



# Promoting safety and public understanding of risk.

We reviewed and updated our global safety challenges plans; acted on the recommendations of our Global Safety Evidence Foresight Review; and fostered innovation in safety data sourcing and analysis.



## Highlights from our charitable activities and new grants

### World Risk Poll

Working with Gallup, we have commissioned the world's first poll on people's attitudes and experiences concerning safety in their everyday lives. The 'World Risk Poll' is the world's largest study into how people around the world think and feel about risk and safety, including at work. It surveys over 140,000 people from more than 140 countries to improve our understanding of risk and make the world a safer place. It will produce the first ever globally comparable, publicly available data set on the public understanding of risk. The poll will be undertaken four times over the next eight years with the first results being published in July 2020.

### Public understanding of risk in Asia

We are delighted that Professor Koh Chan Ghee has been appointed to lead the multi-disciplinary team at the Institute, based at the National University of Singapore, which officially launched in June 2019. The Institute aims to change the way we question, examine and understand risk issues and will help us to improve lives by transforming the risk communication landscape and improve the public understanding of risk.

### Sharing engineering data for the public good

Through the Open Data Institute (ODI) we are engaging with the business and industry community to identify, from a safety perspective, the benefits of sharing engineering data. By sharing data, we mean increasing access to data in ways that protect privacy, retain trust and respect commercial confidentiality. ODI's work will also explore models for data sharing (such as Data Trusts) and which of these have the greatest chance of success within industry sectors.

### Reaching around the world

In August 2015 we awarded a four year grant to The Conversation of £180,000 to provide support for a science editor. The outcome has led to 709 articles that were read by a global audience of more than 35.5 million readers. Our funding also allowed the paid employment of three interns, one of whom has now been taken on as a full-time member of staff.

### Seafarers International Research Centre

In July 2018 we awarded a two year grant of £250,000 to the Seafarers International Research Centre (SIRC) in Cardiff. This has led to the production of a video and accompanying guidance to improve communications and interactions between ship-based and shore-based personnel, which is already being used by 28 shipping companies.

### Safety culture at sea

In October 2018 we extended our support of the Aviation and Maritime Confidential Incident Reporting (CHIRP) maritime programme with a grant of £150,000 over three years. It is growing in reputation and influence through its provision of a free, confidential service to report near misses and hazardous occurrences at sea. Lessons learnt are shared with a minimum of 250,000 seafarers every three months.



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**Saving lives at sea**

Our continued support for the RNLI's (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) training of their volunteer crews teaches the vital skills they need to rescue those in danger, whilst keeping themselves and their fellow crew members safe. In 2018, 250 crew members from 120 lifeboat stations around the coasts of the UK and Ireland completed their training. Crew members from these stations launched a total of 5,167 times in 2018, aiding 5,427 people. During these launches, 113 lives were saved. In 2016 we awarded a five year grant to RNLI of £1,059,000.

**Risk communication**

We know that the rapid pace of scientific and technological development outstrips the ability of the public and policy-makers to engage with it meaningfully. We are working with the Royal Institution in the UK to see if we can establish a global multidisciplinary network that will inform and strengthen the most appropriate routes for international public engagement on new technologies and scientifically-based approaches for improving safety and quality of life. Initially this involves mapping likely stakeholders and having initial conversations with those that share our purpose.

**The China Academy for Safety Science and Technology (CASST)**

CASST has developed standards for emergency preparedness for industrial incidents, co-funded by the Foundation and including LR as part of the delivery team. The project has been endorsed at the highest levels in China and training in the use of the protocols is being rolled out to partner countries involved with the One Belt, One Road initiative, including Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. The One Belt, One Road initiative is a global development strategy adopted by the Chinese government involving infrastructure development and investments in 152 countries and international organisations in Asia, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the Americas. To support our collaborations in China the Foundation is translating its foresight reviews into Chinese, starting with the Resilience Engineering and Public Understanding of Risk Foresight Reviews.



**Future plans**

In 2020 we plan to:

- Initiate activity in response to our new challenge-led strategy. We anticipate programmes will include the following:
  - Better understanding the risks associated with emerging technologies, including complex, systemic risks.
  - Planning our response to the first World Risk Poll.
  - Public understanding of risk in Asia, where there is very little expertise in risks and the science of risk perception.
  - A curated network of technology and communication experts to improve the communication of risk.
- Establishing our Evidence and Insight Centre to understand current and future uses of safety data and evidence, and the challenges of the current evidence landscape; and to design interventions around actual safety performance, exploiting opportunities provided by new technologies, data collection methods and analytical techniques.
- Strengthen our portfolio for improving the public understanding of risk. This will include support for the annual Huxley Summit, which will host 250 key leaders for a dialogue about the actual and perceived risks in emerging technologies that will support society's critical infrastructure.

**CASE STUDY**

**World Risk Poll.**

In September 2018 we awarded a six month grant to Gallup for £249,000 to design and trial a survey questionnaire on global public attitudes to risk and safety, and test it in eight different countries. The aim is to explore how people around the world understand risk, and how those perceptions affect their decision making process on matters relating to their safety and well-being. The questionnaire development and testing was successful and the Foundation has now decided to implement the research globally, with the resulting dataset (140,000 people over 140 countries) being provided as a global public good to support researchers, policy makers and other interested stakeholders make better informed data-driven policies and interventions.

For the next phase of the work with Gallup, the Foundation has entered into a contract valued at £14 million to repeat the World Risk Poll four times over eight years and interpret and publish the results. The resultant global dataset will provide unique insights into public attitudes and understanding of risk in everyday lives, which we will be making openly and freely available.

Working with the team at Gallup, we are creating a communications plan for 2019-20 to launch the World Risk Poll engaging the public, researchers, and other stakeholders. The first event was a London-based launch of the project in June 2019 based on the publication of the first two outputs: the questionnaire survey report and the compendium of risk data. The publication of the first iteration of the World Risk Poll is planned in October 2020.

