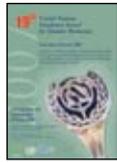




International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction

Announcements



**United Nations Sasakawa
Award for Disaster
Reduction**

Nominations are now open
Deadline: 29 June 2007
<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/sasakawa/2007/Sasakawa-Award-2007-English.pdf>

**UNEP Sasakawa Prize
2007 Nominations are
now open for **Deadline:****

15 March 2007
http://www.unep.org/sasakawa/Nomination_Form/index.asp

Call for contributions:

1. Good practices on community-based DRR
Contact: cocchiglia@un.org
2. Good practices in disaster risk education and school safety
Contact: blin@un.org

International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
Tel. : (+41 22) 917 8908/8907/8849
Fax : (+41 22) 917 8964
isdhighlights@un.org
www.unisdr.org
International Environment House II
7-9 Chemin de Balexert
CH 1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland

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To submit an article or inform us of a new publication/web resource or event, please send your inputs to: isdhighlights@un.org by the **20th day of each month**.

"The information and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the policies of the UN/ISDR secretariat"

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Highlights

January 2007

Media and Communication Professionals, all Together

BBC, European Broadcasting Union (EBU), Reuters AlertNet, The Guardian, Radio France Internationale and communication professionals from World Bank, UN/ISDR, IFRC, UNEP, UNDP were part of the first consultative meeting in Geneva to leverage a Media Network on disaster reduction. This network, initiated by UN/ISDR with the financial support of the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GF/DRR), responded to the urgent needs to provide effective support to the media with the adoption of a new approach to disaster reporting. This new network aims to win the media's full support for building a culture of safety and resilience to disasters at all levels, from global to local, that effectively reduce the impact of disasters. The media – as mass communicators - have the capacity to play an essential role in conveying the necessary information on disaster reduction to the public, decision makers and practitioners. In a nutshell, the ongoing global shift from a reactive attitude to a proactive one towards disasters cannot be achieved without the media full support.

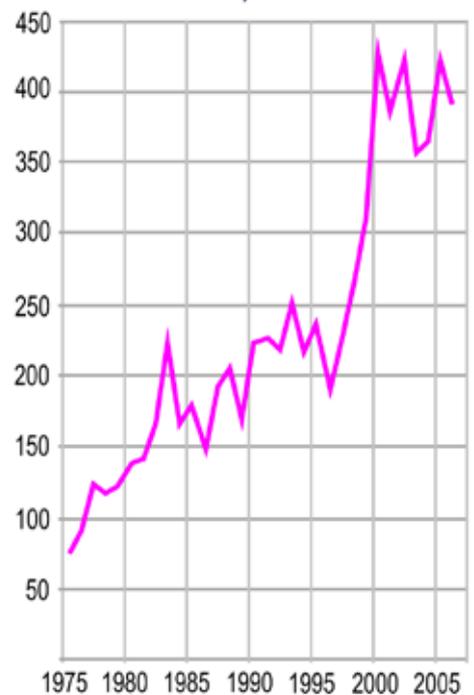
For more information please contact: Ms Brigitte Leoni, leoni@un.org
<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/media-room/media-room.htm>

395 Disasters Recorded in 2006

The Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) released, 29 January 2007, the compiled figures of disaster losses triggered by natural hazards for the year 2006. A total of 395 disasters were recorded in 2006 with 226 caused by floods, 66 by windstorms and 30 related to extreme temperature events. The 2006 disasters killed 21,342 people. While Asia was the continent hit most by disasters triggered by natural hazards, three European countries - Netherlands, Belgium and Ukraine - ranked among the top ten countries most affected by deadly disasters. The economic damages in 2006 were around 19 billion US Dollars.

For more information <http://www.cred.be> or see the summary of the statistical analysis in graphs and tables at <http://www.unisdr.org>
Contact Dr Debarati Guha-Sapir, cred@esp.ucl.ac.be

Time trend of natural disasters⁽¹⁾, 1975-2006



Two Years after the World Conference on Disaster Reduction

An International Symposium on the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and Recovery from Tsunami and Earthquake was organized by the International Recovery Platforms, a joint effort of Asia Disaster Reduction Center, UN/ISDR, UNDP, OCHA, UN-HABITAT, ILO, the World Bank, IFRC, the Government of Japan and Hyogo Prefecture, on 15-16 January 2007, in Kobe, Hyogo. Attended by more than 300 participants, the Symposium provided an important opportunity to share lessons and experiences on post-disaster recovery. It also provided a forum to identify what has been done nationally to implement the HFA. The experiences of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, India, Pakistan, Thailand, and Japan underscored the necessity to integrate risk reduction elements into every aspect of the recovery process. Moreover, the participants highlighted the importance of advancing international cooperation in disaster risk reduction, and promoting "build back better" principles and adopted the "Kobe Communiqué - for Further Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action".

For more information, please visit: <http://www.recoveryplatform.org/>

Disaster Reduction: First Time on the World Social Forum Agenda

For the first time, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was on the 7th World Social Forum agenda, in Nairobi from 20 to 25 January 2007 under the theme "People's Struggles, People's Alternatives". The side event on "Disaster Reduction is everyone's business - Safer World is possible", co-organized by Action Aid and UN/ISDR Africa, aimed at bringing NGOs and civil society together. The objectives were to open debate related to DRR, climate change and national platforms and to share knowledge and information on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for action by NGOs, especially on Action Aid International's initiatives at national level. In addition, this event was an opportunity for the children from Kwale (Southern Part) of Kenya and Nsanje, Malawi to raise their voices, aired also through BBC, to ask the National Governments, with NGOs as potential network and linkage, to build the resilience of their families and communities to disasters.

Contact Ms Noroarisoa Rakotondrandria, noroarisoa.rakotondrandria@unep.org

Reducing Mega-Cities Risk in Asia

Organized in response to the Hyogo Framework of Action's call to address the emerging risks associated with the vulnerability of mega-urban agglomerations, the Asia Megacities Forum 2006 in Japan brought together academics and megacity partners from East and South-Central Asia, a number of international organizations, and students from the JICA training course at Kobe University, in a knowledge sharing experience on disaster risk reduction. At the regional forum, Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI) formally unveiled MEGA-Learn, a suite of practical a disaster risk management tools, techniques and capacity-building programs that could help in empowering city authorities, and in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the urban development and planning processes. The forum was organized through the joint efforts of the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI) and Kobe University's Research Center for Urban Safety and Security (RCUSS). It was supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), the ProVention Consortium, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP/BCPR), the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), and the World Bank Institute (WBI).

For more information please visit: www.earthquakesandmegacities.org

Contact Mr. Kristoffer Berse, kris.berse@earthquakesandmegacities.org

WEB RESOURCES



Dare to prepare

<http://www.earthquakecountry.info/daretoprep/>

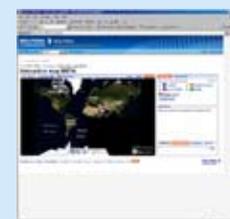
Earthquake professionals, business and community leaders, emergency managers, and others have joined together to organize Dare to Prepare, a year-long earthquake readiness campaign to raise earthquake awareness and encourage earthquake readiness in southern California.



Community-Based Disaster Management Toolkit

<http://www.idepfoundation.org/cbdlm/download.html>

This online version of UNESCO Jakarta's Community-Based Disaster Management Toolkit, contains general but concise guidelines on preparedness and prevention of disasters at community level, a ready-to-use form book in the event of a disaster, brochures and posters on disaster preparedness, and eight comic books on different disaster topics.



Reuters AlertNet Interactive Map

<http://www.alertnet.org/map/>

AlertNet has launched an interactive mapping service bringing users detailed images of the world: zoom in on any region, search for news on specific countries and crises, download maps, measure distances between locations, and much more.



A New Action Plan for School Safety

Representatives of the public sector, civil society, and the educational sector, including teachers, parents, students and individual school safety advocates gathered at the International Conference on School Safety organized by the Indian NGO SEEDS and hosted by the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA) in Ahmedabad, India. The theme for the Conference was "Disaster Reduction Begins at School". The 150 participants from 17 nations developed the Ahmedabad Action Plan for School Safety, which will provide guiding principles and recommendations to further facilitate the implementation of the school safety agenda at the international and national levels. Networks and individual advocates are encouraged to affiliate with the Coalition for Global School Safety, as well as networking through regional ISDR offices.

Contact Mr. Manu Gupta, SEEDS India
manu@seedsindia.org

Words into Action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action

To facilitate national implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action, the Guide "Words into Action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action", was issued in 2006 by the ISDR secretariat as a consultation version. It is a succinct 'how-to' manual that offers advices on useful strategies and good practices in disaster risk reduction, drawing on illustrative examples from around the world. It targets national authorities and public servant managers, but is also useful for many other stakeholders engaged in disaster risk reduction. It is now being shared with UN agencies and experts, National Platforms and regional organizations, to test it and solicit comments, more case studies and useful references. The final version will be launched at the ISDR Global Platform in June 2007 and translated at least into French and Spanish.

<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/hfa/docs/words-into-action-consultation-draft.pdf>
 Contact Mrs Silvia Llosa, llosa@un.org or Mrs Carolin Schaerpf, schaerpf@un.org

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit the following:

Africa:

www.unisdr.org/africa

Asia & the Pacific:

www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

Latin America & the Caribbean:

www.eird.org

Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning Platform:

www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

Disaster Reduction: New Responsibilities for Social Work Education

There is clearly growing evidence, qualitative and quantitative, that social work and community organization activities improve the well being of communities. The International Conference on "Disaster Planning, Management and Relief: New Responsibilities for Social Work Education" in Barbados looked at ways to strengthen the international involvement of social work in the field of disaster reduction. Concretely, more partnerships between social work associations, academics and organizations could help building synergies for the implementation of their unused social potential in disaster prevention and mitigation. In other terms, mental health would help in healing important social and individual wounds caused by disasters, as it would also help create more capacities within targeted communities. This would, of course, come as a complement to their prominent role already well acknowledged in response and recovery.

Contact Mrs Margarita Villalobos, margarita.villalobos@eird.org

ProVention Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction

Recently published by Provention Consortium, Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction: Guidance Notes for Development Organisations is a document containing a series of 14 short, practical guidance notes focusing on where and how to take hazard-related concerns into account in each of the tools covered, so ensuring that disaster risk and related opportunities for reducing vulnerability are adequately and systematically considered in development initiatives in hazard-prone countries.

For more information visit www.proventionconsortium.org/

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Conferences, Trainings and Events February 2007 - May 2007

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
FEBRUARY		
5-9	Nairobi, Kenya	Global Ministerial Environment Forum www.unep.org
8-11	Orlando, USA	28th Annual International Disaster Management Conference www.emlrc.org/disaster2007.htm
8-10	Los Angeles, USA	6th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities www.newpartners.org
12-14	Hague, Netherlands	International Climate Change and Vulnerability Conference www.upeace.org/climate
12-15	Dares Salaam, Tanzania	Provention Global Forum http://www.proventionconsortium.org
19-24	Nicosia, Cyprus	International Conference on Environment: Survival and Sustainability www.neuconference.org
10-12	Texas, USA	International Conference on Ocean Security in the Wider Caribbean www.osi-int.org
MARCH		
5-9	Lima, Peru	Second Alexander von Humboldt International Conference: The Role of Geophysics in Natural Disaster Prevention http://meetings.copernicus.org/avh2
5-12	Dhaka, Bangladesh	International Conference on Water and Flood Management icwfm@iwfm.buet.ac.bd ; www.buet.ac.bd/icwfm
5-16	Bangkok, Thailand	Flood Disaster Risk Management tedadpc@adpc.net ; www.adpc.net/trg06/trg_home.htm
7-22	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CRIC5) Contact details: www.unccd.int
19-21	New Delhi, India	Exhibition on Disaster Management 2007 www.iiees.ac.ir/SEE5
22		World Water Day http://www.worldwaterday.org
APRIL		
2-5	Brussels, Belgium	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change www.ipcc.ch
12-14	New Orleans, USA	Conference on Disaster and Migration www.tulane.edu/~sociol/DisasterandMigration.html
19-20	Miami, USA	Global Warming International Conference and Expo http://gw18.globalwarming.net
30-11/05	New York, USA	15th Commission on Sustainable Development http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm
MAY		
14-16	Tehran, Iran	5th International Conference on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering www.iiees.ac.ir/SEE5
14-18	Trieste, Italy	Workshop on the Physics of Tsunami, Hazard Assessment Methods and Disaster Risk Management http://www.ictp.it
25-27	Toronto, Canada	3rd International Symposium on Geoinformation for Disaster Management (GiDM2007) junli@ryerson.ca
13-17	Sevilla, Spain	4th International Wildland Fire Conference www.wildfire07.es

PUBLICATIONS

Measuring Vulnerability to Natural Hazards - Towards Disaster Resilient Societies
This book, published by the United Nations University Press, is a unique compilation of state-of-the-art vulnerability assessment and is essential reading for anybody interested in understanding the fundamentals of measuring vulnerability. Salvano Briceño, Director of the Secretariat of International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, recalls in the preface that disaster risk concerns every person, every community, and every nation. Without taking into consideration the urgent need to reduce risk and vulnerability, the world simply cannot move forward in its quest for sustainable development and reduction of poverty.
<http://www.unu.edu/unupress/2006/measuringVulnerability.html>

Human Development Report 2006 – Beyond scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis
The UNDP Report, a product of research and analysis by international experts and staff across the UN system, is intended to stimulate debate and dialogue around a set of issues that will have a profound bearing on progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and human development. This year, the report investigates the prospects for human development that are threatened by a deepening global water crisis. Debunking the myth that the crisis is the result of scarcity, this report argues poverty, power and inequality are at the heart of the problem. <http://hdr.undp.org>

World Disasters Report 2006 - Focus on neglected crises
This year's report ventures into the shadows lying behind the brilliantly illuminated disasters of 2005-2006. It combines first-hand reporting from the field with critical analysis of aid flows and donor preferences to highlight places and issues starved of attention.
<http://www.ifrc.org>

Lessons for a Safer Future
The UN/ISDR report "Lessons for a Safer Future", drawn on the experiences of many organisations and individuals during and following the tsunami, offers eleven lessons as a contribution to the ongoing process of learning how nations, communities and individuals can become better prepared for and reduce the risk of potential natural hazards.
<http://www.unisdr.org>

19th

United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

Selection Process 2007

Join us in rewarding individuals and institutions from around the world who contributed, through innovative practices and outstanding initiatives, to reducing the risk and vulnerabilities of communities to natural hazards

*Closing date for
nominations
29 June 2007*

*Provided through an endowment from the Nippon
Foundation to the United Nations*

For more information please visit:

www.unisdr.org - www.unisdr.org/asiapacific - www.eird.org -

www.unisdrafica.org



日本財団



International Strategy
ISDR
for Disaster Reduction



Closing date for nominations: 29 June 2007

Please note that applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

The United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction is worth approximately US \$50,000 to be shared among the Sasakawa Laureate and recipients of the Certificates of Distinction and Merit. It is presented annually on the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction, every second Wednesday of October. The next Sasakawa Award Ceremony will be held on *Wednesday 10 October 2007*.

Eligibility for the Award

The candidate can be an individual or an institution. He/she/it shall have distinguished herself/himself/itself through outstanding and internationally recognized action in the following fields:

- a) The implementation, at international or regional level, of activities designed to strengthen people's awareness of disasters triggered by natural hazards;
- b) The launching of scientific activities contributing to technological innovation facilitating disaster prediction;
- c) The launching of scientific or social activities contributing to the strengthening of disaster risk reduction;
- d) The promotion of activities which reduce the economic impact of disasters and contribute to sustainable development;
- e) Any other activities recognized as essential in promoting disaster risk reduction (early warning, environmental management, land-use planning, promotion of building codes, awareness-raising, education etc.)

Nomination of Candidates for the Award

Nominations shall be made to the Administrator of the Award, who will submit them to the Jury, together with his/her comments. The Administrator may seek independent reports on the work carried out by candidates for the Award, which shall be submitted, when appropriate, by the Administrator for the consideration of the Jury. ***No candidate may nominate herself/himself.***

Selection of the Laureate(s) and recipients of Certificates

An international Jury composed of experts from different continents will vote in a private meeting on the basis of well-defined criteria, to identify and select the Laureate of the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction. Since 1998, Certificates of Distinction and of Merit have been awarded to those who make valuable contributions in the field of disaster risk reduction. The Jury may however decide not to designate any laureate, if it so wishes. The current Jury is composed by representatives from each of the following regions: Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Oceania.

Candidates can be nominated by:

1. Former Sasakawa Award Laureates;
2. Representatives of institutions specializing in disaster reduction;
3. UN specialized agencies;
4. Resident Coordinators of the UN System; and
5. Permanent Missions to the UN Office in Geneva.

Nomination Forms

Nominated candidates should complete the attached nomination form for the 19th UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction 2007, and forward it ***by 29 June 2007*** together with the requested detailed information in support of the nomination to the ISDR Secretariat. Candidates are requested to provide a Power Point presentation in English with details of their work and contribution to reducing risk and vulnerability to natural and technological hazards.

