



Cities on Volcanoes 9  
November 20-25, 2016  
Puerto Varas, Chile

*'Understanding volcanoes and society: the key for risk mitigation'*



## **Some minor issues in determining the dates of 17<sup>th</sup> century eruptions in the Asia-Pacific Region**

**Russell Blong<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Risk Frontiers, Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW, 2109, Australia

A number of 17<sup>th</sup> century eruptions across the Asia Pacific were recorded by navigators from Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands and England. While Spain and Portugal adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1582, England didn't move from the Julian calendar until 1752. Netherland's states changed calendars at various dates between 1582 and 1700.

Potential errors in recording eruption dates might amount to only a few weeks but it is not always clear which chronologies have errors. William Dampier's observations of the eruption of Ritter in Papua New Guinea in 1700 (or as he had it – the last day of 1699), some other eruptions in Papua New Guinea, and records from two Indonesian volcanoes are used to illustrate the problem.

Perhaps the minor errors are more widespread than we think – Russia didn't move to the modern Gregorian calendar until 1918!