

## **UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

INFLUENCE OF PERSONAL, COMMUNITY AND AGENCY FACTORS ON INTENTION TO PREPARE FOR TSUNAMI IN PENANG, MALAYSIA

SYAKURA A RAHIM

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## INFLUENCE OF PERSONAL, COMMUNITY AND AGENCY FACTORS ON INTENTION TO PREPARE FOR TSUNAMI IN PENANG, MALAYSIA



Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

May 2016

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Abstract of the thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Science

# INFLUENCE OF PERSONAL, COMMUNITY AND AGENCY FACTORS ON INTENTION TO PREPARE FOR TSUNAMI IN PENANG, MALAYSIA

By

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#### May 2016

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Tsunami 2004 was an unforeseeable event that caught Malaysia of guard resulting with 68 losses of lives and with an estimated economic loss of about RM236.5 million. Scientists predict that if the earthquake epicentre originates from the Andaman-Nicobar region, the coastal population of Langkawi, Kedah and Penang will have about 30 minutes to evacuate to safety. Following the United Nation Consumer Guideline emphasizing on the principal objective of consumer protection, it is apparent to be prepared for tsunami disaster aligned with the eight consumer rights and responsibilities for the right to safety, satisfaction of basic needs and right to a healthy environment. Thus it is vital for the affected consumers to be prepared for future tsunami disaster. This study therefore aimed to examine the factors influencing intention to prepare for future tsunami among the coastal residence located in tsunami risk areas. The aims of this study were to determine the influence of positive outcome expectancy, subjective norm, risk perception, sense of community, and trust towards the intention to prepare for future tsunami disasters among consumers in Batu Ferringhi and Balik Pulau area. The differences in the level of intention to prepare for future were examined between those who experience and did not experience the 2004 tsunami.

This study utilized a cross-sectional research design using a survey method. A total of 503 respondents were chosen systematically and data gathered were analysed using SPSS version 22. Both genders, male and female were equally represented with a mean age of 44 years with and had an average household income of RM2222.00. Data indicated that the level of intention to prepare for tsunami disaster was moderate (M=3.72) from a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high) with no significant difference in intention to prepare between those who experienced and did not experienced the 2004 tsunami. Subsequently, results from a multiple regression statistical analysis performed found that sense of community to be the most influential factor followed by subjective norm, trust, positive outcome expectancy and risk perception, explaining the 57% variance in intention to prepare. Sense of community, subjective norm and trust in agencies reflect the influence of the collectivistic culture whereby households plus communities have a central role in supporting and encouraging each other.

![](_page_3_Picture_9.jpeg)

The importance of community-based activities in forming the intention to prepare for tsunami is evident from the results obtained. In addition, consumers ought to be made aware of the risk of tsunami and that early preparedness can reduce the consequences of tsunami impacts. It is imperative to educate them on the importance of adopting protective measures such as acknowledging tsunami risk, knowing tsunami safe routes and evacuation zones, familiarization with tsunami warning messages and good emergency financial management through the involvement of household members, neighbours, community leaders and local agencies. Consequently, this also highlights the potential of adopting a community based disaster risk management as recommended by the United Nations International Strategy Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) which encompasses the cooperation between the local community and relevant stakeholders in preparing for future tsunami disaster.

![](_page_4_Picture_1.jpeg)

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Master of Sains

## FAKTOR INDIVIDU, MASYARAKAT DAN AGENSI YANG MEMPENGARUHI NIAT UNTUK BERSIAPSIAGA BAGI MENGHADAPI TSUNAMI DI PULAU PINANG, MALAYSIA