All nomination forms and letters should be sent to:

**Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)
Administrator of the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction
Palais des Nations, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 10
Tel: +41 22 917 2786 / Fax: 41 22 917 0563 / E-mail: isdr-sasakawa@un.org
Websites: www.unisdr.org - www.unisdr.org/asiapacific - www.eird.org - www.unisdrafrika.org**

19th United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

Nomination Form 2007

No candidate may nominate herself / himself

PART I: FOR INDIVIDUALS (please attach a Curriculum Vitae)

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Nationality: _____

Date and place of birth: _____

Gender: Female Male

Qualifications: Give details in chronological order, starting with the most recent qualification

Date: _____ Institution: _____ Qualifications obtained: _____

Present position: _____

Current job description: _____

Previous positions held (in chronological order, starting with the first position held)

Date _____ Position held and mandate: _____

PART II: FOR INSTITUTIONS (Please give succinct information)

Name and address: _____

Date of Creation: _____

Main fields of activity: _____

Size and structure (if applicable): _____

Optional: Funding (annual budget and sources of income): _____

Name of Head of Institution: _____

PART III: SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Please give details of outstanding innovative work in the field of disaster risk reduction which would qualify the candidate for the Award, in particular with regard to:

Section 1: General disaster risk reduction activities to reduce the socio-economic impact of disasters and to contribute to sustainable development: _____

Section 2: The implementation, at the international or regional level, of activities designed to strengthen peoples' awareness of disasters caused by natural hazards: _____

Section 3: Achievements in disaster risk reduction in developing countries (if any): _____

Section 4: The introduction of scientific activities and any technological innovation contributing to improved disaster forecasting: _____

Section 5: The promotion of social activities contributing to the strengthening of disaster risk reduction: _____

Section 6: Other activities recognized as essential in promoting disaster risk reduction: _____

PART IV: PROPOSAL FOR THE USE OF THE AWARD MONEY

Please give details on the use to be made of the Award money for further development, improvement and promotion of disaster risk reduction activities: _____

A questionnaire on the use of the Award money will be sent to all Sasakawa Laureates to evaluate what extent this financial assistance has contributed to implementing the disaster risk reduction activities planned under this item, and facilitated the advancement of a global culture of prevention.

PART V: DOCUMENTATION

Please list and attach supporting documents related to the work carried out in disaster risk reduction, such as constitution, charter, membership list, including samples of published literature, annual reports and press articles. To facilitate the nomination process, kindly provide as much information as possible in English:

PART VI: REFERENCES

Please list three persons /institutions who are familiar with your activities:

	Full Name	Full address	Business or occupation
1)	_____	_____	_____
2)	_____	_____	_____
3)	_____	_____	_____

Separate nomination papers respecting the above format with comprehensive and detailed information will be accepted

Submitted by: _____

Date of submission: _____

Date of receipt by ISDR: _____

Deadline for submission: 29 June 2007

Please note that applications received after the deadline will not be considered



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction

Announcements



United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

Nominations are now open

Deadline: 29 June 2007

<http://www.unisdr.org/eng>

[/sasakawa/2007/Sasakawa-Award-2007-English.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/sasakawa/2007/Sasakawa-Award-2007-English.pdf)

English.pdf

Call for contributions on good practices in disaster risk education and school safety

All contributions should be sent to

Aurélia Blin by 31 May 2007

Contact: blin@un.org

International Strategy for

Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

Tel. : (+41 22) 917 8908/8907/8849

Fax : (+41 22) 917 8964

isdrhighlights@un.org

www.unisdr.org

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7-9 Chemin de Balexert

CH 1219 Châtelaine

Geneva, Switzerland

Highlights

February 2007

In This Issue:

Partnership between the World Bank and UN/ISDR

New Evidence about Climate Change

Making Disaster Risk Reduction Work

Emerging European Network for Disaster Reduction

Preparing for a Wider Caribbean Disaster Preparedness

Broadcasting 'Natural' Disasters: ABU Secretary-General explains

New Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation

ECOWAS Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction

Engendering Disaster Risk Reduction

First Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Web Resources

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Partnership between the World Bank and UN/ISDR

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) of the World Bank in partnership with UN/ISDR aims at supporting global, regional and national level implementation of disaster risk reduction programs for achieving sustainable development. The partnership's impact has been strongly felt in Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Central America, South Eastern Europe, Pacific and the Middle East and North Africa. Country level risk reduction initiatives have also begun in Mozambique, Malawi, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Vietnam. From February 21-23, the GFDRR sponsored three major events, which were held at World Bank headquarters in Washington DC. On February 21, leading journalists from around the world gathered at a media workshop to discuss disaster risk reduction issues and devise plans for awareness-raising. This came under the Media

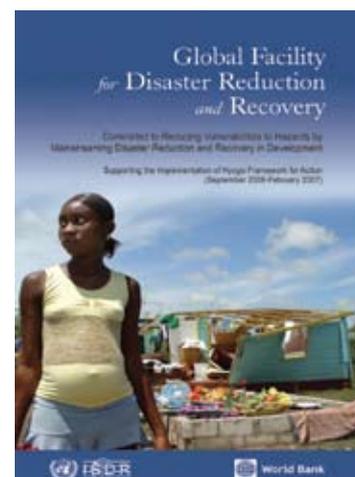
Networks initiative, aiming at promoting disaster risk reduction in news coverage and to help to build a culture of safety and resilience to disasters. On February 22, a one-day private public partnerships dialogue, with the participation of 70 representatives from private sector, governments and international agencies, was organized to learn from past experiences in private-public partnerships and to develop a common action plan in order to facilitate such partnerships for risk mitigation. The dialogue made it clear that there is a business case for private sector engagement but much needs to be done to build awareness and understanding of this case and to develop the modalities for effective private sector participation. The dialogue concluded with a consensus on next steps forward. On February 23, a Roundtable on Emerging and Operational Donor Policies for Disaster Risk Reduction took place, with the participation of donor community, IFIs, emerging economies and UN/ISDR. The Roundtable focused on successes, challenges and innovations in integrating and operationalizing disaster risk reduction policy in development strategies.

For more information, <http://www.worldbank.org/hazards/gfdr>

For Private-Public Partnerships, contact Mr. Andrei Iatsenia, iatsenia@un.org

Media Networks, contact Ms Brigitte Leoni, leoni@un.org

Donor relations, contact Mr Marc Gordon, gordon6@un.org



New Evidence about Climate Change

Climate change is no longer a fringe issue, as concludes the recent report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on 2 February 2007. Directed at policymakers, the report shows the evidence of an unequivocal climate warming through an explanation of the current science of climate change. It also finds that rates of both observed warming and sea level rise have accelerated over the past century, while other important changes being observed, including more intense precipitation in some regions, prolonged droughts in others, and intensification of hurricanes in some tropical regions. The analysis is based on six years of scientific literature reviewed by experts from around the world.

<http://www.ipcc.ch>

Making Disaster Risk Reduction Work

"Making Disaster Risk Reduction Work: Building safer communities in Africa and worldwide" was the central theme of the third Provention Annual Forum held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Forum brought together more than 110 participants, including experts and policy makers, representing a wide range global experience as well as a critical focus on challenges for risk reduction in Africa. It explored several key themes, including urban risk, climate adaptation, community and civil society perspectives, governance and disaster risk reduction. In terms of action, the participants highlighted the need to increasing investment by the international community in long-term capacity development of national and local governments, NGOs, and academic institutions to lead and support risk reduction initiatives; prioritising through responsive governance developmental initiatives which build on local knowledge and capacity and increase local resilience; and increasing attention in addressing the root causes of vulnerability across line ministries and sectors.

For more information visit www.proventionconsortium.org/

Emerging European Network for Disaster Reduction

The European National Platforms are searching, through an "European National Platforms Network" ways to formalize the link on a European scale of all existing National Platforms for disaster risk reduction, defined as a nationally-owned and led mechanism with the form of a forum or committee. The goal is to suggest ideas and plans for bringing together national and regional activities and to consolidate a network that will be capable to respond to the need for an enhanced cooperation. Besides of the fact that information exchange is needed between different National Platforms, consensus discussions with all relevant actors will contribute to advocating for disaster risk reduction at different levels and to both analysing and advising on action through a coordinated and participatory process. It will be also the gateway to other Regional National Platforms, as the primary ingredient for international cooperation to carry out disaster risk reduction policies and measures and to implement the objectives of the International Strategy for UN/ISDR.

Contact Ms. Paola Albrito, albrito@un.org

Preparing for a Wider Caribbean Disaster Preparedness

Several world leaders with a good understanding of ocean security issues paved the way for improving response capability and for mitigating the threats by promoting regional stability and security objectives on the occasion of the International Conference on Ocean Security in the Wider Caribbean, in Texas, USA, from 10-12 February 2007. They also considered solutions to respond to the urgent need to work on a sustainable "downstream" hazard warning system, with people at the centre. Part of the disaster preparedness that should be based on the four recognized pillars of disaster management – prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response – they discussed ways to develop technical structures for an early warning system, which are needed just as much as dissemination, education, awareness and planning by and for communities and individuals.

For more information www.osi-int.org

Broadcasting 'Natural' Disasters: ABU Secretary-General explains

The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Secretary-General David Astley, on the occasion of the Broadcasting Engineering Society Conference, encouraged ABU members to integrate disaster risk reduction into their coverage. ABU with a potential audience of about 3 billion people highlighted broadcasters' important role in disseminating information, as information itself could constitute a vital form of aid. He also explained that disaster risk reduction is becoming an important issue that cannot no longer be ignored by journalists. While quoting Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General, David Astley emphasized that "Building a culture of prevention is not easy. While the costs of prevention have to be paid in the present, its benefits lie in a distant future. Moreover, the benefits are not tangible; there are the disasters that did not happen."

For more information www.abu.org.my

WEB RESOURCES



World Water Day

www.worldwaterday07.org

The electronic release of the official World Water Day 2007 brochure, as well as several posters in different languages on the Campaign Material is now available.



ProjectDisaster

<http://projectdisaster.com/>

ProjectDisaster describes itself as a place for the latest news, information and discussion regarding disasters, terrorism, emerging infectious diseases, disaster response, mitigation, and preparedness. Much of the content comes from mainstream news articles, with added expert commentary.



UN/ISDR Calendar for 2007

http://www.entico.com/unisdr_2007

The UN/ISDR calendar 2007, "Disaster risk reduction begins at School" illustrates, with concrete examples across the world, the essential role of education, and safety schools that serve as a community's central location for meetings and group activities, in normal times, and as makeshift hospitals, vaccination centres or places of refuge and shelter in times of crisis.



Worldmapper

http://www.worldmapper.org/textindex/text_disaster.html

Worldmapper is a collection of world maps, where territories are re-sized on each map according to the subject of interest, such as disaster maps with the number of people affected or killed by disasters, i.e. earthquakes, volcanoes, droughts, floods...

New Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation

The Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) was established to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. It will facilitate exchange of information and best practices in the region, and promote collaboration agreements among governments. Furthermore, INDM will be used as a tool to assist Member States of General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) in advancing the formulation and development of public policy related to disaster risk management. In line with the principles and objectives of UN/ISDR and the commitments made by the countries of the Americas, the Network will focus its efforts in exchanging and sharing best practices, and policy models that promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policy and planning.

Contact Ms. Margarita Villalobos, margarita.villalobos@eird.org

ECOWAS Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction

Adopted at the 31st Summit of ECOWAS Heads of States in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, the ECOWAS Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction provides an inter-governmental framework for collaboration and partnership among ECOWAS Members for the integration of disaster risk reduction into development policies, plans and programmes. It facilitates also the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities for building resilience to hazards. At the request of the ECOWAS Secretariat, UN/ISDR Africa supported ECOWAS in the development of this common framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The policy framework, finalized by experts from the region and presented to the Council of Ministers and the Heads of State, would focus on areas of importance to the West African situation under the guidance of the Africa Union Strategy for disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Contact Ms. Noroarisoa Rakotondrandria, noroarisoa.rakotondrandria@unep.org

rakotondrandria@unep.org

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit the following:

Africa:

www.unisdr.org/africa

Asia & the Pacific:

www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

Latin America & the Caribbean:

www.eird.org

Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning Platform:

www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

Engendering Disaster Risk Reduction

A group of Experts, men and women, on gender and disaster risk reduction, gathered at a meeting on 12-13 February in Geneva under UN/ISDR auspices, agreed on building a "Global Partnership for Mainstreaming Gender Concerns and Needs into Disaster Risk Reduction". This Partnership will contribute to the ongoing long-lasting global effort to promote gender equality in social, cultural and economic development with an emphasis on disaster risk reduction (DRR). It will also provide a platform for gender activists and different stakeholders for sharing information, knowledge and experience of gender needs and concerns. Beyond those dialogues, the Partnerships will develop policy guidelines, user-friendly tools and training material for mainstreaming gender into DRR and encourage an active role played by national authorities and NGOs in developing gender-sensitive and -balanced DRR policies and programmes. This initiative is part of a long effort to integrate gender issues into DRR policies and plans. As results of this meeting, the experts have reached a consensus on a set of priorities for promoting gender needs and concerns in DRR.

Contact Ms. Ana-Cristina Thorlund, thorlund@un.org



First Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
5-7 June 2007
Geneva, Switzerland

The first session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, convened by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs for the ISDR system, will take place 5-7 June 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland. This multi-stakeholder mechanism for the ISDR system foresees becoming the main global forum for disaster risk reduction. Its key objectives are raising awareness; sharing experience and good practices; assessing progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework; and strengthening cooperation among ISDR system partners. Details on the focus of the session and the specific issues to be tackled at the meeting are outlined in the Announcement which is available on the website www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform which also contains information on participation, organization of side events and displays and other practical information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Conferences, Trainings and Events March 2007 - June 2007

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
MARCH		
5-9	Lima, Peru	Second Alexander von Humboldt International Conference: The Role of Geophysics in Natural Disaster Prevention http://meetings.copernicus.org/avh2
5-12	Dhaka, Bangladesh	International Conference on Water and Flood Management icwfm@iwfm.buet.ac.bd ; www.buet.ac.bd/icwfm
5-16	Bangkok, Thailand	Flood Disaster Risk Management tedadpc@adpc.net ; www.adpc.net/trg06/trg_home.htm
7-22	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CRIC5) www.unccd.int
19-21	New Delhi, India	Exhibition on Disaster Management 2007 www.iiees.ac.ir/SEE5
19 -23	Geneva, Switzerland	Training module "from rapid response towards prevention in earthquake-prone countries" Univeristy of Geneva, www.unige.ch/formcont.piah
22-23		World Water Day - World Meteorological Day www.worldwaterday.org - www.wmo.ch/wmd
APRIL		
2-5	Brussels, Belgium	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change www.ipcc.ch
12-14	New Orleans, USA	Conference on Disaster and Migration www.tulane.edu/~sociol/DisasterandMigration.html
12-13	Kobe, Japan	Global forum for urban and megacities disaster risk reduction. Contact: hossein.kalali@undp.org
18-21	Cairo, Egypt	Middle East and North Africa Regional Workshop on " Building Partnerships for Disaster Risk Reduction and Hazard Risk Management" www.isdr.org
19-20	Miami, USA	Global Warming International Conference and Expo http://gw18.globalwarming.net
30-11/05	New York, USA	15th Commission on Sustainable Development www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm
MAY		
9-11	Bonn, Germany	First International Conference "Towards Sustainable Global Health" www.gemini.de/global-health
13-17	Sevilla, Spain	4th International Wildland Fire Conference www.wildfire07.es
14-16	Tehran, Iran	5th International Conference on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering www.iiees.ac.ir/SEE5
14-18	Trieste, Italy	Workshop on the Physics of Tsunami, Hazard Assessment Methods and Disaster Risk Management www.ictp.it
21-24	Ventnor, UK	International Conference on landslides and Climate Change www.coastalwight.gov.uk/conference.html
25-27	Toronto, Canada	3rd International Symposium on Geoinformation for Disaster Management (GiDM2007) junli@ryerson.ca
JUNE		
4-5	Istanbul, Turkey	International Conference Istanbul 2007: Earthquake Protection of Museums www.did-tasi.org
5-7	Geneva, Switzerland	First session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction www.unisdr.org/
6-8	Minsk, Belarus	IV International Scientific and Research Conference "Emergencies: Prevention and Elimination" oic_mcs@mcs.infonet.by
7-9	Debrecen, Hungary	International Network of Basin Organizations, 7th World General Assembly, inbo_2007_ga@oieau.fr

Library corner

Real Risk

Real Risk offers perspectives, case studies and analysis on disaster risk reduction and mitigation in the light of major natural disasters that have occurred since the publication of *Know Risk* in early 2005. It brings together the knowledge and experiences of public and private organizations toward disaster preparedness and mitigation at local, national and international levels. *Real Risk* is the latest in a series of volumes addressing the risks faced by communities across the world.
<http://www.tudor-rose.co.uk/publishing/realrisk.html>

Disaster & Development

The Indian National Institute of Disaster Management started an Indian Journal on Disaster Management, named *Disaster and Development*, to provide a forum for the publication of original and innovative works on various facets of disaster management carried out by scientists, researchers and practitioners in the country and abroad.
<http://www.nidm.net>

Legislation for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction

This new Tearfund's report reviews current national experience of undertaking legislative reform for disaster risk reduction. It also examines the building blocks of successful legislative reform based on case study research; presents a detailed account of the reform process in South Africa from 1994 to 2006 and proposes recommendations for those undertaking legislative reform for disaster risk reduction.
<https://www.tearfund.org>

Vivir con el Riesgo

"Living With Risk: A Global Review of Disaster Reduction Initiatives," an UN/ISD publication, now available in Spanish, giving tips for reducing vulnerability to natural hazards. This 400-page book is seen as a guide to disaster management, and the Spanish translation will allow for a broader audience in a region plagued by natural disaster.
<http://www.eird.org>

Micro-Finance and Disaster Risk Reduction

This volume, which draws from the contributions made during an International Workshop in Delhi in 2005, is an important addition to the very limited literature available on micro-finance.
<http://www.nidm.net>



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction

Announcements



United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

Nominations are now open

Deadline: 29 June 2007

<http://www.unisdr.org/eng>

[/sasakawa/2007/Sasakawa-Award-2007-English.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/sasakawa/2007/Sasakawa-Award-2007-English.pdf)

English.pdf

Call for contributions on good practices in disaster risk education and school safety

All contributions should be sent to

Aurélia Blin by 31 May 2007

Contact: blin@un.org

International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
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Publications

To submit an article or inform us of a new publication/web resource or event, please send your inputs to: isdrhighlights@un.org by the 20th day of each month.

