

THE RESILIENT RENEWABLE SOCIETY (RRS) SUMMIT



The RRS Summit brings together leaders from academia, NGOs, government, policy, and the private sector to learn from recent crises, stress-test future scenarios, and shape resilience strategies together. Across three thematic sessions, the global summit explores resilience in natural disasters, energy system disruption, and emerging threats, with particular attention to whole-of-society approaches, critical infrastructure, Low- or Middle-Income Country (LMIC) perspectives, and the links between resilience, security, and public trust.

DAY 1 | WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

The Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG

What are the painful societal resilience lessons we've learned? What do they tell us about our future, and what can we do about it?

8:30-9:00
**Registration and Networking
Coffee**

9:00-9:30
Welcome and Opening Remarks
Professor Washington Ochieng, CBE, EBS, CEng, FEng, FCGI | Director of CARS, Imperial College London
Amb. Dr Ronen Hoffman | President and CEO, EIS Council

9:30-11:05 Session 1 | Preparing for Natural Hazards: From Risk to Resilience

This session examines how societies can strengthen preparedness for climate-related and other natural hazards before disruption occurs. It focuses on the relationships between risk governance, local adaptive capacity, critical infrastructure, community resilience, and public preparedness. By combining UK and LMIC perspectives, the session will explore how institutions can move from forecasting and planning to practical action that protects people, services, and systems.

9:30-9:45
**Keynote: Heat and Resilience:
Preparing Society for Our
Fastest-Growing Climate Risk**
Professor Emma Howard Boyd CBE | Chair, National Heat Risk Commission

9:45-10:00	Keynote: Living with Compound Risk: Livelihood Vulnerability, Institutional Erosion, and the Social Foundations of Disaster Preparedness in Ghana's Savannah Zone	Professor Joseph Awetori Yaro Provost, College of Humanities, University of Ghana
10:00-10:10	Breather	
10:10-10:50	Panel 1 Discussion	Panel Chair: Matt Killick Chief Operating Officer, St John Ambulance Panellists: Dr Ji-Eun Byun CARS Deputy Director of Research and Innovation, Imperial College London Dr Daniela Fecht Associate Professor in Geospatial Health, Imperial College London Andrew O'Neil Founder & Senior Risk and Resilience Advisor, Operational Outcomes Advisory Toby Wicks CEO, REACT
10:50-11:05	Keynote: Defence, Resilience and Sustainability: How we can utilise technology and nature to make this country safer and stronger	Lieutenant General (Retd) Richard Nugee CB CVO CBE
11:05-11:25	Coffee Break	
11:25-12:35 Session 2 Human Miscalculations and Energy Systems Resilience		
<i>This session explores how human error, governance failures, planning assumptions, and system complexity can amplify disruption across energy systems, public services, and communities. It will examine resilience not only as a technical problem, but also as a question of leadership, coordination, finance, public trust, public service design, and place-based approaches. The discussion aims to identify how energy systems and the communities they serve can become more robust, adaptive, inclusive, and socially legitimate in the face of outages and cascading failures.</i>		
11:25-11:40	Keynote: System resilience and preparedness requires a whole-of-society and whole-of-government response	Lord Toby Harris Chair, National Preparedness Commission

11:40-12:20	Panel 2 Discussion	Panel Chair: Professor Rosehanna Chowdhury CEO, UK Resilience Academy Panellists: Ian Fox Founder & Director, Safer Spaces For All CIC Dr Ehud Ganani Vice President, Strategic Programs, EIS Council Helen Goulden OBE Innovation & Partnerships Lead, Lloyds Banking Group Dr Sally Leivesley Managing Director, Newrisk Limited
12:20-12:35	Keynote: Resilience demands partnership, and partnership delivers resilience: Strengthening resilience through shared leadership and learning	Dr Deborah Petterson Director of Whole Energy System Resilience, National Energy System Operator
12:35-13:40	Lunch Break	
13:40-15:05 Session 3 Manmade Hazards, Emerging Threats, and Geopolitical Risk		
<i>This session considers how emerging threats-including cyberattacks, AI-related risks, operational disruption, and geopolitical instability-challenge societal and infrastructure resilience. It explores how resilience frameworks must adapt to a threat environment shaped by digital dependence, strategic competition, and increasingly interconnected systems. Bringing together cyber, defence, policy, and operational perspectives, the session asks how societies can anticipate, withstand, and recover from threats that are fast-moving, hard to predict, and potentially systemic in impact.</i>		
13:40-13:55	Keynote: Infrastructure Risk and Resilience in a Shifting Geopolitical Landscape	Amb. Dr Ronen Hoffman President and CEO, EIS Council Professor Galit Pelled Chief Scientist, Kanim Institute for National Resilience in Sderot, Israel
13:55-14:10	Keynote: Emerging Technologies and Risks: Perspectives from LMIC	Professor Jerry John Kponyo Director/Office of Grants and Research, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
14:10-14:50	Panel Discussion	Panel Chair: Professor Bryan Wells Chair of the Board of Directors, The von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics Panellists: Hannah Gurga Director General of the ABI Professor Chris Hankin Director, Research Institute in Trustworthy Inter-connected Cyber-Physical Systems (RITICS) Amb. Dr Ronen Hoffman President and CEO, EIS Council Professor Małgorzata Zachara-Szymańska Professor of International Relations, Jagiellonian University