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Tsunami yang berlaku pada tahun 2004 adalah satu peristiwa diluar jangkaan yang melanda Malaysia dan mengakibatkan kehilangan 68 nyawa serta kerugian ekonomi sekitar RM236.5 juta. Para saintis meramalkan sekiranya gempa bumi terjadi berpusat di kawasan Andaman-Nicobar, penduduk di kawasan pantai Langkawi, Kedah dan Pulau Pinang akan mempunyai hanya lebih kurang 30 minit sahaja untuk berpindah ke kawasan yang lebih selamat. Garis Panduan Pengguna Bangsa Bangsa Bersatu telah memberi penekanan kepada hak-hak pengguna yang selari dengan kesiapsiagaan pengguna bagi menghadapi bencana tsunami jaitu hak untuk keselamatan, hak untuk keperluan asas dan hak kesejahteraan di dalam persekitaran yang sihat. Oleh sebab itu, adalah penting bagi pengguna untuk bersiap sedia bagi menghadapi bencana tsunami pada masa akan datang. Kajian ini menfokuskan kepada faktor yang mempengaruhi niat pengguna untuk bersiapsiaga di kawasan yang terdedah kepada risiko bencana tsunami. Matlamat kajian ini ialah untuk mengenalpasti perkaitan antara jangkaan hasil positif, norma subjektif, persepsi terhadap risiko, perasaan kemasyarakatan terhadap komuniti dan kepercayaan terhadap agensi dengan niat pengguna di kawasan Batu Ferringi dan Balik Pulau untuk bersiapsiaga menghadapi bencana tsunami yang mungkin terjadi pada masa akan datang. Perbezaan dalam niat ini juga dikaji antara mereka yang telah mengalami tsunami 2004 secara langsung atau tidak.

Kajian ini menggunakan rekaan kajian keratan rentas melalui kaedah tinjauan. Seramai 503 responden dipilih secara sistematik dan data yang diperolehi dianalisis menggunakan SPSS versi 22. Responden lelaki dan perempuan diwakili secara sama rata dengan purata umur 44 tahun, dengan purata pendapatan keluarga sebanyak RM2222.00. Data menunjukkan bahawa tahap niat untuk bersiapsiaga menghadapi bencana tsunami adalah sederhana (M=3.72) dari skala 1 (rendah) hingga 5 (tinggi) tanpa sebarang perbezaan ketara antara mereka yang pernah menghadapi bencana tersebut pada tahun 2004 dan pada mereka yang tidak mengalaminya. Seterusnya, hasil dari analisis statistik regresi pelbagai menunjukkan bahawa rasa kemasyarakatan dalam komuniti merupakan faktor yang paling berpengaruh diikuti dengan norma subjektif,

kepercayaan kepada agensi, jangkaan keputusan positif dan persepsi terhadap risiko. Gabungan kesemua faktor ini menjelaskan varians niat kesiapsiagaan untuk menghadapi tsunami sebanyak 57%. Rasa kemasyarakatan dalam komuniti, norma subjektif dan kepercayaan pada agensi mencerminkan pengaruh budaya kolektivisme dimana keluarga dan komuniti memainkan peranan utama memberi motivasi dan menggalakkan antara satu sama lain untuk membuat persediaan.

Kepentingan aktiviti kemasyarakatan dalam membentuk niat untuk bersiapsiaga bagi menghadapi tsunami adalah sejajar dengan keputusan yang diperolehi. Di samping itu, pengguna harus diberi kesedaran berkenaan risiko tsunami dan kepentingan persediaan awal boleh mengurangkan impak tsunami. Adalah penting mendidik pengguna melalui penglibatan ahli keluarga, jiran, pemimpin masyarakat dan agensi tempatan akan kepentingan menerima pakai langkah perlindungan seperti mengenali risiko tsunami, mengetahui laluan selamat tsunami, zon selamat tsunami dan mengenali mesej amaran tsunami. Selain itu, hasil kajian ini juga menggariskan potensi perlaksanaan *community based disaster risk management* seperti yang digalakkan oleh *United Nations International Strategy Disaster Reduction* (UNISDR) yang merangkumi kerjasama antara masyarakat setempat dan pihak lain yang berkepentingan dalam bersiapsiaga menghadapi bencana tsunami pada masa akan datang.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 03 May 2016 to conduct the final examination of Syakura binti A Rahim on her thesis entitled "Influence of Personal, Community and Agency Factors on Intention to Prepare For Tsunami in Penang, Malaysia" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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## **CHAPTER 1**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1** Background of the study