"The information and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the policies of the UN/ISDR secretariat"

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Highlights

March 2007

NGOs, CBOs and Civil Society Organizations to Combat Desertification

Dedicating special funds to support and promote the participation of NGOs, CBOs and other civil society organizations in the UN Convention to Combat Desertification process was one of the proposals endorsed at the fifth session of the Committee for Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 5) in Argentina, from 12-21 March 2007. Also, farmers as a major group within civil society in the bodies and work of the Convention were recognized. During this fifth session, the Committee reviewed the implementation of the Convention and discussed national experiences and results of regional meetings in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Northern Mediterranean, and Central and Eastern Europe. It also reviewed the 2006 International Year for Deserts and Desertification and the draft ten-year strategic plan for the Convention. Panel presentations and discussions on selected topics included: legislative and institutional frameworks, linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions, measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land, drought and desertification monitoring and assessment, financial resources, know-how and technology transfer and investments in rural areas in the context of combating land degradation and desertification. As for the next step, the final report adopted by Parties of the Convention will be used as a basis for the next session to produce a series of recommendations for the eighth Conference of the Parties (COP 8) to the Convention, to be held from 3-14 September 2007, in Madrid, Spain.

For more information, <http://www.unccd.int>

Stop Disasters

Stop Disasters Game, launched by the UN/ISDR secretariat, is a new educational tool to promote disaster risk reduction among children who are the most vulnerable when disasters occur. With three levels of difficulty, this game learns how to save lives and livelihoods by preparing for a tsunami, earthquake, hurricane, floods and wildfire. For example, within a budget and time limit, players have different upgrading options, like building more resilient houses, if not demolishing them for being in risky areas, together with setting up defences with trees, early warning systems and walls. Developed by Playerthree, the on-line game is accessible via the Internet and targets children aged from 9 to 16. This UN/ISDR initiative is part of the 2006-2007 Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School Campaign aiming to inform and mobilize Governments, communities and individuals to ensure that disaster risk reduction is fully integrated into school curricula in disaster-prone countries and that school buildings are built or retrofitted to withstand natural hazards.

<http://www.stopdisastersgame.org>

Contact Ms Brigitte Leoni, leoni@un.org



Burundi: Launch of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster risk reduction must become a national and local priority. In order to do so, the Central African country Burundi has established its National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction that will address disaster risk reduction more efficiently. The National Platform launching occurred during a workshop on 8 and 9 March 2007 in Bujumbura. Some 70 representatives from Government ministries, the Burundi Red Cross, NGOs, the media and UN agencies present at this meeting laid the foundation for a strong institutional basis for implementing disaster risk reduction initiatives. In light of daunting figures of over 25% of the population affected in 2006 by the adverse effects of natural hazards – mainly floods, drought and subsequent famine - participants made a strong plea to invest in prevention and mitigation to reduce the vulnerability of its population. Participants discussed most urgent actions, which the National Platform should coordinate. With continued support by the United Nations Development Programme Country Office and the UN/ISDR secretariat, it is foreseen to formulate in the coming months a National Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Contact Ms. Noroarisoa Rakotondrandria, noroarisoa.rakotondrandria@unep.org

Building Armenian School Resilience to Earthquakes

A workshop in Yerevan, Armenia, on “Schools Resilient to Earthquakes” contributed to increasing school administrators’ awareness on school resilience to earthquakes and actions before, during, and after an earthquake, and to facilitate the dialogue between school administrators, government officials, and international organizations. Although Armenia has some supplementary sub-laws in the area of disaster risk reduction (such as the “Law on Civil Defense”, “Law on Population Protection”, “Law on Seismic Safety”) that oblige schools to have emergency preparedness plans and conduct regular simulation exercises, practical problems arise at the implementation stage. The workshop allowed to better identify those problems, which include the absence of textbooks, informational and other materials; lack of clear guidelines on risk and loss assessment; poor coordination between schools and other structures responsible for disaster preparedness and response. The success of the workshop and the interest expressed by school administrators gave both organizers, UNICEF Office in Armenia in cooperation with the UN/ISDR Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia, the idea of replicating this experience in other earthquake-prone countries as Tajikistan.

Contact Ms. Tine Ramstad, tine.ramstad@undp.org

National Disaster Preparedness Day in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, the National Disaster Preparedness Day was held on 29 March 2007. On this occasion, Christian Aid and local partner organisations in the country raised awareness of disaster risk reduction in local communities and schools. A variety of initiatives at a total of ten locations across the country were organized. Children’s art competitions, with 500 school students aged from 10-14, helped visualise the impact that disasters have on their lives and the role that communities can play in mitigating it. Teachers and local government representatives were also contributing to the celebration of the day by being involved in prize committees. Discussion meetings on the “Role of communities in disaster risk reduction” were also organised and attended by representatives of the district and village administration, local leaders, community members, social workers, teachers and students. T-Shirts and caps with a clear disaster risk reduction slogan were given out to volunteer workers on the day to ensure that the message is widely spread. This action is part of a multi-year disaster risk reduction initiatives called Building Disaster Resilient Communities. Visual documentation of the event and the outcomes of the art competition is made available via the Christian Aid website (www.christian-aid.org).

Contact Ms. Sarah Moss, smoss@christian-aid.org

WEB RESOURCES



Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform
Details on the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 5-7 June 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland, are outlined on the website which also contains information on participation, organization of side events and displays and other practical information.



World Water Day

www.worldwaterday07.org
The electronic release of the official World Water Day 2007 brochure, as well as several posters in different languages on the Campaign Material is now available.



World Meteorological Day

<http://www.wmo.int/wmd/>
For this year, the World Meteorological Organisation Executive Council decided that the theme for World Meteorological Day in 2007 would be “Polar meteorology: understanding global impacts”, in recognition of the importance of, and as a contribution to, the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008.



Munich Re's NatCatSERVICE

<http://www.munichre.com/>
NatCatSERVICE provides databases for natural catastrophes. Every year between 600 and 900 events are recorded and analysed. In view of the information collated, the extent and intensity of individual natural hazard events in various parts of the world can be documented and used to analyze regional and global as well as trends.

Benchmarking Tool for the Caribbean

A new innovative "Benchmarking Tool for the Caribbean" is launched. It has the objective to assist national governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector to proactively plan and implement effective and efficient actions that would reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters. The tool has the capacity to assist in evaluating the adequacy of current disaster risk management tools and the readiness and capability of local national institutions to deal with the risk of disaster. It also helps to foster the compilation of a list of best practice recommendations for disaster risk management and to benchmark nations and programs in the area of disaster risk reduction. The tool is self-administered within the six member countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. It was developed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) via its Antigua based Caribbean Open Trade Support Program, working in conjunction with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Geospatial Studies of the University of the West Indies.

Contact Mr. David Popo, Dpopo@oecs.org or Mr. Keith Ford, kford@usaid-cots.com

Preparing Coastal Communities against Marine Disasters

Almost half of the 26 Operational Centres scattered around the world of the International Ocean Institute (IOI) are in marine disasters' prone areas. With a critical role in building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters, they all have been contributing to improve preparedness to marine disasters. Below are some examples:

- IOI-Thailand assisted the Government of Thailand in the establishment and operation of a national centre on disaster prevention and warning. It provides support to the projects related to coastal community livelihood development and restoration.
- IOI-India made an assessment of the tsunami impact on the coastal communities of the Tamil Nadu region and helped in reconstruction, rehabilitation and remuneration of women's livelihood in a tsunami affected village in South India.

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit the following:

Africa:
www.unisdr.org/africa

Asia & the Pacific:
www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

Latin America & the Caribbean:
www.eird.org

Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning Platform:
www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

- IOI-Australia is contributing to the better management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which is an important aspect of disaster mitigation, especially where conservation of mangroves and coral reefs is involved.

Contact IOI Executive Director, ioihq@ioihq.org.mt

Mitigating the Risks of Living Near an Active Volcano

As new eruptions of Tungurahua, one of the most active volcanoes in Ecuador, intensified and the risks persisted, the Diocese of Ambato and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) set up a project entitled "Communities Affected by Tungurahua: Mitigating the Risks of Living Near an Active Volcano". This project, financed by the European Union's Department of Humanitarian Assistance, and supported by the Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD), has strengthened the capacity of the communities and institutions affected by Tungurahua with the goal of reducing the impacts of current/future disasters through preparation, mitigation, and prevention. It benefited 35 high-risk communities in the Province of Tungurahua. The project involved the development of evacuation routes, education regarding threats and conducting risk mapping. The volcano again erupted 14 July and 16 August 2006. No deaths were reported from communities that participated in the project.

Contact Mrs. Tim Novak, tnovak@crsecuador.org.ec

Teaching Climate Change

A new school manual produced by the Tunisian Information Centre on Sustainable Energy and the Environment (CIEDE) sensitizes youth to the issue of climate change. The manual addresses mainly four major topics, namely the basic concepts of climate change, the phenomenon of greenhouse effect and global warming, the likely consequences of climate change and, finally a few ways of combating this phenomenon. It is also available on-line and on CD-Rom in English, French and Arabic. Aware that climate change has become an established fact and that such a phenomenon may have, in the long term, serious consequence for future generations, the Government of Tunisia has been actively mainstreaming these concerns as a priority in its sustainable development policy. In this sense, the Information Centre on Sustainable Energy and the Environment (CIEDE) has been established to serve the Climate Convention objectives and aims at contributing in the extension and dissemination of knowledge in the field of Climate Change.

<http://www.changementsclimatiques.tn/education>



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Conferences, Trainings and Events April 2007 - July 2007

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
APRIL		
2-5	Brussels, Belgium	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change www.ipcc.ch
12-14	New Orleans, USA	Conference on Disaster and Migration www.tulane.edu/~sociol/DisasterandMigration.html
12-13	Kobe, Japan	Global forum for urban and megacities disaster risk reduction hossein.kalali@undp.org
17	Brussels, Belgium	Conference "Disasters Cross Borders: A union-wide approach to disaster preparedness" emilia.Ferreira@edelman.com
18-21	Cairo, Egypt	Middle East and North Africa Regional Workshop on "Building Partnerships for Disaster Risk Reduction and Hazard Risk Management" www.isdr.org
19-20	Miami, USA	Global Warming International Conference and Expo http://gw18.globalwarming.net
30-11/05	New York, USA	15th Commission on Sustainable Development www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm
MAY		
4	Bangkok, Thailand	Twenty-sixth session of the IPCC (WMO) www.wmo.ch/web/meetingsnew.html
9-11	Bonn, Germany	First International Conference "Towards Sustainable Global Health" www.gemini.de/global-health
13-17	Sevilla, Spain	4th International Wildland Fire Conference www.wildfire07.es
14-16	Tehran, Iran	5th International Conference on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering www.iiees.ac.ir/SEE5
14-18	Trieste, Italy	Workshop on the Physics of Tsunami, Hazard Assessment Methods and Disaster Risk Management www.ictp.it
21-24	Ventnor, UK	International Conference on landslides and Climate Change www.coastalwight.gov.uk/conference.html
25-27	Toronto, Canada	3rd International Symposium on Geoinformation for Disaster Management (GiDM2007) junli@ryerson.ca
JUNE		
4-5	Istanbul, Turkey	International Conference Istanbul 2007: Earthquake Protection of Museums www.eqprotection-museums.org
5-7	Geneva, Switzerland	First session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction www.unisdr.org
6-8	Minsk, Belarus	IV International Scientific and Research Conference "Emergencies: Prevention and Elimination" oic_mcs@mcs.infonet.by
7-9	Debrecen, Hungary	International Network of Basin Organizations, 7th World General Assembly inbo_2007_ga@oieau.fr
18-22	Brunei	Disaster Relief Management Senior Seminar www.apcss.org
25-27	Astana, Kazakhstan	Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2007 Organizer: ADRC
JULY		
8-11	Toronto, Canada	17th World Conference on Disaster Management (WCDM) www.wcdm.org/wcdm_home.html
16-27	Bangkok, Thailand	Community Based Disaster Risk Management Organizer: ADPC
22-28	Germany	The second annual Summer Academy on Social Vulnerability Munich Re Foundation and UNU-EHS

Library corner

Climate Risk Management in Africa: learning from practice

International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), 2007

This Climate and Society series is devoted to providing authorities an accessible information on climate risk management research, practice, and policy in support of sustainable development. The series is a program of the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI). This inaugural report is a key resource for climate-informed planning and practice in Africa. It examines five experiences of ongoing climate risk management in disaster risk management in the disaster risk reduction, health, agriculture, and food security sectors.

Available in PDF

Arabian Deserts: Nature, Origin and Evolution

H. Stewart Edgell

This book provides a comprehensive coverage of all the deserts of Arabia largely based on the author's experience in Arabia over the last fifty years. Ecology of Arabia and human influence on desertification are outlined. Climate changes in the evolution of Arabian deserts during the Quaternary and their causes are explained and chronology of climatic events during their formation is established.

Available: Springer, 2006

Natural Draught Cooling Towers

P. L. Gould

The world's most experienced scientists and professionals working on cooling towers gathered at the 5th International Symposium on Natural Draught Cooling Towers to discuss the latest developments in this area. To disseminate the knowledge exchanged during the state-of-the-art symposium, this book was composed. It is intended for researchers and professionals dealing with design, construction and maintenance of reinforced concrete cooling towers.

Publisher: Springer-Verlag, 1984, Available: ISDR library

Aridity: Droughts and Human Development

Monique Mainguet

At the confluence of environmental science and the humanities, this book deals with dry ecosystems – aridity, droughts and other influences of climate that have an impact on land productivity and human survival – the societies affected by the characteristics of dry lands, and the inventiveness of those living under these conditions.

Available: Springer, 1999



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction

Announcements



United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

Nominations are now open

Deadline: 29 June 2007

<http://www.unisdr.org/eng>

[/sasakawa/2007/Sasakawa-Award-2007-English.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/sasakawa/2007/Sasakawa-Award-2007-English.pdf)

English.pdf



Call for contributions on good practices in disaster risk education and school safety

All contributions should be sent to

Laura Ngo-Fontaine by 31 May 2007

Contact: ngo-fontaine@un.org

International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
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In This Issue:

- The Global Platform for Sharing Experience and Assessing Progress
- Curbing Urban Exposure to Risk
- Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Higher on the World's Agenda
- WFP's Compliance with the Hyogo Framework for Action
- New Post-Graduate Program "Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management"
- MENA Region: Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction Partnerships
- Top African Prize for the 16th Global Painting Competition
- INDIA Launched a Network for Disaster Management
- April: Earthquake Preparedness Month
- A Musical for Children in the Wake of Disaster

Web Resources

Mark Your Calendar

Publications

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Highlights

April 2007

The Global Platform for Sharing Experience and Assessing Progress

Following up on the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Risk Reduction (IATF/DR) with a broader engagement of Governments, regional organizations and the civil society, the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will take place in Geneva from 5 to 7 June 2007. The session will provide an opportunity to share experience and assess progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Participants in the first session are Governments, IATF/DR members and organizations associated with the IATF/DR. Through a moderated high-level dialogue and statements, the first day of the session will make the social and economic case for disaster risk reduction, through the lens of two major factors of risks, namely climate change and unsafe urban development. On the second day, workshops will provide the opportunity to exchange experience around the theme 'Disaster Risk Reduction as a National Priority'. The preparations of these workshops are being facilitated by the World Bank, UNDP, WMO, ProVention and other partners. Further focus will be given to four specific sectors, namely education, facilitated by UNESCO on behalf of the thematic cluster/platform on Knowledge and Education; health facilitated by WHO; the environment, facilitated by UNEP and IUCN on behalf of the Environment and Disaster Working Group; and disaster management and preparedness facilitated by UN/OCHA. The third day will focus on assessing progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework and discussing priorities for action at various levels, including in thematic areas of work, for example early warning system and effective disaster recovery. Side events, organized by partners, will present initiatives and good practices. The organizers are making efforts to promote a carbon neutral event, offsetting greenhouse gas emissions related to travel and the venue, as well as using recycled material for the documentation. All participants are encouraged to contribute to this effort. *For more information, www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform*



Curbing Urban Exposure to Risk

At a meeting in Kobe, Japan, a consensus to launch a Global Forum on Urban and Megacities Risk was reached among a group of city associations, including the United Cities of Local Governments, Metropolis, CityNet, ICLEI and EMI, UN agencies (UNDP, UN HABITAT, UN/ISDR, UNCRD), ProVention Consortium, the World Bank, and representatives of governments and representatives from highly risk prone municipalities (Mumbai, Quito, Manila, Tehran). Organizations like WHO, OCHA and OECD had also expressed their interest in this subject. The Forum, which will be launched during the ISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, should focus its activities on bringing tools and commitment to cities on how to implement risk reduction measures to address the root causes of urban vulnerabilities and filling the current gaps in knowledge, policy, organization, and practice related to urban and megacities' disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, the gathering in Kobe served to advocate for the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in the urban context, with the city associations and to integrate an urban disaster risk reduction agenda with state and international obligations related to poverty alleviation, sustainable development and environmental management – also proposing to adapt the Hyogo Framework for Action to cities for adoption and promotion among city authorities. The Forum could be envisioned as a thematic cluster of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in urban areas, similar to the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning Platform or the International Recovery Platform.

