Understanding Risk in an Evolving World – GFDRR*).

While playing as a collaborative, open-source and transparent effort driven to public good, the GEM Foundation provide the international community with free and accessible risk data in standardized format, high-quality risk assessment tools and training on technology and methodologies that represent an asset for many countries in the world. Following a programme for the oncoming years that includes technical development, project implementation and decentralization, GEM aims to become **in 10 years a globally accepted standard for risk assessment**. By doing so, it will facilitate risk awareness and understanding for risk reduction worldwide.

Contact Us

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