The United Nations Assembly adopted the United Nation Consumer guideline in 1985 emphasizing on consumers economic interest, safety and quality of goods and services relating to education, basic necessities and sustainable consumption that has been used by its members as a reference that have been passed as legislation in countries under the United Nation (Harland, 1987). The principal objective of consumer protection act is to guard consumer safety and well-being. Primarily the consumer's rights and responsibilities are clustered into eight categories which are the right to safety, the right to be informed, the right to choose, the right to be heard, the right to satisfy basic needs, the right to redress, the right to consumer education and the right to a healthy environment (Brown, 2012). The right to safety refers to the right to be protected against hazards to health or life. As a consumer, an individual have the right to protect oneself from property damage and threatens against well-being that can jeopardize quality of life and safety (Fazli, 2012). The recent climate change has changed the patterns of natural disaster exponentially.

Over the past few decades until the 90's, the occurrence of natural disasters has not only doubled globally from 200 to about 400 cases per year (UNISDR/OCHA, 2008), but also quadrupled between 2001 to 2010 and is predicted to continue increase (Gaiha, Hill, Thapa, & Kulkarni, 2015). The alarming increase in frequency is the outcome of global warming, a contributing factor of climate change that has drastically changed weather patterns and the intensity of natural disasters (UNISDR/OCHA, 2008). Since 1971, two thirds of intense natural disasters experienced globally were of hydro-meteorological type, some of which were triggered by geographical hazards like tsunami that has dominated the collateral effects of hydrological and geological disaster.

Earthquake and tsunami have been occurring constantly changing the surface of the earth interminably. Large earthquakes are often associated with the Pacific Ocean in particular the "Ring of Fire", a series of volcanoes and active fault. Tsunamis, which often travel through the ocean leaving a trail of devastation, are often generated by oceanic earthquake, underwater landslide or volcanic eruptions adjacent to the oceans that generate ripple of waves through the movement of the sea bed mainly in the Pacific basin and the Indian Ocean. Tsunamis are giant waves that can travel at the speed of a jet (up to 950km/h) over deep waters crossing continents. The speed of tsunami wave depends on the depth of the sea rather than the distance from source of the wave. The waves build in height and force whilst travelling inland as the depth of the seabed decreases. Tsunami waves come in a few series where the second wave is normally bigger than the first.

![](_page_17_Picture_6.jpeg)

Without prior warning or preparation, there will be an extensive loss of lives and properties. In the last couple of decades, the frequencies of tsunami disaster with astounding impacts have increased alarmingly. Since the year 2,000 the death toll implicated by tsunamis exceeded 300,000 lives with property damage amounting to more than USD3 billion (EM-DAT, 2015). The 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami which occurred 155km from North Sumatra off the Sumatran Coast with a focal point of 30km in depth is the deadliest tsunami ever recorded affecting 19 countries, causing deaths in 12 countries including Malaysia (Lay et al., 2005). Approximately more than 250,000 death toll was reported, 51,000 were missing and around 1.5 million others were displaced by the sheer force of the disaster. Properties and economic damages were estimated to be more than 4.4 billion (RM 18.92 billion) (EM-DAT, 2015).

It is clear that Malaysia is no longer in the comfort zone, safe from tsunami disasters. Consequently, the Malaysian government allocated a research grant worth RM4 million (USD930,232) to conduct seismic and tsunami hazards study. Among the findings identified was that if the earthquake epicentre originates from the Andaman-Nicobar sea region, tsunami wave is expected to reach the shorelines of Langkawi, Penang and Kedah in about 30 minutes (Teh, Koh, Liu, Ismail, & Lee, 2009). Tsunami, unlike other natural hazards, is a chain reaction induced by mostly earthquake and it is therefore unpredictable. However, when a sudden movement of water bodies triggering a tsunami is detected, it is possible to calculate and predict the direction of the tsunami wave and the estimated time of arrival. Individuals living in tsunami-exposed area can have as little as less than ten minutes to evacuate to safety (McAdoo, Dengler, Prasetya, & Titov, 2006).