Contact Mr. Hossein Kalali, hossein.kalali@undp.org

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Higher on the World's Agenda

The fourth assessment report on climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability was released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) this April 2007. Attended by 366 participants, including scientists and representatives from governments, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations, the IPCC meeting, in Belgium from 2-6 April 2007, focused on the line-by-line negotiation of the Summary for Policy Makers (SPM), as well as the acceptance of the underlying assessment report and technical summary. The key findings highlighted in the SPM emphasize the observed and projected impacts of climate change in the world's regions and productive systems. It provides evidence that global warming will exacerbate human vulnerability to disasters. For example, increased rainfall will trigger floods and landslides; more frequent droughts will affect water availability and crop yields; higher temperatures will bring more heat waves; and warmer oceans will produce more intense storms. The hardest hits include: the Arctic; sub Saharan Africa - facing more drought, food scarcity and human health problems; small islands developing states - facing sea-level rise and storms; and Asian megadeltas because of high population and depleted glaciers that will cause water scarcity. And it is the poorest who will suffer the most as they have the least means to adapt. The report warns that people will need to adapt to face the impact from the warming that is already unavoidable, due to past greenhouse gas emissions, and explains that adaptation to current weather extremes can increase resilience to climate change. The IPCC calls for more extensive adaptation to reduce vulnerability to future climate change, including by integrating consideration of climate change impacts in development planning and existing disaster risk reduction strategies. *For more information, <http://www.ipcc.ch>*

WFP's Compliance with the Hyogo Framework for Action

The World Food Programme (WFP) has initiated a process to review its compliance with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). The Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch received funding from the Swedish Government for a project which will strengthen WFP's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) capacity, in compliance with the HFA. The objectives of the project are to create a policy guidance framework for natural disasters with special emphasis on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Mitigation and to develop a corporate strategy for WFP's compliance with the HFA. A number of field case studies to assess WFP's DRR capacity are being undertaken in Bangladesh, Kenya, Mozambique, Haiti and Tajikistan, with the support of WFP's regional and country offices. The project will be completed by December 2007 and its methodology and results can be shared within the ISDR community upon request. Each year, WFP assists an average of 90 million food insecure people in more than 80 countries worldwide. About one third of these beneficiaries, some 30-40 million people, consist of those directly and primarily affected by natural disasters.

Contact Mr. Jakob Wernerman, jakob.wernerman@wfp.org or Mr. Etienne Labande, etienne.labande@wfp.org

New Post-Graduate Program "Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management"

A new post-graduate program, "Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management" instills the necessary interdisciplinary capacities to manage and minimize the effects of disasters on people, especially for those who are on the front-lines of disaster response and preparedness. The academicians and practitioners at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand and partner institutions are determined through this new program to contribute more toward bringing this know-how to disaster managers and engineers. As part of this effort, courses are designed to accommodate applicants with engineering, architecture, natural and social science, as well as management backgrounds.

<http://www.ait.ac.th/dpmm>

WEB RESOURCES



Online Country-by-Country Global Hazard Database

www.interragate.info

A new online natural hazards database designed to assist disaster management NGOs, humanitarian agencies and rescue teams responding to natural disasters, named inTERRAgate, was launched. It provides a framework for uploading natural hazard and risk data at a national level, together with in-country contact details for disaster first-responders. It contains introductory information on natural hazard threats facing ten of the world's most vulnerable nations (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Chile, El Salvador, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Mexico and the Philippines). Like the online encyclopaedia, Wikipedia, inTERRAgate is designed to be 'owned' by data suppliers and users, who are able to upload information and influence content.



Climate Appraisal

www.climateappraisal.com

This new site provides a wide variety of customized climate and environmental risk information for any address by combining historical data and scientific forecasts. Users can receive information on 50 environmental and human-induced risk factors, including shoreline reduction from climate change, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, drought, flooding, disease, pollution, and many others.



Planning for Disaster Division

<http://disasterjunkiesunite.blogspot.com>

This informal blog, started by a member of the American Planning Association is a forum for discussing the framework for a new division that would address disasters, natural hazards, and emergency management as they relate to planning.

Middle East and North Africa: Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction Partnerships

"Building Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction and Natural Hazards Risk Management" was the theme of the first workshop for the Middle East and North Africa region, organized by UN/ISDR in cooperation with World Bank, in Cairo (18-21 April 2007). This is part of an ongoing collaboration among the two organizations to strengthen disaster risk reduction partnerships in the region. Over 60 participants came from 14 countries, international, regional organizations and as individual experts, including from the Arab League and UNDP. The aim of the workshop was to review the concepts of hazard vulnerability and disaster risk reduction, in order to explore how this is played out in the region. Further, sectorial issues and ways to enhance regional cooperation of disaster risk reduction were discussed. During the conference, participants had the chance to exchange experiences with regional colleges and benefit from the presence of invitees from Central America and India. The participating countries proposed a regional platform to be set-up and that national authorities should promote national platforms for disaster risk reduction to be established to create a link from the national and region levels to the global ISDR system. The participants welcomed UN/ISDR presence in the region and future cooperation to that end.

Contact Mr. Mostafa Mohaghegh, mohaghegh@un.org

Top African Prize for the 16th Global Painting Competition

Africa's regional winners of 16th International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment were announced on Earth day, 22nd April 2007. This year's theme was Climate Change. Children aged 6 - 14 were invited to express their hopes and fears about the climate change through the medium of art. This year's painting competition attracted over 363 entries from 16 countries in Africa. This annual competition was jointly organized by the United Nations Environment Programme, the Japan-based Foundation for Global Peace and Environment, Bayer and Nikon.



<http://www.unep.org>

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit the following:

Africa:

www.unisdr.org/africa

Asia & the Pacific:

www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

Latin America & the Caribbean:

www.eird.org

Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning:

www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

INDIA launched a Network for Disaster Management

Experts in disaster management across the country will be networked with the aim of sharing experiences in the field. The network 'Solution Exchange', that links practitioners in disaster management, was unveiled by General N C Vij, Vice Chairperson of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The members of the Solution Exchange will focus on various disaster management issues, techniques and tools as also policy issues. Gen Vij said though many initiatives have been taken in the field of disaster management, there was a need for a community-based programme in the area. Also, the government should strengthen Civil Defence, in order to provide immediate relief and efforts should be made to use the Army as the last resort, he added. Gen Vij also said the NDMA was for incorporation of disaster management programmes in all developmental projects being undertaken in the 11th Five Year Plan. The UN's solution exchange forum has about 8,000 members sharing their views and providing practical solutions on issues like AIDS, education, environment, food and nutritional security, gender and public health education. There are about 248 disaster-prone districts in India. Some of them have been badly hit by cyclone, tsunami, flood, drought and earthquake.

<http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/drm.htm>

April: Earthquake Preparedness Month

April is an earthquake preparedness month in the United States, and officials in high-risk areas across the country were giving citizens the resources to better prepare for an earthquake. The City of San Bernardino, California, for example, provided its citizens a comprehensive list of what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. The city recommended its citizens be ready to be self-sufficient for 72 hours following a quake. San Bernardino's earthquake preparedness information can be viewed:

<http://www.ci.san-bernardino.ca.us/fire/earthquake.html>

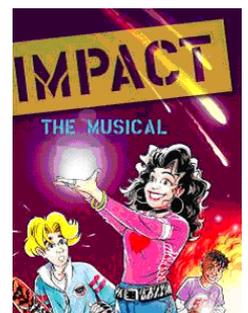
A Musical for Children in the Wake of Disaster

Impact – the Musical, part of the EU project "Citizens and Resilience" aims to balance between awareness and fear for children in primary education, by telling them about the concept of resilience. This is also to familiarise them with skills with which they can increase their own resilience. The musical piece will be rehearsed and performed by children from the top classes in primary schools, under the guidance of a teacher. The musical can be performed for children from the lower classes and parents. In addition to the musical, Impact has developed complementary teaching material, consisting of background information on resilience and specific lessons on the subject.

www.impact-kenniscentrum.nl

Contact Ms. Marieke van der Post-Maas,

m.j.vanderpost@amc.uva.nl



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Conferences, Trainings and Events May 2007 - July 2007

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
MAY		
3-6	Aichi, Japan	Natural Disaster Youth Summit http://ndys.jeam.jp/eng.html
4	Bangkok, Thailand	Twenty-sixth session of the IPCC (WMO) www.wmo.ch/web/meetingsnew.html
9-11	Bonn, Germany	First International Conference "Towards Sustainable Global Health" www.gemini.de/global-health
13-16	Amsterdam, Netherlands	15th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine www.wcdem2007.org
13-17	Sevilla, Spain	4th International Wildland Fire Conference www.wildfire07.es
14-16	Tehran, Iran	5th International Conference on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering www.iiess.ac.ir/SEE5
14-18	Trieste, Italy	Workshop on the Physics of Tsunami, Hazard Assessment Methods and Disaster Risk Management www.ictp.it
21-24	Ventnor, UK	International Conference on landslides and Climate Change www.coastalwight.gov.uk/conference.html
25-27	Toronto, Canada	3rd International Symposium on Geoinformation for Disaster Management (GiDM2007) junli@ryerson.ca
30- 11	New York, USA	Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-15) www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm
JUNE		
4-5	Istanbul, Turkey	International Conference Istanbul 2007: Earthquake Protection of Museums www.eqprotection-museums.org
5-7	Geneva, Switzerland	First session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction www.unisdr.org
6-8	Minsk, Belarus	IV International Scientific and Research Conference "Emergencies: Prevention and Elimination" oic_mcs@mcs.infonet.by
7-9	Debrecen, Hungary	International Network of Basin Organizations 7th World General Assembly inbo_2007_ga@oieau.fr
18-28	Geneva, Switzerland	59th session of the WMO Executive Council www.wmo.ch
21-22	Jakarta, Indonesia	APCU/AEARU Research Symposium on Earthquake Hazards around the Pacific Rim http://dir.u-tokyo.ac.jp
24-30	Manila, Philippines	Training "Making Governance Gender Responsive" www.capwip.org ; www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org
25-27	Astana, Kazakhstan	Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2007 www.adrc.or.jp
JULY		
2-27	Geneva, Switzerland	ECOSOC www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2007
8-11	Colorado, USA	32nd Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop www.colorado.edu/hazards
8-11	Toronto, Canada	17th World Conference on Disaster Management www.wcdm.org/wcdm_home.html
22-28	Germany	The second annual Summer Academy on Social Vulnerability Munich Re Foundation and UNU-EHS www.munichre-foundation.org
26-27	Shanghai, China	International Symposium on the Civil Development Strategy gjyth@mfb.sh.cn

Library corner

Drought and Drought Mitigation in Europe

Vogt, Jürgen V. and Somma, Francesca
This book is dedicated to the understanding of the drought problem in Europe and to discussing policy and management options to mitigate its impacts. It covers aspects from the detection of water stress to the planning of mitigation strategies. The contributions are written by recognised experts in their field and represent a unique collection of papers on the topic.
Available: Kluwer Academic Publishers

Freshwater Ecoregions of Africa and Madagascar: A Conservation Assessment

Thieme, Michele L.; Abell, Robin; Stiassny, Melanie L. J. S. et al.; and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
World Wildlife Fund has assembled teams of scientists to conduct ecological assessments of all seven continents. Freshwater Ecoregions of Africa and Madagascar is the latest contribution, presenting in a single volume the first in-depth analysis of the state of freshwater biodiversity across Africa, Madagascar, and the islands of the region.
Available: Island Press, 2005

Deserts: A Firefly Guide

Stoppato, Marco C. and Bini, Alfredo
Deserts is an abundantly illustrated handbook that examines the fascinating eco-systems of 49 major deserts. The book covers each with concise descriptions and quick-reference symbols and charts that display vital statistics such as average rainfall and temperatures, and expanse.
Publisher: Firefly Books, 2003

Aridity: Droughts and Human Development

Monique Mainguet
At the confluence of environmental science and the humanities, this book deals with dry ecosystems – aridity, droughts and other influences of climate that have an impact on land productivity and human survival – the societies affected by the characteristics of dry lands, and the inventiveness of those living under these conditions.
Available: Springer, 1999

Case Studies on Climate Change and World Heritage

UNESCO
The UNESCO World Heritage Centre released the publication to raise awareness about climate change impacts on the World Heritage. The report features 26 case studies - including the Tower of London, Kilimanjaro National Park and the Great Barrier Reef - that are representative of the dangers faced by the 830 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List.
Available: <http://whc.unesco.org>



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction

Announcements



United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

Nominations are now open

Deadline: 29 June 2007

<http://www.unisdr.org>

[/sasakawa/2007/Sasakawa-Award-2007-English.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/sasakawa/2007/Sasakawa-Award-2007-English.pdf)

English.pdf



Call for contributions on good practices in disaster risk education and school safety

All contributions should be sent to

Laura Ngo-Fontaine by 29 June 2007

Contact: ngo-fontaine@un.org

International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
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World Bank Institute (WBI) Hosts Expert Meeting on Gender in Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction

ProVention Consortium Launches the 2007-2008 Research & Action Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction

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Mark Your Calendar

Library Corner

To submit an article or inform us of a new publication/web resource or event, please send your inputs to: isdhighlights@un.org by the **20th day of each month**.

"The information and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the policies of the UN/ISDR secretariat"

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Highlights

May 2007

GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

First Session, 5-7 June 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland

Follow the discussions online at: www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/

ISDR Develops Global Online Library for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Library for Disaster Risk Reduction Education is a new initiative of the ISDR Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education and PreventionWeb to facilitate global information sharing of educational materials for disaster risk reduction. The Library now houses hundreds of educational resources, brochures, handbooks, text books, posters, toys, games, models, DVDs, videos, CDs in many languages and collected from 47 countries. The educational resources are being catalogued with extensive "metadata" for full interactive, online access. This is a first step in providing countries and communities at risk with much needed reference materials on education and disaster risk reduction that can be used to develop school curricula and university coursework on the subject.

To submit reference materials in digital form (PDF files), please send to:
riskreduceducation@gmail.com

Hard copy submissions, including CD-Roms and DVDs, should be sent to:
Ms. Marie-Lou Darricau, Library Coordinator, UN/ISDR
International Environment House 2,
7-9 Chemin de Balexert, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland

For questions, suggestions, comments, and to contribute to the discussion of strategies guiding educational materials development and use, meta-data variables for cataloguing, evaluation processes and criteria, and voluntary assistance in cataloguing and reviewing documents, please contact: Ms. Marla Petal, mpetal@riskred.org

IPCC Releases its Fourth Assessment Report on Climate Change

Future climate change is expected to put close to 50 million people at risk of hunger by 2020, and temperatures could rise up to five degrees Celsius by 2080 unless emissions are decisively reduced, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its fourth assessment report on climate change. The report warned that Himalayan glaciers are receding faster than in any other part of the world and at current rates of global warming and could disappear by 2035. Coastal populations in Asia are also vulnerable to sea level rise, which is slightly higher than the global average. Projected sea level rise could flood millions of people living in the low lying areas of South, Southeast and East Asia such as Vietnam, Bangladesh, India and China. Also, extreme weather patterns are already taking their toll on crop yields. Challenges in tackling global warming concerns is mounting pressures on the developing countries. With the heavy rains resulting in flooding, landslides along Sri Lanka's coastal belt in early May, flash floods in northern Thailand are all evident climate turbulence in the region.

Visit: www.ipcc.ch

Sri Lanka Moves Forward in Establishing a National Platform

A stakeholder workshop on the Hyogo Framework for Action, organized by the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) on 25 May 2007 ended with a concrete proposal to initiate a National Platform for Sri Lanka. A number of key government ministries and departments, district administration, INGOs and UNDP representatives endorsed the proposal. Under the guidance of the DMC Director-General, Mr. Hettiarachchi, and UNDP's Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor, Mr. Man Thapa, the next steps towards the establishment of a Sri Lankan National Platform will be to:

- Develop a short list of and extend invitation to the key organizations for the core group of the National Platform from planning, finance, development, legal, administrative departments, NGOs, UNCT, key donor agencies (World Bank, ADB), media organizations, private sector and academic institutions.
- Identify organizations for the larger group of the National Platform.
- Include the organizations in the IO Early Warning Consortium in the shortlist
- Develop a draft terms of reference for the National Platform.
- Agree on an action plan and a periodic review for the National Platform.

