Beginning with its first issue in 1981, Risk Analysis: An International Journal has attracted authors and readers that recognize the importance of including economic considerations in risk-related decisions. Fast forward to 2014, and much of the world’s population and business is tied together in a global economy, hazard events have far-reaching impacts throughout supply networks, and government budgets are squeezed. The pressure on decision makers to use limited resources more effectively has never been higher. Economic considerations are always part of risk-related policy deliberations, whether required by law or simply necessitated by the realities of justifying budgets and allocating limited resources.

The Special Virtual Issue focuses on the economic consequences of hazards and how economic consequences are a part of risk-related decisions. Over the last 25 years, Risk Analysis has included many articles and special issues that recognize the importance of including economic considerations in risk-related decisions. Fast forward to 2014, and much of the world’s population and business is tied together in a global economy, hazard events have far-reaching impacts throughout the supply networks, and government budgets are squeezed. The pressure on decision makers to use limited resources more effectively has never been higher. Economic considerations are always part of risk-related policy deliberations, whether required by law or simply necessitated by the realities of justifying budgets and allocating limited resources.

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