Tsunami has tremendous effects on the lives of individuals as consumers. Disasters not only affect local consumers but also global consumers, linking the international community chain by supply and demand. Local consumers are in jeopardy of losing family, home, properties and livelihood as a direct effect of the disaster, while the resources supply (export) by the commodity chain will be disrupted indirectly. A fine example of the magnitude of tsunami impacts to consumer is the recent 2011 Tohoku tsunami which led to a nuclear disaster. Shortly after the event, countries like America and UK banned perishable goods from Japan while Asian countries like Malaysia, Hong Kong, Philippines and Singapore increased the monitoring of incoming goods (Kajitani, Chang, & Tatano, 2013). Business entities were forced to find other suppliers or close down. One of the dramatic impacts was the temporary shutdown of twelve automakers in Japan to conserve electricity which ultimately led to the stall in car manufacturing/assembling in America. The tsunami incident drew attention to how the world economy works and how it is connected in terms of financial flow (Herod, 2011). Significantly there is a growing recognition on the importance of consumers as an enduser and business entity to participate in a sustainable risk reduction plan and be prepared for future disasters.

Disaster management to reduce disaster risk has direct connotation to human safety and well-being (Shaw, 2014). One of the strategies for disaster risk reduction identified by United Nations International Strategy Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) is to enhance community preparedness through community based disaster risk management

(CBDRM) with the core fundamental of developing a resilient community against disasters (Shaw, 2012). CBDRM is a proactive disaster management approach that comprises of activities and significant role playing between the consumers as a community, local authorities and the responding agencies. CBDRM implements both top-down and bottom-up approach that includes all stakeholders from ground zero to national level. Strong involvement and cooperation among relevant sectors followed by constant follow-up help disseminate lessons learnt and best practices of CBDRM, such as instilling awareness throughout generations and building an independent community via knowledge of tsunami risk, tsunami safe route and evacuation area, familiarization with type of tsunami warning messages and emergency responses. Such practice focuses on preparedness rather than response to reduce or alleviate impact of disasters. Lessons learnt and experiences can be shared by consistently conducting a series of training with modules tailored specifically for the vulnerable groups like consumers in the community. These groups become resilient by preparing themselves better to respond to disasters and recover in a timely manner, returning their life to normalcy (Tong, Nguyen, Shaw, & Tran, 2014).

Preparedness is defined as actions taken prior to an emergency to develop operational capabilities with the aim to facilitate effective contingent responses upon the occurrence of an emergency (Aini, Fakhru'l-Razi, Ahmad Rodzi, & Fuad, 2011).Disaster preparedness saves lives, minimize property damage and reduce financial loss. Creating awareness by educating at-risk population on tsunami preparedness, mitigation, evacuation route, and strengthening infrastructures can aid populations on low-lying coastal strip to relocate safely.

Knowing what to do during emergency helps a person react appropriately, in addition to reducing panic and chaos. Disaster preparedness increases the ability to predict, respond and cope with the impacts of a disaster. Preparedness is the essence of CBDRM to form a resilient community, a vital criteria before, during and post-disaster (Kafle & Murshed, 2006). Being prepared is aligned with consumer's right to safety, right to information, right to basic needs and the right to a healthy environment. Therefore, based on the grounded findings by previous researches on the importance of disaster preparedness, this study attempted to investigate the factors that influence preparedness to tsunami disaster.