Contact: Mr. Man Thapa, man.thapa@undp.org

China Launched an International Center for Drought Risk Reduction

Drought is one of the major and frequent threats to millions of people's livelihood, causes starvation and famine and slows down socio-economic development. To reduce the increased negative impacts of drought disasters, an International Centre for Drought Risk Reduction (ICDRR) was established in Beijing, China, another concrete result of the cooperation between the Chinese Government and UN/ISDR secretariat. The ICDRR aims to mitigate people's vulnerability to drought. The ICDRR will focus on international and inter-regional cooperation and collaboration in drought risk reduction, using space technology and other means to monitor and assess drought risks across Asia. The initiative will also concentrate on building databases and a knowledge pool, developing applied technology and enhancing capacity building and public awareness on drought risks and ways to reduce drought risks. The ICDRR has already developed a work plan and its website is currently under construction in order to make information on drought available in both Chinese and English.

Contact: Ms. Yan Guan, guanyan@ndrcc.gov.cn

Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI) and ICLEI Join Hands

EMI recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, a worldwide association of about 500 local government organizations. The MOU covers a period of five years, from 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2012. The partnership brings together ICLEI's local government network and EMI's technical expertise in areas of natural hazards assessment and mitigation. EMI and ICLEI agreed to work together in enhancing the capacity of local governments and in supporting local action for disaster risk reduction by: 1) Extending EMI's e-learning training packages to local managers and professionals in support of the efforts of local institutions in introducing sound disaster risk management practices; 2) Assisting ICLEI in the implementation of its Resilient and Safer Cities Program; and 3) Improving knowledge sharing mechanisms between cities. It would also reinforce the advocacy efforts of both organizations to get a stronger voice for local governments in the global arena of disaster risk reduction such as the UN/ISDR.

Contact: Kristoffer Berse, kris.berse@earthquakesandmegacities.org

Visit: www.earthquakesandmegacities.org

WEB RESOURCES

Designing for Earthquakes: A Manual for Architects

www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2418

This EERI-FEMA non-technical publication presents up-to-date information on natural hazard mitigation geared specifically towards architects. It explains principles of seismic design for those without an engineering and seismology background. EERI and FEMA will release a printed version of this publication soon.



Timeline: The Frightening Future of Earth

www.livescience.com/environment/070419_earth_timeline.html

This timeline, presented by LiveScience, shows the bleak future of environmental stability on earth due to climate change. Using several recent studies and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, this article attempts to put specific dates on the damaging events that scientists believe global warming may cause.



Earth Portal

www.earthportal.org/

National Council for Science and the Environment, April 2007)

The Earth Portal offers science-based, expert-reviewed information about the environment.

It seeks to bring the global scientific community together to produce "the first free, expert-driven, massively scaleable information resource on the environment, and to engage civil society in a public dialogue on the role of environmental issues in human affairs." It includes features such as the Encyclopedia of Earth, Earth News, Earth Forum and Environment in Focus.



Traditional Knowledge Bulletin

www.tkbulletin.wordpress.com

(UNU-IAS Traditional Knowledge Institute)

The Traditional Knowledge Bulletin provides a weekly review of traditional knowledge issues, particularly discussions going on at intergovernmental fora.



European National Platforms and HFA Focal Points Meet in Strasbourg

The Council of Europe (European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement) and the UN/ISDR organized a meeting for European National Platforms and HFA Focal Points on 07 May, 2007 in Strasbourg. The objectives of this meeting are to: 1) Present the outcomes of the collaborative initiative between the UN/ISDR secretariat and the German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV) draft proposal, in which both organizations have collected information, undertaken a survey and developed a strategic view on how the European Platforms can collaborate and strengthen their role and capacities, 2) Discuss and share information on progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and 3) Prepare for the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 5-7 June 2007, Geneva.

Contact: Ms. Paola Albrito, albrito@un.org

Meeting in Belize Develops Adaptation Strategies for Arctic and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Coastal communities in the Arctic and Small Island Developing States are experiencing the effects of climate change first-hand. Because of their close ties to land and sea environments, economies and cultures in both regions are particularly vulnerable to climate change. Although the natural and human environments in the two regions differ markedly, the effects of rising temperatures, changing precipitation, shifts in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, and projected changes in sea level threaten the ecology, economies and social and cultural fabric of both regions. Strategic policy-relevant and community-driven initiatives need to be addressed through collaboration. From 27 to 30 May 2007, 40 stakeholders from the Arctic and Small Island Developing States gathered at a workshop in Belize. They are part of the Many Strong Voices Programme, coordinated by the UNEP/GRID-Arendal, based in Norway, the Center for International Climate and Environment Research – Oslo (CICERO), the Caricom Climate Change Centre and the Organization of American States' Department of Sustainable Development. The Many Strong Voices Programme brings together a consortium of researchers, policy-makers, and organizations to advance mutual learning and exchange of knowledge, research and expertise on

climate change adaptation within and between the Arctic and the SIDS. The four-day workshop focused not only on strategies to adapt to climate change but also on ways to deliver a strong message to the world. The people in the SIDS and Arctic are responsible for less than one per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. According to the IPCC report, however, they are feeling a disproportionate level of impact. At the workshop in Belize, participants developed a five-year programme and agreed on concrete and collaborative steps to address the issues of capacity building, targeted research, communications and outreach activities, and partnership and fundraising goals.

Contact: Petter Haugneland, petter.haugneland@cicero.uio.no

Visit: www.manystrongvoices.org

World Bank Institute (WBI) Hosts Expert Meeting on Gender in Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction

A meeting hosted by the World Bank Institute on 29 May 2007 brought together gender and disaster management experts from Turkey, India, Thailand, UNISDR, Gender and Disaster Network in Istanbul, Turkey to gather feedback on a draft analytic paper produced as part of WBI's project on mainstreaming gender in disaster recovery and reconstruction, and to facilitate a discussion on the next steps forward. A series of presentations and discussions from the participating experts, providing a rich set of insights on best practices, lessons learned and, importantly, on the institutionalization of gender concerns in disaster management. These will feed into the design of the next phase of the project, to take place in the field in India and Thailand, and to the development of a training module next year. The meeting concluded that this had been a valuable opportunity to explore the under-researched area of the institutionalization of gender mainstreaming and to establish links with UNISDR.

Contact: Ms. Maureen Fordham, maureen.fordham@unn.ac.uk

ProVention Consortium Launches the 2007-2008 Research & Action Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Research and Action Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction programme is designed to engage enthusiastic young students and professionals in developing countries in creating innovative links between research and action in disaster risk reduction. Applicants are invited to seek ways to cut across professional disciplines, to exchange knowledge and engage stakeholders from scientific, academic, civilian, public and private sectors. A Request for Proposals will be issued on June 1, 2007. Proposals are encouraged in the following thematic focus areas: 1) Identifying enabling factors and incentives for disaster risk reduction, 2) Developing mechanisms to strengthen community resistance and resilience, 3) Applying local risk analysis and risk management, 4) Improving education materials and curricula, 5) Promoting risk reduction in response and recovery activities, 6) Engaging the private sector in disaster risk reduction (especially micro-enterprises), and 7) Linking climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts.

Contact: provention@ifrc.org

Visit: www.proventionconsortium.org/research_and_action_grants

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit the following:

Africa:

www.unisdr.org/africa

Asia & the Pacific:

www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

Latin America & the Caribbean:

www.eird.org

Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning:

www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Conferences, Trainings and Events June 2007 - September 2007

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
June		
4-5	Istanbul, Turkey	International Conference Istanbul 2007: Earthquake Protection of Museums www.eqprotection-museums.org
5-7	Geneva, Switzerland	First session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/
6-8	Minsk, Belarus	IV International Scientific and Research Conference "Emergencies: Prevention and Elimination" oic_mcs@mcs.infonet.by
7-9	Debrecen, Hungary	International Network of Basin Organizations 7th World General Assembly inbo_2007_ga@oieau.fr
18-28	Geneva, Switzerland	59th session of the WMO Executive Council www.wmo.ch
21-22	Jakarta, Indonesia	APCU/AEARU Research Symposium on Earthquake Hazards around the Pacific Rim http://dir.u-tokyo.ac.jp
24-30	Manila, Philippines	Training "Making Governance Gender Responsive" www.capwip.org ; www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org
25-27	Astana, Kazakhstan	Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2007 www.adrc.or.jp
July		
2-27	Geneva, Switzerland	ECOSOC www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2007
8-11	Colorado, USA	32nd Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop www.colorado.edu/hazards
8-11	Toronto, Canada	17th World Conference on Disaster Management www.wcdm.org/wcdm_home.html
22-28	Germany	The second annual Summer Academy on Social Vulnerability Munich Re Foundation and UNU-EHS www.munichre-foundation.org
26-27	Shanghai, China	International Symposium on the Civil Development Strategy gyjth@mfb.sh.cn
August		
6-9	Brunei	Disaster Management Workshop www.apcss.org/core/Conference/Conference%20Future%20Summary.htm
12-18	Stockholm	World Water Week www.worldwaterweek.org
22-25	Pune India	Settlement Planning and Shelter in Emergencies www.redr.org/india/training/index.htm
September		
5-6	Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	Dealing with Disasters 2007 "Resilience, Response and Investigation" www.tees.ac.uk/disasters
17-19	Freising, Germany	14th German Dam Symposium and the 7th ICOLD Club Dam Symposium www.conventus.de/talsperre
17-20	Ancona, Italy	International Conference of the Italian Ecological Society and the Italian Association of Limnology and Oceanography www.univpm.it
17- 05 Oct.	Bangkok, Thailand	Use of GIS and RS in DRM (GIS-1) Organizer: ADPC
19-21	Stressa, Italy	Seventh IIASA-DPRI Forum on Integrated Disaster Risk Management www.iiasa.ac.at/Reseach/RAV/conf/IDRiM07/index.html

Library Corner

Annual Disaster Statistical Review: The Trends and Numbers 2006

Hoyois Ph., Scheuren J-M., Below R., Guha-Sapir D. Brussels: CRED: 2007.

Every year, the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) reports on the effects of disasters on human populations. This Annual Disaster Statistical Review, sponsored by the ISDR, is a compilation of CRED data for 2006. However, the data in this publication is presented over various time spans because trends take time to develop. Available: www.cred.be

Gender Perspective: Working Together for Disaster Risk Reduction, Good Practices & Lessons Learned

As part of its ongoing efforts facilitated to build a global partnership for mainstreaming gender issues into the disaster risk reduction process, the UN/ISDR secretariat, in cooperation with GROOTS International, have compiled good practices and lessons learned "Gender Perspective: Working Together for Disaster Risk Reduction." This publication aims to increase the knowledge and understanding of the vulnerabilities and risks associated with gender, as it presents a collection of 15 practices that showcase the valuable contributions of women to the ongoing efforts for building resilience against disasters at the community level. Available: www.unisdr.org



Building Disaster Resilient Communities: Good Practices & Lessons Learned

This publication is a joint effort of the "Global Network of NGOs for Disaster Risk Reduction," the emerging network of national and international NGOs aiming to reduce disaster risk worldwide. The publication showcases the essential roles played by NGOs in addressing disaster risks at the local community level. It makes the case for increased community-oriented DRR action, and is aimed to stimulate more interest in the subject from donors, policy makers, as well as other stakeholders. Available: www.unisdr.org



Little Green Data Book 2007

This pocket-sized quick reference book on key environment and development data for over 200 countries, based on the World Development Indicators 2007. Country, regional, and income group profiles provide a baseline for comparison on the state of the environment and its linkages with the economy and people. This year's publication affirms that carbon dioxide emissions continue to rise, with the world producing today 16 percent more carbon dioxide than in 1990. Available: www.worldbank.org



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction

Announcements



United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

Nominations are now open

Extended Deadline: 15 July 2007

<http://www.unisdr.org/eng>

[/sasakawa/2007/Sasakawa-Award-2007-](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/sasakawa/2007/Sasakawa-Award-2007-English.pdf)

English.pdf



Call for contributions on good practices in disaster risk education and school safety

All contributions should be sent to

Elena Dokhlik by 31 July 2007

Contact: dokhlik@un.org

International Strategy for
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In This Issue:

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Highlights

June 2007

Round-Up of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, First Session

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction met in session for the first time in Geneva, 5-7 June 2007 as a forum of stakeholders concerned with reducing disaster risks, with over 1000 participants from Governments, United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, regional bodies, civil society, the private sector, and the scientific and academic communities. The sessions aims were to advance understanding for reducing disaster risk and provide opportunities for stakeholders to share experience, learn from good practice and assess progress made in implementing the Hyogo Framework. Several donor nations renewed their commitments to disaster preparedness and mitigation. Participants expressed concern that climate change is now responsible for more than two-thirds of extreme weather events and half the world's population live in cities-- many of which are highly vulnerable to earthquakes and storms. The Global Platform addressed disaster risk reduction from three different perspectives: climate change, urban settings and mega cities, and the challenges, costs and opportunities in implementing risk reduction strategies. Several key priorities were identified including: 1) increasing and improving effective and better coordinated investments in risk reduction at the national and international levels, 2) integrating disaster risk reduction into sustainable development and poverty reduction frameworks and management tools, and 3) strengthening advocacy activities throughout the ISDR system in order to stimulate awareness and support by politicians, managers, professional groups and the general public. Countries need to establish national systems to monitor and report on national risk profiles, develop best practices, and improve accountability for results as an urgent priority for disaster risk reduction. The private sector's role was highlighted as an important contribution to reducing disaster risk using better financial tools, participation in public policy and engagement in public-private partnerships. The Global Platform will be convened every two years with the next session taking place in 2009.

For more information, please consult: *Disaster Risk Reduction: 2007 Global review*: www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/first-session/docs/session_docs/ISDR_GP_2007_3.pdf or visit: www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/

Hyogo Framework for Action Consultation for Asia & the Pacific Region

Governments and regional partners from Asia & the Pacific met during the Global Platform to review progress on, and challenges to HFA implementation and to explore possibilities of strengthening existing regional mechanisms. In an ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) workshop, members presented some of their ongoing activities as well as their views on how this regional partnership can help strengthen intergovernmental and cross-agency learning and coordination in building resilience to disasters in the region. The IAP is exploring ways to strengthen the cooperation among existing members as well as expanding the mechanism to include other key regional partners. An HFA consultation was held with governments and regional partners from Asia & the Pacific region. The aim of the meeting was to explore opportunities to establish a stronger and more coherent regional platform for disaster risk reduction, which would serve to support the regional monitoring of HFA implementation, harmonize actions and increase synergies among multiple regional partners and countries involved in disaster risk reduction. As a basis for discussion, governments were invited to share their best practices on HFA implementation. The initial findings of an ongoing report on major progress and challenges in

achieving HFA objectives and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development in the Asia & Pacific region was presented by representatives from ADPC and ADRC, who are jointly conducting the study.

Contact: isdr-bkk@un.org

Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action in the Caribbean

A meeting on "Implementing the HFA in the Caribbean - Focus on National Platforms" took place during the Global Platform. The main goal of this meeting was to launch the proposal "Caribbean Platforms Programme" (CPP) which includes partners such as the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA, UNDP and PAHO). The CPP directly works to alleviate some of the regions long standing challenges hindering the realization of the most effective national and regional disaster risk reduction strategies. Additionally, it works towards strengthening the structures and processes for more integrative risk reduction, and towards furthering the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development planning and policies.

Visit: <http://www.eird.org/cpp/html>

Global Network of NGOs for Disaster Risk Reduction

Over the past months, the ISDR secretariat has been facilitating the development of a "Global Network of NGOs" for disaster risk reduction, in collaboration with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok. The network is aimed at facilitating sharing of information and knowledge on disaster risk reduction among NGOs and civil society organizations, providing easier access to global resources for disaster risk reduction, and influencing global policy in a more effective manner. The network was officially launched during the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. As a result of the meetings and discussions taking place among NGOs during the Global Platform, it was also agreed that NGOs will take the lead on this process and will be further advancing the development of the Global Network initiated by the ISDR secretariat. The secretariat would now start playing a merely facilitating role, after having successfully initiated the process. A Steering Group has been recommended to provide guidance on the development of the Global Network of NGOs. The Steering Group will be comprised of the former "core members" that supported the development of the Global Network throughout the period October 2006 - June 2007.

Visit: www.unisdr.org/ngos or Contact: Mr. Marcus Oxley, marcus.oxley@tearfund.org

Launch of the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative

The Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) was officially launched on July 6 at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. CADRI is a joint initiative prepared by UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. CADRI's goal is to advance the generation of knowledge and related experience pertinent to developing sustainable capacity for disaster risk reduction. CADRI organized on June 8 the workshop on "Capacity Development for Disaster Risk Reduction: Fostering Knowledge, Innovation and Results" which brought together over 50 representatives of international, regional and local NGOs and networks, members of ISDR system, inter-governmental organizations and higher education and research organizations, and donors. This was CADRI's first attempt to establish a working group for further involvement in the development of a wider thematic programme and specific means which can advance peer collaboration. Participants discussed about CADRI's proposed services and its rationale and focus, highlighted the existence of information exchange gaps underlying the importance of CADRI to fill them in, and analyzed their current network.

Contact: Ms Joanne Burke, burkej@un.org

WEB RESOURCES

Emergency Management: Status of School Districts' Planning and Preparedness

www.gao.gov/docsearch/abstract.php?rptno=GAO-07-821T

This new Government Accountability Office (GAO) study notes that the nation's public schools lack the equipment and expertise necessary to deal with a range of emergencies, including terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and biohazard catastrophes. By examining school emergency preparedness nationwide, the GAO found that many schools are insufficiently prepared because they have not trained and integrated their response plans with local first responders, hospitals, or their city governments.



