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



## **An emerging effort to reduce disaster risk in Ecuador: Yachay Tech University's Center for Natural Hazard Research and Innovation**

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Yachay Tech University, one of three emblematic universities created in 2014 in Ecuador, plans to establish a new University-Based Research Center to focus on minimizing risk to geological hazards affecting the country and Andean region. With persistently active volcanoes and most recently, a deadly 7.8M earthquake, Yachay Tech envisions a Center for Natural Hazard Research and Innovation that is entirely focused on research and the development of new tools and technologies that meet the needs of at-risk communities through partnerships with public and private institutions working to reduce risk and vulnerability to natural hazards. With partners from the private and public sector, governmental and nongovernmental institutions, and the support of affected communities, the Center for Natural Hazard Research and Innovation will focus on technical, social, and educational research initiatives with the objective to create and apply dynamic ways to reduce disaster risk in the Andean region. We welcome innovative ideas from other researchers and practitioners that can offer insight into how to best organize our Center and focus its efforts. We also seek collaborators for this important endeavor.