## **1.2 Problem statement**

The first wave of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami hit Langkawi Island between 12.00pm and 12.30pm followed by mainland Kedah, Penang Island and Perak around 1.00pm, six hours after Aceh was hit. The unprecedented event claimed 68 lives, injured 367 and left 10,564 homeless (Aini et al., 2011). The losses due to the tsunami were felt greatly in rural coastline villages where fishing boats, aquaculture farm and fishing docks were destroyed or damaged. The fishing and aquaculture industry suffered the most as 7,721 fisherman and 232 fish farmers were affected, with 3,626 boats worth more than RM73.1 million (USD17 million) in total were damaged (Ibrahim & Mazlan, 2006). According to Ibrahim and Mazlan, (2006) the average loss per house destroyed is estimated to be around RM 55,900 to RM64,500 (USD13,000 to USD 15,000). Many

household livelihood that relied on the sea for source of income were disrupted causing psychological (Asmawi & Ibrahim, 2013) and socio-economic impacts (Chamhuri, Ibrahim, Haslina, & Roslina, 2006).

Penang Island reported the highest casualties at 54 deaths, the highest properties damage (which was estimated at USD14.3 million) and an economic loss amounting to around USD55 million (Ibrahim & Mazlan, 2006). The 2004 tsunami was a testament to the vulnerability of Penang Island as a high-risk tsunami zone. The tsunami struck the northern part of Penang consisting of Batu Ferringhi, Tanjung Bungah, Tanjung Tokong, Pantai Miami and Teluk Bahang) and southern district comprising of Kampung Perlis, Kuala Jalan Baru, Kuala Sungai Pinang, Kampung Pantai Malindo, Kampung Permatang Damar Laut, Kampung Pulau Betong, Kampung Acheh, Kampung Sungai Batu, Kampung Teluk Kumbar and Pantai Pasir Panjang.

Most of the casualties were beach goers and picnickers enjoying recreational beach activities, oblivious to the natural signs of tsunami and the necessary actions to take in the event of a tsunami disaster. Responding agencies and local authority reported a lot of confusion on the roles of respective agencies and the chain of command that led to many miscommunications and ineffective coordination during the search and rescue stage (Badruddin, 2012; Roosli & O'Keefe, 2013). Due to the absence of a standard operating procedure for tsunami disasters, there was a lack of coordination among responding agencies to mitigate, response and provide relief to the victims of the disaster, particularly since Malaysia was thought to be free of tsunami hazard prior to 2004.

Economically, consumers were affected by the increase of price due the disruption of marine goods' supply like fish and aquaculture products (Chamhuri et al., 2006). The following year, landing of marine fishes dropped by 9.16 per cent compared to 2004 as a direct result of the tsunami which caused the destruction of many fishing vessels, adversely affecting the fishing industry throughout the year (DOF, 2005). While it is without a doubt that the death toll was partly due to the absence of a warning system, the impacts of the disaster can be reduced by being aware of tsunami characteristics, taking safety measures and being prepared (Muttarak & Pothisiri, 2013).

The primary experience and knowledge gained from the 2004 tsunami act as a learning platform for local communities, responding agencies, government organizations and non-government organizations to be proactive and prepare for future tsunami. Unlike other disasters, there is a time lag between the earthquake and the generation of tsunami waves before it reaches the coastline. Therefore, awareness on tsunami evacuation routes and tsunami safe zones are essential for effective tsunami preparedness to be achieved. On the contrary, failure to learn from the past events will lead to the failure of the system to mitigate for future disaster (Bird & Dominey-Howes, 2006). Vulnerable coastal communities must be able to respond appropriately in a timely manner upon the issuance of tsunami warning (Aini et al., 2011; Paton, 2013).