SPIDER Network

www.spidernetwork.org

The Science and Policy Interfaces for Disaster Reduction (SPIDER) Network is composed of six UK-based academic departments from different universities and promotes the work of new researchers in the disaster field. The network lists a goal of re-examining the role of scientific knowledge for disaster risk reduction.



Disaster Watch

www.power99.com.pk

Disaster Watch is an interactive radio program. The primary objective of the program is to provide a communication interface to disaster management planners and risk-prone communities in Pakistan with special emphasis on earthquake-hit areas. Moreover, the Disaster Watch intends to stimulate the informed accountability of earthquake recovery.



Personal Disaster Preparedness Guide

www.operationhope.org/pdpg/

Developed by Operation HOPE, this easy-to-use guide allows users to fill in important information, including emergency contacts, phone numbers, necessary medications, and meeting locations. The site then turns the information into a "Personal Disaster Preparedness Guide" to be readily accessible during and after disaster.



Workshop on the National Platform Coordinating Mechanism

Some 120 delegates attended a session workshop on "National Coordinating Mechanism - National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction" at the Global Platform meeting. The meeting reviewed good practices of such multi-stakeholder fora for information-sharing and coordination of risk reduction activities. The presenters came from Costa Rica, France, Germany, India, Iran, Madagascar, Sri Lanka and Switzerland. They explained the functioning of their disaster risk reduction coordinating bodies and highlighted how to mainstream gender. The exchange showcased how these countries deal with recurring challenges such as mobilizing higher-level commitment and investment in risk reduction and multi-stakeholder coordination. They confirmed the added value of National Platforms for efficiency gains and called for a comprehensive livelihood approach to save not only lives through risk reduction, but also valuable assets for early recovery. The meeting ended with a call to the UN/ISDR secretariat for further documentation of good practices of National Platforms.

Visit: www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/first-session/gp-1st-workshops.html

A DRR and HFA Implementation Secretariat for Kenya

Following high-level participation at the Global platform, the Government of Kenya has established a full time Secretariat to support the National Platform in coordination with Disaster Risk Reduction and implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action. Ms. Christine Nyawira has been assigned full time to assist the National Focal Point and Chairman of the National Platform Mr. Micho Mwaluma in revamping the Kenya National Platform and making it an active player in disaster risk reduction. The Kenya National Platform is also organizing a one-week training retreat for its members to better understanding of the Hyogo Framework for Action, how to reduce disaster risk and to agree on implementation mechanisms. The retreat will take place at the Port City of Mombasa first week of July 2007.

Contact: Ms. Christine Nzawira, cnyawira@gmail.com

Environment and Vulnerability: Emerging Perspectives

That environment, development and disasters are connected is rarely disputed, but the multi-dimensional role of environment has

caused considerable confusion. While it is often recognized that ecosystems are affected by disasters, it is forgotten that protecting ecosystem services can both, save lives and protect livelihoods. UNEP prepared on behalf of the UN/ISDR Working Group on Environment and Disaster Reduction an issue paper "Environment and Vulnerability: Emerging perspectives" which maps out the linkages between environment and disaster risk – and ultimately links environmental management to disaster risk reduction. The paper also identifies areas of action where disaster and environmental managers could make better use of environmental management to reduce disaster risk. The issue paper was presented at the Global Platform session workshop on: "Ecosystems and environmental management for disaster risk reduction."

Visit: www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/first-session/docs/Workshops/

The IFRC Global Alliance

The IFRC is working towards a Global Alliance, which aims to herald the scaling up of activity in disaster risk reduction at the national and regional levels. This will address the communities on the ground with which the National Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are working. It will include key strategic partnerships with organizations such as UN agencies and NGOs. Reciprocally, the IFRC plays its full part in the Global Platform and demonstrates its full commitment to the implementation of the HFA priorities as part of its mandate to support its member National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their fulfillment of their obligations and duties according to the movement's principles.

Visit: www.ifrc.org

Global Partnership with the Private Sector

The World Bank, the World Economic Forum, UN/ISDR secretariat, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, SwissRe, MunichRe, Aga Khan Development Network, US Homeland Security Department, Social Accountability International (SAA Certification) and other businesses have initiated a global partnership with the private sectors to enable investments in reducing risk that complement public and multilateral resources. This Private-Public Partnerships strategy has succeeded to provide the opportunity to bridge private and public sectors. Key elements were the one-day gathering at the World Bank Group headquarters in February 2007 and the public-private sector risk reduction dialogues held on the margins of the Davos meeting 2007 and Indian Disaster Management Congress 2006. A global business case study has also been prepared to document working models and strategies for encouraging partnerships as an integral element of risk reduction.

Visit: www.gfdr.org

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit the following:

Africa:

www.unisdr.org/africa

Asia & the Pacific:

www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

Latin America & the Caribbean:

www.eird.org

Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning:

www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Conferences, Trainings and Events June 2007 - September 2007

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
July		
2-27	Geneva, Switzerland	ECOSOC www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2007
8-11	Colorado, USA	32nd Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop www.colorado.edu/hazards
8-11	Toronto, Canada	17th World Conference on Disaster Management www.wcdm.org/wcdm_home.html
16-27	Bangkok, Thailand	Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM-16). www.adpc.net/
22-28	Germany	The second annual Summer Academy on Social Vulnerability Munich Re Foundation and UNU-EHS www.munichre-foundation.org
26-27	Shanghai, China	International Symposium on the Civil Development Strategy gjyth@mfb.sh.cn
August		
6-9	Brunei	Disaster Management Workshop www.apcss.org/core/Conference/Conference%20Future%20Summary.htm
12-18	Stockholm	World Water Week www.worldwaterweek.org
22-25	Pune India	Settlement Planning and Shelter in Emergencies www.redr.org/india/training/index.htm
September		
5-6	Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	Dealing with Disasters 2007 "Resilience, Response and Investigation" www.tees.ac.uk/disasters
17-19	Freising, Germany	14th German Dam Symposium and the 7th ICOLD Club Dam Symposium www.conventus.de/talsperre
17-20	Ancona, Italy	International Conference of the Italian Ecological Society and the Italian Association of Limnology and Oceanography www.univpm.it
17- 05 Oct.	Bangkok, Thailand	Use of GIS and RS in DRM (GIS-1) www.adpc.net/
19-21	Stressa, Italy	Seventh IIASA-DPRI Forum on Integrated Disaster Risk Management www.iiasa.ac.at/Reseach/RAV/conf/IDRiM07/index.html
October		
1-3	Geneva, Switzerland	FERMA Risk Management Forum - 2007 www.ferma.eu/
5-7	Innsbruck, Tyrol/Austria	3rd European Security Conference Innsbruck www.european-security.info
15-16	Karlsruhe, Germany	8th Forum on Disaster Reduction on DKKV www.dkkv.org/
17-18	Jeffreys Bay, South Africa	Disaster Risk Reduction 2007 www.disaster.co.za
22-26	Bangkok, Thailand	Disaster Risk Communication www.adpc.net/

Library Corner

Topics Geo Natural Catastrophes 2006: Analyses, Assessments, Positions
For the past 13 years, the Munich Re Group has presented the results of its annual worldwide survey of natural catastrophes in the Topics Geo series. Instead of constituting a statistical study of natural catastrophes, the focus is now on providing background analyses that are of practical application. Topics covered for the year 2006 include the relatively calm Atlantic hurricane season, the Northwest Pacific typhoon season, the July 17 tsunami in Java, and the Yogyakarta earthquake.
Available: www.munichre.com/publications/302-05217_en.pdf

Beyond Disasters: Creating Opportunities for Peace

This report examines the recent disaster experiences of Indonesia's Aceh province, Sri Lanka, and Kashmir, and suggests ways to better integrate disaster and conflict responses. The human toll taken by natural disasters is increasing sharply, adding significantly to the list of deadly challenges faced by poor communities and countries worldwide. Recorded disasters nearly doubled between 1987 and 2006, while the number of people affected by these disasters increased more than 10 percent.
Available: <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/5111>

Institutional Donor Progress with Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction
Tearfund, in collaboration with the ISDR, has recently completed some research on institutional donor progress with mainstreaming disaster risk reduction. The report contains self-assessments undertaken by 11 donor organisations, and includes recommendations for addressing the issues raised.
Available: www.tearfund.org

Words into Action: A Guide for Implementing the Hyogo Framework

A first issue of a practical guide to help national authorities and others to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action has been developed by the ISDR secretariat. This Guide is a tool to help decision-makers promote and implement disaster risk reduction measures and monitor of progress. It contains a set of 22 suggested tasks, each addressing a primary area of effort for implementing disaster risk reduction with practical step-by-step advices and examples from around the world. Different users can draw on the parts that are useful to them, adapting the tasks according to their particular needs. The ISDR secretariat will now facilitate efforts to develop guides for specific sectors and situations.

Available: www.unisdr.org/words-into-action





International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction



10 October

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

International Strategy for
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Swiss National Platform for Disaster Reduction shares ten years of experience

Nepal: Finalising a National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management

The UK Department for International Development incorporates Disaster Risk Reduction

Updating the Central American Plan for Education Risk Reduction in progress

Drought Risk Reduction in the Horn of Africa

Preparing for Climate Change

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Highlights

July 2007

Follow-up Discussion at ECOSOC on the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Two side-events on the follow-up to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) as discussed at the Global Platform took place at this year's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) session, held in Geneva. "The Global Platform is meant to be a venue for exchanging experiences, retaining lessons learned, and monitoring the HFA's implementation," explained Margareta Wahlström, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs representing the Chair of ISDR system and the GP/DRR, at the first event. "The main challenge – she added – is to communicate the importance of disaster risk reduction to those that are not yet 'converted,' which is why it is crucial to prove that change and improvements are possible".

Sálvano Briceño (UN/ISDR secretariat) welcomed increasing commitments to the ISDR system, which should build on this momentum not only to generate further consultations with governments and partners, but also to initiate a movement at the regional level. In this spirit, panellists representing different stakeholders of ISDR system reiterated their commitment to the HFA and to the GP/DRR: Miguel Bermeo (UNDP/BCPR) stressed the support of BCPR agencies to the ISDR system through the intensification of partnerships as well as the promotion of specific areas such as engendering disaster reduction. Furthermore, Maryam Golnaraghi (WMO) promoted Early Warning Systems as a key tool for climate change response. Marcus Oxley, Chair of the Global Network of NGOs, called upon genuine action by reiterating the importance of bringing grassroots-level people into the process. Finally, Yvette Stevens (Drought Risk Reduction Network) noted the need to bring down legislative barriers and improve networking between stakeholders.

The second side-event co-chaired by H.E. Ambassador Mr Makio Miyagawa, Permanent Mission of Japan, and Mr John Holmes, Under Secretary- General for Humanitarian Affairs, focused more on the progress made in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action. Lorna Inniss (Government of Barbados) informed that "Barbados is developing strong links with national disaster coordinators and regional disaster management agencies: regional collaboration is flourishing towards the establishment of a Caribbean Tsunami Warning Centre and an Interim Tsunami Information Centre." Martin Owor (UN/ISDR Africa), on behalf of Madagascar, outlined the progress made at national level in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the National Poverty Reduction Strategy. Ibrahim Osman (IFRC) explained that IFRC is scaling-up and refining existing projects for the implementation of the HFA on the basis of experiences drawn by various countries. Saroj Kumar Jha (World Bank/GFDRR) illustrated how the World Bank GFDRR's strategic framework for assistance could be an enabling financing instrument for the implementation of the HFA. Miguel Bermeo, Chair of the International Recovery Platform (IRP), informed of the efforts to provide for common post-disaster need assessment and web-based information-sharing tools, complemented with additional information on the collaboration between ILO, UNDP, FAO, UN/ISDR and WB to support local authorities and stakeholders in the adoption of measures for a quick livelihood recovery process.

For more information on the Global Platform please visit www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform, GP/DRR Bulletin at: <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/ymbvol141num1e.pdf>; on the Global Network of NGOs, please visit www.unisdr.org/ngos, or contact Mr. Marcus Oxley: marcus.oxley@tearfund.org; and on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, please visit the UN/ISDR website at: www.unisdr.org

Swiss National Platform for Disaster Reduction Shares Ten Years of Experience

Switzerland's PLANAT, among the oldest national disaster reduction platforms, celebrated its 10th anniversary by sharing experiences and lessons learned with the international community. In this spirit, a brochure and folder were prepared for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction that analyze the creation and efficient-running of national disaster risk reduction platforms. For example, the Swiss experience shows that a dedicated team and interaction between key players from line ministries, disaster management authorities, academia, civil society, and other sectors are vital to the creation of broadly acceptable national disaster risk reduction policies and strategies. Nonetheless, seeing as some of the answers in these documents are specific to the Swiss context, other countries are expected to adapt these lessons to their own socio-political and economic realities.

For a copy of the brochure and folder visit: www.planat.ch

For more information contact: Walter J. Ammann, wamm@slf.ch

Nepal: Finalising a National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management

The Nepalese National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management development process marked a milestone with the final national consultative workshop on 29 June 2007 in Kathmandu. The resulting product is a set of implementation strategies for all key development sectors – health and nutrition, education, livelihood protection, etc. – as well as the establishment of a national multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary platform for the effective implementation and monitoring of the National Strategy. Once this proposed strategy refined in accordance with suggestions made at the workshop, it would be presented to the Cabinet for approval. The strategy is expected to guide future national disaster policy and regulatory frameworks in Nepal. The Hyogo Framework for Action – adopted in 2005 – provided guidance for the strategy's formulation process while the Inter-Agency Standing Committee cluster approach – now globally recognized as the international approach for disaster response – provided some guiding principles. Although the development process was led by the Government of Nepal and funded by the European Commission for Humanitarian aid Office, all key in-country players and stakeholders, i.e. civil society and communities at risk, central and local government, donor agencies, national and international development organizations, UN agencies and corporate bodies, were engaged through a series of workshops and consultations.

For more details contact: Rahul Sengupta, rahul.sengupta@undp.org

The UK Department for International Development incorporates Disaster Risk Reduction

The Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) has adopted a policy for DRR as a cross-cutting issue in development. As a part of this policy, DFID is taking initiative to enhance the capacity of its staff members through training. The staff members from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Indonesia, Pakistan received orientation in disaster risk reduction concepts, good practices, international and DFID commitments, strategic planning, and humanitarian response as well as disaster risk reduction links to climate change. The programme was most appropriately placed within the 'international architecture' on the issue. The points of reference included the current global frameworks which guide development and DRR, such as the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) and the Millennium Development Goals; as well as the major programme initiatives such as the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR). The core resource team from DFID was complemented by representatives of a number of organizations involved in mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development in the region: the World Bank spoke on GFDRR; the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent

WEB RESOURCES



Gender and Disaster Sourcebook

www.gdnonline.org/

The Gender and Disaster Sourcebook is an electronic compilation of international resources on policy, practice, and research designed to address gender concerns in disaster risk reduction. Developed by an international writing team, the sourcebook was supported by the Public Entity Risk Institute and the Pacific Disaster Centre of the East-West Centre. The sourcebook is available on the Gender and Disaster Network Web site at www.gdnonline.org/. Readers are invited to submit additional resources from their region and sector as they become available.



Young Professionals for Disaster Risk Reduction

<http://www.ypdredavos.blogspot.com/>

The goal of YPDR blog is to establish an international network between young professionals and relevant organizations whose mission is to strengthen disaster management and risk reduction initiatives.



First Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Reduction

<http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform>

The official Global Platform website holds all the main official documents: Summary of the Chair, contributions and statements from Governments and International Organizations as well as presentations given at workshops.

Societies on its DRR II programme and disaster preparedness promotion; the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP on national governments and regional programmes, and on its complementary partnership with UN ISDR on reaching HFA goals; and the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition on a Cost-Benefit Analysis of disaster risk reduction in Nepal, Pakistan, and India; and the UN/ISDR on the integration of disaster risk reduction and gender into early recovery and humanitarian assistance, and on regional dynamics and entry points for disaster risk reduction. The training demonstrated the organizational commitment, and the importance of placing the global agreements into the organizational agenda.

For more information, please contact: Olivia Coghlan, Disaster Risk Reduction Adviser Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department, o-coghlan@dfid.gov.uk

Updating the Central American Plan for Education Risk Reduction in progress

As part of their contribution to the World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2006-2007 "Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School", the Central American Education and Cultural Coordination (CECC) convened a meeting to update the Central American Plan for Disaster Reduction within the framework of the Regional Plan for Disaster Reduction 2006-2015 in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action. The proposal for the plan's improvement will incorporate the following components: 1) integrating disaster risk reduction into school curricula, 2) preparing school emergency plans, and 3) making schools structurally safer. During the meeting, participants from the education sector and Disaster Risk Managers shared their experiences and priorities for the education sector of Central America. This meeting was the product of inter-agency collaboration between OAS, USAID/OFDA, UN/ISDR, and UNICEF and was carried out under the "Program for the strengthening of the Local Risk and Disaster Management in the Education Sector in Central America" of DIPECHO. The meeting took place in Panama City on 17-19 July 2007.