14:50-15:05	Keynote: Is Britain Safe?	Rt Hon Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen KT, GCMG Chancellor of the University of Dundee
15:05-15:20	Coffee Break	
15:20-16:20 Final Plenary Pulling the Threads Together		
<i>The closing plenary draws together the major themes of the day to reflect on what resilience should mean in practice for societies undergoing environmental, technological, and geopolitical change. Moving from community-scale design to national coordination, it explores how resilience can be strengthened through enabling infrastructure, practical partnerships, and more integrated approaches across government, industry, and society.</i>		
15:20-15:35	Keynote: Resilience Begins at Home: Smart Multigenerational Neighbourhoods and the Future of AI-Enabled Community Infrastructure	Professor Ian Spero Founder, Agile Ageing Alliance; Convenor, ISO 25553
15:35-16:15	Panel Discussion	Panel Chair: Professor Caroline Field Co-Founder & Executive Director, Centre for Whole of Society Resilience Panellists: Michael E. Bryson Senior Vice President Operations, PJM Interconnection Dr Ji-Eun Byun CARS Deputy Director of Research and Innovation, Imperial College London Rick Cudworth Board & Executive Director at Resilience First
16:15-16:30	Keynote	Roger Hargreaves Director, COBR Directorate
16:30-16:40	Closing Remarks	Michael E. Bryson Senior Vice President Operations, PJM Interconnection
16:40-17:00	Networking	

DAY 2 | THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Electrical & Electronic Engineering Building, Imperial College London, SW7 2AZ

From Challenge to Implementation: Workshops, Simulation, and Summit Action

9:00-9:20	Registration and Networking Coffee	Electrical & Electronic Engineering Building Room 403A&B
9:20-9:35	Welcome Back and Day 1 Recap	<i>Electrical & Electronic Engineering Building Room 408 Plenary</i> Professor Washington Ochieng, CBE, EBS, CEng, FREng, FCGI Amb. Dr Ronen Hoffman
9:35-9:45	Expert Remarks	Jim Robb President and CEO, North American Electric Reliability Corporation
9:45-12:30 Parallel Workshops in Electrical & Electronic Engineering Building Rooms 406, 611, 408		
<i>Format: three parallel workshop tracks</i> <i>Overall workshop purpose:</i> <i>Each workshop should build directly on the real-world cases and discussions from Day 1 and focus on generating actionable ideas, stronger networks, and potential collaborations. The workshops aim to produce concise outputs that can feed the simulation and closing implementation panel.</i>		
9:45-12:30	Workshop Track 1 Natural Hazard Preparedness (Room 406)	Facilitators: Lihi Ganani, Amb. Dr Ronen Hoffman, Dr Ji-Eun Byun, Professor Joseph Awetori Yaro, and Professor Jerry John Kponyo Focus: Translating risk, adaptation, and preparedness lessons into operational and partnership models This workshop examines how societies can strengthen preparedness for flood, drought, and extreme heat under deep climate uncertainty. It focuses on the relationships between risk governance, local adaptive capacity, critical infrastructure, community resilience, and the funding and partnership models needed to deliver change. Through an interactive format that works backwards from shared resilience goals, the session will explore how institutions can move from risk and adaptation lessons to practical, operational action that protects people, services, and systems.
9:45-12:30	Workshop Track 2 Leveraging Insurance to Enable and Finance Resilient Energy Systems (Room 611)	Focus: Identifying governance, technical, financing, and organisational measures to improve energy resilience This workshop brings together stakeholders from the energy, finance, insurance, and policy communities to explore how innovative financial and insurance mechanisms can support the development of resilient energy systems in the face of growing climate and operational risks. Building on prior discussions from the IEA-CDRI, Imperial Grantham Institute workshop in October 2025 in Paris, the session is structured in two parts: first, to identify key climate risks, system vulnerabilities, and emerging technological and financing solutions; and second, to examine how insurance and risk transfer mechanisms can unlock investment, strengthen resilience, and enable effective public-private collaboration. Through interactive discussions, participants will generate shared insights on priority risks, resilience interventions, and financing needs, alongside practical recommendations for policy, partnership models, and investment strategies to advance resilient energy infrastructure.