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The first 72 hours after any disaster relief is most critical to save lives known as "golden 72 hours" (Zhang & Ansari, 2012). Though responding agencies and rescuers have a thorough rescuing plan, they will take time to activate the procedures and get to the victims especially in large scale disasters such as tsunami. As an individual, one has to be self-reliant during the first 72 hours until assistance arrives to ensure survival. Subsequently, it is essential for families to plan ahead and be self-sufficient with basic supplies such as food, water and medicines since basic necessities and infrastructures such as electricity, water and telecommunication are often disrupted following a disaster (Kohn et al., 2012). Lack of awareness on surrounding hazards and the inability to coexist have been associated as underlying factors to the loss of lives and disruption of livelihood (Samaddar, Chatterjee, Misra, & Tatano, 2014). Although inconsistent, previous studies have found that those who have faced a disaster to be more prepared. and have adapted and learned from prior experience making them better prepared, as they adapt the attitude of preparing early for disasters (Donahue, Eckel, & Wilson, 2013). Direct experience can shift risk perception motivating people to manage their risk and willing to adopt hazard mitigation strategies, triggering preparedness (Paton, 2003). If people were aware of the nature and impact of tsunami, earlier preparation can be made to reduce death toll, casualties and property damage.

Building a tsunami resilient community through community preparedness is a challenging task, especially in cases where tsunami has only occurred once (or rare) and the communities at-risk might feel complacent to take actions to be prepared, perceiving future tsunami as low risk and unlikely to happen again anytime soon (Shaw, 2014). In this context, preparedness takes into account adopting tsunami protective measures, activities to protect the neighbourhood as well as communication and seeking information on tsunami related issues (Becker, McBride & Paton, 2013a).

Studies have shown intention to prepare for a disaster will lead to preparedness (Becker, McBride, & Paton, 2013a). It is therefore important to identify level of intention to prepare and investigate the influencing factors that can enhance individual's intention to prepare. Studies have shown that preparedness consists of three levels namely individual level, community level and societal/agencies level (Paton, Miller & Johnston, 2001; Becker, McBride & Paton, 2013a). Individual level comprising of positive outcome expectancy, subjective norm and risk perception was found to influence intention to prepare (Paton, 2003). Sense of community, which reflects the feeling or sense of belonging, importance and shared belief within the group that represents community, was found to be one of the key determinants in intention to prepare (Paton, Kelly, Burgelt & Doherty, 2006a). Similarly, trust towards civic agencies was also found to be a significant predictor in the intention to prepare for tsunami (Paton et al., 2010a). Present, no such study focusing on factors influencing intention to prepare for disaster or disaster preparedness has been conducted in Malaysia. As such, this study would like to examine whether the above mentioned variables are determinant of intention to prepare for tsunami among households in Penang.

#### **1.3** Research questions

From the review of the problem statement, a few questions arise in regard to intention to prepare for tsunami.

- 1. What is the demographic background of respondents?
- 2. Is there any difference between households with direct experience to tsunami and household without direct experiences in intention to prepare for tsunami?
- 3. What are the level of intention to prepare, positive outcome expectancy, subjective norm, risk perception, sense of community and trust among households in Penang tsunami risk area?
- 4. Are there any relationship between intention to prepare for tsunami and positive outcome expectancy, subjective norm, risk perception, trust and sense of community?
- 5. Which the best predictors of intention to prepare for tsunami among households in Penang tsunami risk area: positive outcome expectancy, subjective norm, risk perception, trust or sense of community?

## 1.4 Research objectives

## 1.4.1 General objective

The general objective of this study is to identify the factors influencing intention to prepare for tsunami among households in tsunami risk areas in Penang.

## 1.4.2 Specific objectives

- 1. To identify the social-demographic background of the households residing along the shoreline of the tsunami risk area.
- 2. To examine the differences between households who have direct experience and those without direct experiences to tsunami 2004 in intention to prepare for tsunami.
- 3. To determine the level of intention to prepare, positive outcome expectancy, subjective norm, risk perception, sense of community and trust among the households in Penang tsunami risk area.
- 4. To investigate the relationship between positive outcome expectancy, subjective norm, risk perception, sense of community and trust towards intention to prepare.
- 5. To determine which factor has the strongest influence towards intention to prepare for tsunami among households in Penang tsunami risk area.