For more information, Ruth E. Custode, rcustode@eird.org

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit the following:

Africa:

www.unisdr.org/africa

Asia & the Pacific:

www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

Latin America & the Caribbean:

www.eird.org

Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning:

www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

Drought Risk Reduction in the Horn of Africa

Following the 2006 Special UN Envoy's mission in response to the drought crisis in the Horn of Africa, the UN/ISDR Africa Outreach Office is coordinating a regional initiative which aims at building strong multi-sectoral national platforms as well as mechanisms for the reduction of the disaster's impact on the region. The Project was launched during regional workshop at the Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) in Kenya in October 2006. Although previous meetings held at national and regional levels had served as forums for identifying key national issues, learning from communities and raising awareness of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Platforms' role; current follow-up meetings (Kenya, Djibouti and Uganda) have taken the debate into concrete methods for increasing synergies and harmonizing existing policies and programmes into one common Drought Risk Reduction Framework, which should also strengthen coordination mechanisms amongst all relevant actors. The outcome of the latest of these meetings, held in Uganda on 25-26 July 2007, was a set of recommendations and follow-up actions for reviewing existing policies and coordinating mechanisms in the country to enhance drought risk reduction actions and impact. The follow-up will be implemented under the leadership of the National Platform for Disaster Reduction at the Prime Minister's Office with the technical guidance and support of UN/ISDR.

For more information on future meetings please contact: Martin Owor: martin.owor@unep.org

Preparing for Climate Change

To assist countries in benefiting from current knowledge in the assessment, prediction, and management of climate related risks and extreme events, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held the first of a series of technical workshops on 18-20 June 2007 in Cairo, Egypt. Countries and organizations shared their experiences in agriculture and food security, coastal zones, water resources, and health. The inclusion of traditional risk management practices was also discussed. The next UNFCCC workshop will focus on adaptation in the same sectors and will be held in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization on 10-12 September in Rome, Italy. These workshops represent the first two in a series of nine toward the implementation of the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability, and Adaptation to Climate Change. The UNFCCC has invited participants and others to make action pledges to further the implementation of the Nairobi Work Programme and will discuss the result of these workshops at the 27th meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice in May 2008.

For more information, please visit the UNFCCC website at: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

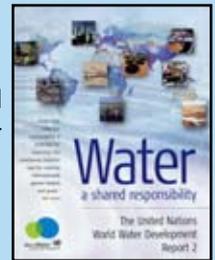
MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Conferences, Trainings and Events August 2007 - November 2007

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
August		
6-9	Brunei	Disaster Management Workshop www.apcss.org/core/Conference/Conference%20Future%20Summary.htm
12-18	Stockholm	World Water Week www.worldwaterweek.org
22-25	Pune India	Settlement Planning and Shelter in Emergencies www.redr.org/india/training/index.htm
September		
5-6	Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	Dealing with Disasters 2007 "Resilience, Response and Investigation" www.tees.ac.uk/disasters
17-19	Freising, Germany	14th German Dam Symposium and the 7th ICOLD Club Dam Symposium www.conventus.de/talsperre
17-20	Ancona, Italy	International Conference of the Italian Ecological Society and the Italian Association of Limnology and Oceanography www.univpm.it
17- 05 Oct.	Bangkok, Thailand	Use of GIS and RS in DRM (GIS-1) www.adpc.net/
19-21	Stressa, Italy	Seventh IIASA-DPRI Forum on Integrated Disaster Risk Management www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/RAV/conf/IDRiM07/index.html
October		
1-3	Geneva, Switzerland	FERMA Risk Management Forum - 2007 www.ferma.eu/
5-7	Innsbruck, Tyrol/Austria	3rd European Security Conference Innsbruck www.european-security.info
15-16	Karlsruhe, Germany	8th Forum on Disaster Reduction on DKKV www.dkkv.org/
17-18	Jeffreys Bay, South Africa	Disaster Risk Reduction 2007 www.disaster.co.za
22-26	Bangkok, Thailand	Disaster Risk Communication www.adpc.net/
23-25	Stockholm, Sweden	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery Dialogue and consultative group, www.gfdrr.org
November		
5-8	Malta	32nd Conference on Pacem in Maribus (PIMXXXII) "Women, Youth and the Sea: Partnering for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Use of its Resources" www.capemalta.net/pim2007
5-9	Frascati, Rome, Italy	2007 International Geohazards Week in ESPRIN http://earth.esa.int/workshops/2007Geohazards/
12-13	New Delhi, India	2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Ministry of Home Affairs, India
12-30	Bangkok, Thailand	Disaster Management Course (DMC-36), ADPC
22-23	Brussels, Belgium	2nd Civil Protection Forum Contact details: Cecile.WENDLING@ec.europa.eu

Library Corner

Water a shared responsibility. The United Nations World Water Development Report 2.

UNESCO-World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), 2006. A joint undertaking of the 24 UN agencies comprising UN-Water, and partnership with governments and other entities concerned with freshwater issues, this volume, covering all regions and most countries of the world, provides an up-to-date global overview of the state and uses of freshwater, critical water-related problems and societies' coping mechanisms. Drawing on an extensive database, expert analyses, case studies, and hundreds of graphic elements, it is the most comprehensive assessment of freshwater issues to date, providing a mechanism for monitoring changes in the resource and its management and progress towards achieving development targets, particularly the Millennium Development Goals.



Water Resources of Arid Areas.

D. Stephenson, E.M. Shemang & T.R. Chaoka. A.A. Balkema Publishers, 2004. This book comprises the proceedings of the International Conference on Water Resources of Arid and Semi-Arid regions of Africa held August 3-6, 2004 in Gaborone, Botswana. After an introduction about the difficulties in obtaining data, the main subject of groundwater recharge is extensively discussed in various aspects: natural and artificial; socio-economic aspects of water demand management; geophysical, GIS and remote sensing techniques for groundwater exploration; climate change and its impact on water resources; vulnerability and risk assessment, and water management. Audience: This book is intended for researchers and practitioners in the field of surface water hydrology, groundwater hydrology, environmental engineering, agricultural engineering and earth sciences, as well as those engaged in water resources planning, development and management in arid and semi arid areas

Progress in Landslide Science

Kyoji Sassa, Hiroshi Fukuoka, Fawu Wang, Gonghui Wang (Editors). Springer 2007. This book presents current progress in landslide science and consists of four parts: (1) Progress in Landslide Science, (2) Landslide Dynamics, (3) Landslide Monitoring, and (4) Landslide Risk Assessment. It provides useful information to academics, practitioners, and government officers working on landslide risk-mitigation planning. This book can be also used as an introductory textbook for college students who wish to learn fundamental scientific achievements in the field of landslide disaster reduction.



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction



10 October

International Day for Disaster Reduction

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In This Issue:

- Maldives, Thailand, Montenegro appoint focal points for Hyogo Framework
- Building partnership for gendering disaster risk reduction in Asia, Pacific
- Nigeria seeks to mainstream disaster risk reduction into school curricula
- Over 257,000 school classes to be made safer in Iran
- International Disaster Reduction Conference 2007 held in China
- Training course on flood disaster risk management due in Bangkok, Thailand
- Small-scale hydro-meteorological disaster risk reduction projects in Bangladesh
- World Water Week 2007: International conference held in Sweden
- New publication highlights good practices from world campaign for disaster-safe schools

Web Resources

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Library Corner

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Highlights

August 2007

Maldives, Thailand, Montenegro appoint focal points for Hyogo Framework

Two Asian countries - the Maldives and Thailand - have appointed national focal points for the follow-up and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). The national focal points, appointed in July, are the National Disaster Management in the Republic of Maldives and the Department of Prevention and Mitigation in the Thai Ministry of Interior. A national focal point was also appointed in Europe this month: the Emergency Situations and Civil Security Department in the Ministry of Interior and Public Administration of the Republic of Montenegro. The HFA requests States to "designate an appropriate national coordination mechanism for the implementation and follow up of this Framework for Action, and communicate the information to the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction". With the above three states, 119 countries have now notified officially the UN/ISDR secretariat of their HFA official focal points.

For any queries on the designation of HFA focal points, please contact the UN/ISDR secretariat at: isdr@un.org

Building partnership for gendering disaster risk reduction in Asia, Pacific

The UN/ISDR secretariat and the Centre of Asia Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP) are building a partnership to mainstream disaster risk reduction into CAPWIP's multi-stakeholder training on "Making Governance Gender-Responsive" (MGGR). For a start, disaster risk reduction was introduced in the 7th MGGR training and it was very well received. As a result, the two organizations agreed to develop a training module to integrate disaster risk reduction into the ongoing and future training. The next MGGR training will take place from 12 to 19 November 2007 in Manila, Philippines.

For more information, please contact Lea Joaquin (capwip.trainings@gmail.com)

Nigeria seeks to mainstream disaster risk reduction into school curricula

Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Disaster and Crisis Management Initiatives-Nigeria (DCMI) have embarked on a project to mainstream disaster risk reduction into school activities. Students and staff in six schools in the capital, Ibadan, are now learning about natural hazards, safety measures and basic practices in emergency response. The school students and staff are also encouraged to engage in humanitarian services at school level. In addition, over 2,000 students and staff from 300 schools in Nigeria can be counted amongst those informed of the importance of preparing for natural hazards. This was achieved during a sensitization campaign held in December 2006 at a school in Ibadan. These efforts are part of the ongoing World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2006-2008 under the theme "Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School".

For more information, please contact Amusat K. Kolawole (dcmigeria@yahoo.co.uk)

Over 257,000 school classes to be made safer in Iran

A budget of 4 billion US dollars has been secured, under Iran’s “School Safety Law”, for the reconstruction and strengthening of 257,945 school classes within five years. This constitutes 39 per cent of the total number of classes in the country. The same amount (4 billion US dollars) has also been allocated to the construction of new safe school buildings. These achievements are the culmination of tireless efforts made by the Iranian Ministry of Education and the Iran-based International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES). The Ministry of Education has increased its supervision of the construction of school buildings according to seismic resistance standards approved in the mid-1990s, while IIEES has implemented an initiative for the strengthening of vulnerable school buildings since 2002. The School Safety Law is being implemented under the supervision of the IIEES and the Ministry of Housing.

For more information, please contact: ashtiany@iiees.ac.ir

International Disaster Reduction Conference 2007 held in China

Sharing experiences and knowledge was at the centre of the recent International Disaster Reduction Conference (IDRC) held from 21 to 25 August in Harbin, China. One of the objectives was strengthening cooperation among Governments, international organizations, NGOs and international experts, and progressing towards a more holistic approach to risk reduction. A wide range of risks were presented and discussed. OXFAM expressed their interest in forging a focused movement amongst Asian NGOs interested in addressing disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and environmental management practices at a small scale and local community levels. The International Conference contributed significantly to ongoing international efforts to reduce disaster risk.

For more information, please visit the IDRC Harbin 2007 web site at: <http://www.harbin2007.cn/en/2.asp>

Training course on flood disaster risk management due in Bangkok, Thailand

Capacity building for disaster risk management is one of the core functions of the Bangkok-based Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC). Its training course on Flood Disaster Risk Management (FDRM-8) will be held from 8 to 19 October 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand. The course has been rescheduled at the request of some participants from monsoon flood-affected countries. FDRM-8 was designed to introduce techniques, such as Geographical Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS), for the management of flood disasters. The need to combat the perennial problem of floods and the resultant destruction has been a major concern of most Asian nations. The training course offers an integrated approach for dealing with this situation. The course will also expose the learners to globally acknowledged practices for handling flood disaster risk management. Experts from a number of countries and organizations will complement the ADPC faculty in conducting the course. The course has six modules for imparting information and skills in flood problem analysis, understanding and appreciating various approaches to flood risk reduction, and determining the adequacy of strategies and measures to achieve the desired goal of flood risk reduction. The training methodology includes interactive lectures, workshops, individual work, case studies, plenary sessions, panel discussions and field visit activities.

For more information, please contact ADPC (tedadpc@adpc.net) or visit the ADPC web site at <http://www.adpc.net/2007/>

WEB RESOURCES



2006-2008 Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School Campaign

www.unisdr.org/wdrc-2006-2007

The 2006-2008 World Disaster Reduction Campaign under the theme “Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School” aims to promote safer school facilities and the integration of disaster risk reduction into school curricula.



International Disaster Reduction Conference 2007

www.harbin2007.cn/en/2.asp

The International Disaster Reduction Conference (IDRC) 2007 was an occasion for reviewing the progress made since IDRC Davos 2006 and in-depth strategic discussions. IDRC 2007 was held from 21 to 25 August 2007 in Harbin, China.



Online Earthquake Risk Calculator

www.quakeschool.org

The online Earthquake Risk Calculator is a private effort to promote earthquake safe schools in the world. The programme uses logical sequencing of scientifically established parameters and their correlations to help calculate whether a building needs to be relocated or strengthened.



ProVention Consortium Online Survey

www.proventionconsortium.org/survey

ProVention Consortium was founded by the World Bank in the year 2000 to help address disaster reduction. It offers an informal forum for actors from different sectors to share knowledge and ideas, dialogue and coordinate. ProVention Consortium is conducting a web survey to better understand user needs and expectations.

Small-scale hydro-meteorological disaster risk reduction projects in Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC), in collaboration with other stakeholders, has recently finalized six small-scale mitigation projects to: (1) install a pond filter to secure safe drinking water at disaster shelter; (2) excavate a canal to improve drainage system; (3) increase water and sanitation (WATSAN) facilities for school cum shelter; (4) provide WATSAN facilities for slum dwellers to reduce health risk; (5) build capacity and reduce disaster risk in schools; and (6) improve drainage system to address water logging problems. The projects are to be implemented under the Programme for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia (PROMISE) which was launched in 2005 with the goal of reducing the vulnerability of urban communities in South and South East Asia. The Programme focuses on conducting city-level hazard vulnerability risk assessment, mitigation and preparedness, training and public awareness, and advocacy for mainstreaming risk management into urban governance. The Programme is under way in 10 vulnerable wards under Chittagong City Corporation with financial support from USAID through the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC).

For more information, please contact Sultana Afsari (sultana@bdpc.org.bd) or visit the BDPC website at: www.bdpc.org.bd

World Water Week 2007: International conference held in Sweden

An international conference was held in the Swedish capital, Stockholm, from 12 to 18 August 2007, gathering more than 2,400 participants from 140 countries to chart water sustainability reports, studies and initiatives to improve lives and protect the environment. In his opening speech, Swedish Prime Minister Mr Fredrik Reinfeldt stressed the importance of linking the impacts of climate change with water-related issues, including increasing disasters. Among new initiatives presented was the new Resource Centre on Water, Climate, Risk and Adaptation of the Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate. The Government of Singapore and WHO signed an agreement

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit the following:

Africa:

www.unisdr.org/africa

Asia & the Pacific:

www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

Latin America & the Caribbean:

www.eird.org

Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning:

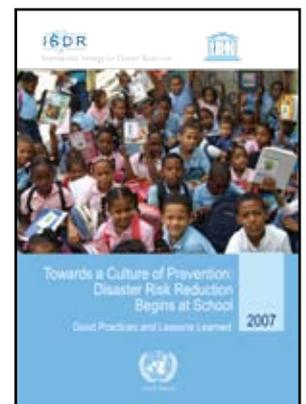
www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

to jointly promote safe management of drinking water worldwide. One of the spotlights was the awarding of the prestigious 2007 Stockholm Junior Water Prize to students from the Cultural Institute of Paideia, Mexico, for developing a low-cost and time-efficient solution to absorb lead in wastewater using eggshells. Speaking at the end of the conference, Mr Anders Berntell of the Stockholm International Water Institute said: "There is progress, but there is far too little action; and now, when climate change is upon us, we need to adapt even faster." Millions of people are without sustainable access to drinking water. Moreover, millions are suffering ill health due to poor sanitation. Water has become more and more a global issue, requiring a global solution through coordinated effort.

For more information, please contact David Trouba (dave.trouba@siwi.org) or visit the official World Water Week web site at: www.worldwaterweek.org

New publication highlights good practices from world campaign for disaster-safe schools

A new publication entitled Towards a Culture of Prevention: Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School - Good Practices and Lessons Learned is getting into print. The publication is part of ongoing efforts made under the theme "Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School"; a theme selected for the ongoing Biennial World Disaster Reduction



Campaign 2006-2008 coordinated by the UN/ISDR secretariat in cooperation with UNESCO. The World Campaign promotes two major initiatives: (1) making school buildings safer; and (2) mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into school curricula. The new publication reflects the major successes achieved so far in the World Campaign. The good practices, which were selected primarily for their potential for replication, are arranged under three sections: (1) raising awareness within school communities; (2) building a culture of prevention; and (3) making school building safer. They involve school children, teachers and non-academic staff and, in some cases, surrounding communities. In his message to readers, UN/ISDR secretariat Director Sálvano Briceño says children's involvement in disaster risk reduction is a change that conveys "a very strong signal: if children can do it, then every one can do it."