9:45-12:30 Workshop Track 3: Resilience for Societies, Infrastructure, and Trusted Data in an Age of Intelligent Threats (Room 408)

Facilitator: Laurence Marzel

Focus: Strengthening resilience against cyberattacks, AI-related risks, strategic disruption, and cascading operational failures

This workshop examines how societies can strengthen resilience to cyber, AI, geopolitical, and operational threats in an increasingly connected world, while addressing the Cyber Poverty Gap that leaves organisations, communities, and sectors with unequal capability to participate safely and securely in digital systems. It focuses on the relationships between systemic risk, trusted data ecosystems, critical infrastructure, collaborative governance, and the funding and capability-building models needed to reduce vulnerability and build resilience. Through an interactive format that works backwards from shared resilience goals, the session will explore how institutions can move from understanding capability disparities and emerging threats to practical, operational action that protects people, services, and systems from cascading risks across an interconnected geopolitical landscape.

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break

Working Lunch Session for Workshop Track 1 (lunch will be provided in Room 406): Join us for presentations from research teams at the University of Ghana and KNUST, showcasing their innovation in AI security, resilience robotics, quantum communication, and climate adaptation in Ghana's savannah regions.
[RRS Workshop Track 1 Lunch Session Overview.pdf](#)

13:30-15:00 | Simulation Exercise

Format: plenary interactive exercise in Electrical & Electronic Engineering Room 408
Duration: 1.5 hours

13:30-13:40 Illuminating Interdependencies: AI, Supply Chains, and the Future of Critical Functions

Bob Kolasky | Senior Vice President for Critical Infrastructure, Exiger

Modern societies depend on critical functions supported by increasingly complex and interconnected supply chains. Drawing on the U.S. National Critical Functions framework, this introduction explores how supply chain illumination and interdependency analysis can reveal hidden suppliers, technologies, ownership relationships, geographic concentrations, and other dependencies that can become pathways for cascading disruption. It will also examine the rapidly evolving role of artificial intelligence: how AI is creating new dependencies and changing how critical functions operate, while also transforming our ability to discover relationships, analyze interdependencies, anticipate cascading effects, and build more realistic simulations. Together, these capabilities can help us move from static risk assessment toward continuously testing how critical functions will perform under stress and building resilience before disruption occurs.

13:40-15:00 GINOM: Stress-Testing Resilience

Dr. Ehud Ganani | CEO, Ginom
Avner Hilu | CPO, Ginom
Lihi Rotem Ganani | CMO, Ginom

The simulation tests how well the lessons from Day 1 and the ideas generated in the workshops hold up under time pressure, uncertainty, and interdependent system stress. A high-impact, simulation-driven exercise, where participants will confront real-world uncertainty, make critical decisions under pressure, and immediately see how their choices shape the behaviour of complex, interconnected systems.

15:00-15:15 Coffee Break

Room 403A

15:15-16:15 From Ideas to Action: Delivering Resilience Through Working Groups and Partnerships

Format: plenary in Electrical & Electronic Engineering Room 408

Purpose: This closing session will provide updates from the RRS workshop groups and identify where collaboration, piloting, and follow-up action are most needed.

1. Implementing Group

- Reporting back from the workshops and simulation exercises
- Synthesis from Workshop Facilitators and simulation findings on emergency communications, resilience and redundancy, and capabilities.

Discussion on:

- Where are the biggest delivery barriers?
- What are the most actionable ideas emerging from Day 2?
- How do we sustain momentum beyond the summit?

16:15-16:30 Final Reflections and Close

Dr Ji-Eun Byun
Amb. Dr Ronen Hoffman