## **1.5** Research hypotheses

 $H_01$ : There is no significant difference between household with direct experience to tsunami and household without direct experiences in intention to prepare for tsunami.  $H_0$  2: With controlled variables in the model there are no dominant factors that significantly influence intention to prepare for tsunami.

## **1.6** Scope of the study

The study focuses on households in tsunami risk zone identified through tsunami modelling which are 1km to 2km from the shoreline namely Balik Pulau and Batu Ferringhi in Penang Island as they reside in tsunami risk hazard zone. Each household was represented by the head of family or spouse who acts as a decision maker or can influence the decision maker.

## 1.7 Limitations of study

The 2004 tsunami affected Kedah (Langkawi and Kuala Muda), Penang, Perak and Selangor but the research was limited to Penang Island, where the highest death toll and property damages were recorded.

## 1.8 Significance of the research

The result of the study contributed in three aspects namely theoretical, policy and practical. The information gathered can aid other researchers, students, policy makers and consumers to address the issues of creating a more prepared society against tsunami hazard.

## 1.8.1 Significance to the theoretical body of knowledge

This study has theoretically merged Theory of Reasoned Action and risk perception (individual level), sense of community (community level) and trust (societal/agencies level), all of which represent indicators of preparedness to disasters. The subject matter of intention to prepare for tsunami has been investigated in other countries with different cultural background (individualism and collectivism) (Paton, Sagala & Okada, 2013b), however there is an absence of empirical research studying intention to prepare for tsunami in Malaysia. This study could fill the theoretical gap by providing theoretical justifications for the conceptualization of the relationship between intention to prepare for tsunami and the influencing factors among coastal consumers in tsunami risk area in Malaysia.

Findings show the suitability of the theories and model applied in Malaysia and similarities in the output, if any. The influencing factors may assist other scholars in researching the concept of being prepared for a tsunami hazard.

## **1.8.2** Significance to policy makers

Findings of the study highlight areas of mitigation, preparedness and recovery that need policy amendment or consideration in order to restore the economy in a short period of time, to uphold socioeconomic balance among households and to reinstate financial stability. Agencies and organization such as the National Security Council, Malaysian Meteorological Department and responding agencies can benefit by amending current policies if necessary to accommodate current needs, implementing programme to create public awareness and absorbing disaster preparedness into education curriculum at schools and higher learning institutions.

## 1.8.3 Practical significance

For practical contribution, findings provide beneficial input that acts as a guideline of methods for consumers to become prepared. Consumers can make housing plan in advance taking into consideration the safety aspects of the housing area. Stakeholders and business owners will have the opportunity to protect their interest and the interest of the consumers, especially by taking precautions to keep the chain of supply intact. Areas that need improvement or to be focused on will be highlighted like developing problem solving skills, instilling the belief that actions can be taken to mitigate effects of disasters and encouraging positive beliefs. The framework acts as a concrete reference for non-governmental organizations and community leaders to conduct training, disaster drills, public activities as well as seminars to create awareness among the public on tsunami hazard to create a resilient community.

## **1.9 Definition of terminologies**

The terms used in the context of the study were defined as follows.

#### **1.9.1** Intention to prepare for tsunami

#### Conceptual

Behavioural intention indicates a person's motivation or willingness to act or perform a set of behaviour (Paton, Smith & Johnston, 2005).

#### Operational

Intention to prepare refers to the likelihood to adopt protective measure to reduce the impact of tsunami to self, family, property and neighbourhood stability. The construct were adopted from Paton, Smith and Johnston (2005). A total of 21 items were included in the measurement quantified using a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

## **1.9.2 Positive outcome expectancy**

#### Conceptual

A positive behavioural belief associated with performing a behaviour with a positive outcome (Fishbein & Ajzen, 2011).

#### Operational

The nature of a person's beliefs to mitigate consequences of tsunami through an individual's action in which they believe the recommended action can be implemented. The constructs were adopted from McIvor and Paton (2005) consisting of four

statements measured using a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

## 1.9.3 Subjective norm

#### Conceptual

Subjective norm refers to perceptions concerning what should or ought to be done with respect to performing a given behaviour by social agents (Fishbein & Ajzen, 2011).

#### Operational

Subjective norms refer to influence towards individuals and perception of social agents (family, friends, colleagues and neighbourhood) on taking tsunami protective measure. The construct was adopted from McIvor and Paton (2007) using sixteen items measured using a 5-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (very unlikely) to 5 (very likely).

## 1.9.4 Risk perception

#### Conceptual

Risk is conceptualized as the likelihood of the hazard occurring and the impact from extreme environmental event (Lindell & Perry, 2012).

## Operational

Risk perception refers to the perception of tsunami threats and the impact of tsunami from three components, namely individual's safety, severity of tsunami and future threats. The construct was adopted from Frandsen (2010) comprising of nine items quantified using a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

#### 1.9.5 Trust in civic agencies

#### Conceptual

Trust means believing that a person(s) representing the organization or organization(s) can be relied upon to accomplish their objectives because they are competent and possess values and intentions that are consistent with those of the individual (Greenberg, 2014).

## Operational

Trust in civic agencies refers to the level of faith and confidence towards civic agencies, viz. local authorities and responding agencies (Malaysia Meteorological Department, Police, Fire and Rescue, Civil Defence Department etc.), with regards to the agencies being concerned with public welfare and well versed in tsunami hazard, as well as being able to provide information on protective measure to the general public. The construct was adopted from Frandsen (2012) consisting of nine items measured using a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

## 1.9.6 Sense of community

#### Conceptual

A feeling of belonging among members, and a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, with a shared faith that members' needs will be met by their commitment to be together (McMillan, 2011).

#### Operational

Sense of community refers to residents' feeling of belonging, the feeling of being important to each other, and a shared belief that residents' needs will be met by their commitment to each other. The construct was adopted from Frandsen (2012) consisted of 18 items where respondents were to rate the question using a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

#### 1.10 Summary and organization of the thesis

Chapter 1 provides an introduction and an outline of the study that includes background description, problem statement and research objectives. The scope of the study is outlined in limitations followed by contribution of the study highlighted through the significance of the research. The chapter ends with the definition of terminologies explaining terms used in the study.

Chapter 2 presents the direction of the study through a perspective of theoretical framework and models, summarized through literature review. The chapter describes the relationship between dependent variables and independent variables in the study derived through the body of literature. A brief description will be on the gap in literature review.

Chapter 3 explains research designs, the methodology involved in the research as well as reliability and validity of the instruments. The assessment of pre-test, sampling procedure, EDA and statistical analysis procedure to analyse the data were also discussed.

Chapter 4 highlights the finding of the research and the interpretation of data gathered. Discussion involves peeling social demographic background of the respondents followed by descriptive analysis to describe the findings and inferential analysis to test hypothesis and meet the research objectives.

Chapter 5 concludes hypotheses proposed in the study, elaborate major findings, and overall research implications and recommendations. The chapter ends with limitations and recommendations for future study.

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## **BIODATA OF STUDENT**

The student Syakura A Rahim was in Melaka. She pursued her primary and secondary education in Seri Kembangan, Selangor. She obtained her Bachelor in Computer Science from Universiti Putra Malaysia in 2002. After graduation she kicked start her career by working with EON Berhad as a MIS Executive followed by other reputable multinational corporation like Wolters Kluwer and Marcus Evans focusing on sustainable policies. In 2013, she pursued her Master of Science in disaster studies focusing on the preparation of consumer household for future disasters.

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## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

- Syakura, A. R., Aini, M. S., Elistina, A. B., & Norhasmah, S. (2014). The influence of household income towards tsunami preparedness in Penang Malaysia. Poster presented at the 17th National MACFEA Seminar.
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