For more information, please visit: www.unisdr.org/education-good-practices

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
Conferences, Trainings and Events
September 2007 - October 2007

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
September		
3-5	Mashhad, Iran	The 1st Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) meeting of the Heads of Meteorological Organizations
5-6	United Kingdom	Dealing with Disasters 2007 "Resilience, Response and Investigation" www.tees.ac.uk/disasters
5-7	Manila, Philippines	4th Joint Project Team Meeting for "Sentinel Asia" – the Disaster Management Support System in the Asia-Pacific Region www.aprsaf.org/data/jptm4_pdf/JPTM4_1st-Announcement.pdf
17-19	Freising, Germany	14th German Dam Symposium and the 7th ICOLD Club Dam Symposium. www.conventus.de/talsperre
17-20	Ancona, Italy	International Conference of the Italian Ecological Society and the Italian Association of Limnology and Oceanography http://www.univpm.it
17-21	Montreal, Canada	Nineteenth meeting of the parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer pcmcomm@congresmtl.com
17/9-5/10	Bangkok, Thailand	Use of GIS and RS in DRM (GIS-1), ADPC
19-21	Stressa, Italy	Seventh IIASA-DPRI Forum on Integrated Disaster Risk Management www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/RAV/conf/IDRIM07/index.html
19-21	Mexico City, Mexico	Americas Megacities Forum. www.emi-megacities.org
October		
1-3	Geneva, Switzerland	FERMA Risk Management Forum - 2007
5-7	Tyrol, Austria	3rd European Security Conference Innsbruck www.european-security.info
1-13	Trieste, Italy	Ninth Workshop on Non Linear Dynamics and Earthquake Prediction. http://www.ictp.it/
8-10	United Kingdom	IDER 2007 Conference ider@andrigh.com
10-14	Rhodes, Greece	Dialogue of Civilizations V Annual Session www.dialogueofcivilizations.org
15-16	Abuja, Nigeria	International Workshop on the Use of regionally owned space infrastructure for disaster management in West and North Africa – status quo and prospects. kerle@itc.nl
17-18	South Africa	Disaster Risk Reduction 2007-06-11. www.disaster.co.za
18-19	United Kingdom	Flood-Fighters Conference. www.flood-fighters.com
22-26	Bangkok, Thailand	Disaster Risk Communication. ADPC
23-26	Lyon, France	7ème Edition du Forum Rhône-Alpes/Afrique www.eurafic-partners.org
29-30	Paphos, Cyprus	Euro-Mediterranean Workshop on Disaster Reduction at School "Building safer school communities" www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/activities/Paphos2007_fr.asp
29-31	Bonn, Germany	UN International UN-Spider Workshop: Space-based information and solutions for disaster management and Emergency Response. David.STEVENS@unvienna.org

Library Corner
DRR10275
Coping With Water Scarcity: A Strategic Issue and Priority for System-Wide Action
 By UN-Water, 2006

UN-Water is the mechanism coordinating the actions of the UN System aimed at implementing the agenda set by the Millennium Declaration and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in all aspects related to freshwater. This note presents the UN-Water joint plan of action (PoA) for this thematic initiative and describes its elements.

DRR10263
Human Development Report 2006: Beyond Scarcity, Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis
 By the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2006

The 2006 Human Development Report focuses on water and human development. Water is central to the realization of human potential. It is a source of life for people and for the planet. Clean water and sanitation have a profound bearing on health and human dignity. Inequalities in access to clean water for drinking and to water as a productive input, reinforce wider inequalities in opportunity. With competition for water intensifying, there is a danger that poor and vulnerable communities will become increasingly marginalized. The twin challenge facing governments and donors is to accelerate progress towards universal access to water and sanitation; and to ensure that water management policies strengthen the rights of poor households to access water resources.

DRR9732
Challenges of Water Scarcity: A Business Case for Financial Institutions
 By the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and UNEP, 2005

This report, based on a review of close to 20 cases of projects and investments mainly in Africa and Latin America, and supplemented with interviews with practitioners from both development and commercial financial institutions, concludes that there is a business case for improving risk management tools which can specifically be related to risks borne by water scarcity. While each organization must relate to water in its own capacity, the business case for the financial sector comes from acknowledging the potential risks associated with water scarcity and seeking possible opportunities for mitigating these risks.

DRR10252
The Scarcity of Water: Emerging Legal Land Policy Responses

By Edward H.P. Brans, Esther J. de Haan, André Nookaemper, et al.

Kluwer Law International, 1997

Providing an overview of the various legal responses to conflicts involving the use of water resources, this text analyzes the continuous development of water law in the face of new threats of water shortages. The book is a result of the conference "Scarcity of Water: International, European and National Legal Aspects" held at the faculty of Law of the Erasmus University in Rotterdam.



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction



2007 International Day for Disaster Reduction

Wednesday 10 October

www.unisdr.org/iddr-2007

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In This Issue:

- International Day for Disaster Reduction on Wednesday 10 October 2007
- Hurricane Dean encounters resistance in southern Mexico
- Some five million Turkish children reached by "disaster awareness in school" project
- Swedish National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction set up
- Youths promote disaster risk reduction among grassroots communities in Burundi
- "Regional Centre for Risk Management of Natural Hazards" opens in Iran
- First High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster held in Tokyo, Japan
- Risk assessment of South Eastern European countries completed

Web Resources

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Library Corner

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Highlights

September 2007

International Day for Disaster Reduction

The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) will be marked on Wednesday 10 October this year. The IDDR has been, over the past 18 years, an occasion for raising awareness and reviewing the progress made worldwide. The impact of recent disaster events, such as the earthquake in Peru, Hurricanes Dean and Felix in the Americas and the wildfires in Greece, are a strong reminder that more needs to be done to reduce disaster impact. This year, the main focus of the IDDR will be on the theme of the ongoing World Disaster Reduction Campaign: "Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School". The following are some events organized by ISDR System stakeholders around the IDDR:

- Barcelona, Spain – 4 October 2007: High level panel on the impact of natural hazards in Catalonia, organized by the Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development of Catalonia, Government of Catalonia, the Fundació Territori i Paisatge of Caixa Catalunya and the UN/ISDR secretariat.
- Bangkok, Thailand – 8-9 October 2007: Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on School Education and Disaster Risk Reduction, organized by UNESCO, the UN Center for Regional Development (UNCRD), UNICEF, UN/ISDR Asia and Pacific, with support of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
- Brussels, Belgium – 9 October 2007: "A Policy Change Dialogue: Making Your Constituencies Disaster Proof", co-organized by the parliamentarians' network known as "Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment" (GLOBE) and the UN/ISDR secretariat.
- Geneva, Switzerland – 10 October 2007: Roundtable Discussion on "Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School: Next Steps for the UN/ISDR Biennial World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2006-2007", organized by the UN/ISDR secretariat with partners, followed by the attribution of the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction 2006-2007.
- Nsanje, Malawi - 10 October 2007: Awareness raising events on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change organized by the government department in charge of disasters, Action Aid, Christian Aid, Tearfund and local partners.
- Kobe, Japan – 14 October 2007: Opening ceremony of the new UN/ISDR Hyogo Office and a major awareness-raising event on Human Security and Disaster Risk Reduction, co-organized by UN/ISDR secretariat, OCHA, ADRC, and the Hyogo Prefecture Government with other partners.
- Tajikistan: Media and public awareness activities, including the screening of the UN/ISDR-produced film "Everybody's Business" on national TV channels and another one broadcasting for Central Asia. Debates and talk shows among university students will be organized in cooperation with the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) and the SDC-supported Competence Centre for Disaster Reduction (CCDR).
- Ciudad de Panama, Panama: 10 October 2007: Art Contest and Awareness Campaign Awards Ceremony, organized by the UN/ISDR secretariat, with support of UNICEF, IFRC, Plan International and the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (DIPECHO).

For more information on the International Day for Disaster Reduction, please visit:

www.unisdr.org/iddr-2007, to inform us on your planned activities, please write to: dokhlik@un.org

Hurricane Dean encounters resistance in southern Mexico

The recent Hurricane Dean has caused no human death and only minor economic losses in the Mexican Caribbean Coast and Yucatan Peninsula, where it reached its peak destruction power (Category 5 as per Saffir-Simpson Scale). This may be seen as evidence that sound preparation practices can significantly reduce human and economic losses, even in highly exposed and vulnerable regions. The Mexican Government's Civil Defence Agency is highly decentralized and has managerial differences between every Federal State. Some of the good practices that have been adopted are: (a) preparation and emergency plans at state and municipal level, but also in small and very exposed villages, large cooperatives or rural schools; (b) a climate monitoring system that designates warning levels for each Federal State as well as micro-regions within the States; (c) an accurate Prompt Alert System in Spanish and indigenous languages that utilizes all mass media channels and combines a general call to safety with messages about specific measures to adopt in the event of a disaster; and (d) the combination of effective external logistics and local participatory organization in the hope of securing a 90-100 per cent response to evacuation calls from coastal and lowland villages.

For more information, please contact: Xavier Moya García (xavier.moya@undp.org.mx)

Some five million Turkish children reached by "disaster awareness in school" project

Some five million primary school children in the most populated and earthquake-prone provinces in Turkey have been sensitized on disasters through the "Basic Disaster Awareness in Turkish Schools Project". More than half of the children participated directly in non-structural mitigation training, benefiting from newly developed disaster education material such as the "ABC Basic Disaster Awareness Handbook" and fun activities that do not require adult support. The rest of the children were reached through a Disaster Preparedness Education internet portal. This web site allows registered visitors to participate in training programmes, create their own family disaster plans, and follow a distance-learning curriculum. As a direct result of these activities, sharp increase was noted in the adoption of protective measures from hazards in schools and households. Initiated by the Bogaziçi University, the Kandilli Observatory and the Earthquake Research Institute, and implemented with the assistance of the Ministry of Education, further activities are planned to complement this project. A second project, called "Earthquake Sensibility Days", will mobilize a "training" truck (lorry) around Istanbul and other cities in Turkey. The truck's interior is designed and furnished to simulate an earthquake. Parallel activities such as painting and short film competitions will also be carried out in cooperation with primary schools and universities. This should help raise awareness and provide additional people with information and hands-on training in earthquake preparedness.

For more information about the "Basic Disaster Preparedness" project, please contact: Marla Petal (mpetal@riskred.org). Please also visit the Disaster Preparedness Education portal at: <http://www.ahep.org/ev/indexe.htm>.

For more information on the "Earthquake Sensibility Days" project, please contact: Süheyla Sezan (ssezan@boun.edu.tr)

Swedish National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction set up

At a meeting held on 13 September 2007, sixteen authorities and organisations joined the Swedish Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence to formally establish the country's National Platform for DRR. Under the supervision of both Ministries, the National Platform is hosted by the Swedish Rescue Services Agency. Director-General Göran Gunnarsson pointed out that the meeting marked the starting point for improved coordination and joint planning among partners, which makes it a

WEB RESOURCES



Emergency management for schools
Australian Government, Attorney-General's Department

<http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/ema/emaSchools.nsf>

A comprehensive resource on the topic of emergency management targeted at Australian students and teachers from late primary to late secondary. It contains many generic lesson plans, images, history, links, as well as other information for learning about all aspects of emergency management.



Teaching Major Risks
Prim.net

http://www.prim.net/education/espace_education.html

This is an education space for French-speaking teachers ready to promote a culture of prevention of disasters related to natural hazards or technology. It is a valuable aid for introducing this issue into almost all school topics, from the sciences to literature and art. It also contains information about existing school programs, pedagogical examples, and pedagogical material and resources.



Online Disaster Education Program
Canadian Red Cross

<http://www.croixrouge.ca/article.asp?id=009889&tid=025>

A valuable resource for teachers, but also parents, committed to preparing children and young people for emergencies. The website includes facilitator guides, activity booklets, a brochure to help parents teach their family about natural hazards and disasters and preparing for emergency situations. It features videos, posters, and participation certificates for young pupils.

priority for all participating organisations. Once the participating organisations have appointed their specialists, the National Platform will commence with identifying gaps, propose priority areas and objectives for DRR in Sweden. The Swedish National Platform will be run by this network of sixteen authorities. In order to maintain focus and exert overall coordination and control, annual Director-General meetings will be organised and participants will act as a steering committee. From 2008, the Director-General meetings will be held at the second Wednesday in October (International Day for Disaster Reduction).

For more information, please contact: Mr. Claes Brask, Swedish Rescue Services Agency (claes-uno.brask@sv.se)

Youths promote disaster risk reduction among grassroots communities in Burundi

Burundi established a National Platform for DRR in April 2007 and developed a National Strategy for DRR in June 2007. Before these important milestones, some initiatives had already been underway at community level. An example is the work of a youth NGO known as "Youth Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (YSDR) which, despite the post-war context, has made some efforts in the last two years. In September 2005, YSDR initiated a project called "Youth Awareness of Disaster Reduction" with funding from ProVention Consortium. Under the project, meetings within grassroots communities were held in two provinces to raise people's awareness of the risks around them. Risk assessment and identification and developing early warning systems were the main activities; which instilled a sense of local ownership and leadership of disaster reduction activities among the targeted communities. The project also called for the development of a national policy for disaster risk "awareness" and suggested the establishment of a national platform for monitoring the implementation of the desired policy.

For more information, please contact: Cyprien Ntahomvukiye (bysrdr@yahoo.fr)

"Regional Centre for Risk Management of Natural Hazards" opens in Iran

A Regional Centre for Risk Management of Natural Hazards opened this month in Mashhad, Iran, as a specialized agency

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit the following:

Africa:

www.unisdr.org/africa

Asia & the Pacific:

www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

Latin America & the Caribbean:

www.eird.org

Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning:

www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), an Asian intergovernmental development and trade cooperation body involving 10 countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). Established following a resolution of the Third ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture held in Iran earlier this year, the Centre was inaugurated during the "First Meeting of Heads of ECO Hydro-Meteorological Organizations" held from 3 to 5 September 2007. The objective of the Centre is to promote cooperation between ECO members for effective risk management, especially in the fields of meteorology, climatology and hydrology. Until the Centre's statute as an ECO specialized agency enters fully into force, the Iranian Meteorological Organization will be in charge of the Centre.

For more information, please contact: Seyed Mohammad Sadati Nejad (msadatinejad@tehran.un.org.ir); or visit the official ECO website at: www.ecosecretariat.org

First High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster held in Tokyo, Japan

The First High-Level Expert Panel to establish global priorities for reducing the scope of water-related disasters and improve access to safe water in disaster scenarios, was held in Tokyo, Japan, on 6 September 2007. The Korean Water Forum expressed its support to the two objectives as a member of a joint secretariat under the Chairman of the Panel, Dr Han Seung-soo, who is also the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Change. The pursuit of the two objectives will be coordinated by the Japan Water Forum, the World Water Council and the UN/ISDR secretariat. The Panel will report its progress to the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. The outcomes of the Panel are planned to be announced on the occasion of the Fifth World Water Forum to be held in Turkey in March 2009.

For more information, please contact: Yuichi Ono (ono@un.org)

Risk assessment of South Eastern European countries completed

The South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Management Framework (SEEDRMF), developed by the World Bank and the UN/ISDR secretariat within the context of the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction, bringing together regional and international partners, has completed a desk review to assess risk and common vulnerabilities in South Eastern Europe. In close collaboration with national, regional and international partners the consultancy firm RMSI has reviewed existing and available studies with the aim of providing a comprehensive picture. The desk study will serve as a tool for all partners and will help to guide regional and country specific investment priorities in the area of early warning, disaster risk reduction and risk financing.

For more information, please contact: Paola Albrito (albrito@un.org), Wael Zakout (Wzakout@worldbank.org)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Conferences, Trainings and Events October 2007 - November 2007

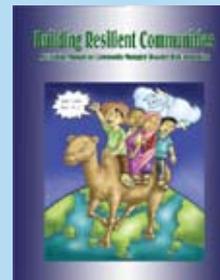
DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
October		
1-3	Geneva, Switzerland	FERMA Risk Management Forum - 2007
1-13	Trieste, Italy	Ninth Workshop on Non Linear Dynamics and Earthquake Prediction Contact details: http://www.ictp.it/
8-10	United Kingdom	IDER 2007 Conference Contact details: ider@andrich.com
10-14	Rhodes, Greece	Dialogue of Civilizations V Annual Session Contact details: www.dialogueofcivilizations.org
12-14	Paris, France	Colloque international du 4ème Forum International de la Météo Contact details : www.smf.asso.fr
15-16	Abuja, Nigeria	International Workshop on the Use of regionally owned space infrastructure for disaster management in West and North Africa—status quo and prospects Contact details: kerle@itc.nl
17-18	South Africa	Disaster Risk Reduction 2007-06-11 Contact details: www.disaster.co.za
18-19	United Kingdom	Flood-Fighters Conference Contact details: www.flood-fighters.com
22-26	Bangkok, Thailand	Disaster Risk Communication, ADPC
23-26	Lyon, France	7ème Edition du Forum Rhône-Alpes/Afrique Contact details : www.eurafic-partners.org
24-26	Jakarta, Indonesia	Asia Megacities Forum 2007-10-01 Contact details : http://www.emi-megacities.org
29-30	Paphos, Cyprus	Euro-Mediterranean Workshop on Disaster Reduction at School "Building safer school communities" Contact details: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/activities/Paphos2007_fr.asp
November		
5-8	Malta	32nd Conference on Pacem in Maribus (PIMXXXII) "Women, Youth and the Sea: Partnering for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Use of its Resources" Contact details: www.capemalta.net/pim2007
5-9	Rome, Italy	2007 International Geohazards Week in ESRIN Contact details: http://earth.esa.int/workshops/2007Geohazards/
8-9	Verona, Italy	Consensus Conference on the Verona Charter Contact details: http://internazionali.ulsu20.verona.it
12-13	New Delhi, India	2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Organizer: Ministry of Home Affairs, India
12-19	Philippines	The 8th Training on Making Governance Gender Responsive Contact details: http://www.capwip.org/training/mggr.htm
12-30	Bangkok, Thailand	Disaster Management Course (DMC-36) Contact details: ADPC
22-23	Brussels, Belgium	2nd Civil Protection Forum Contact details: Cecile.WENDLING@ec.europa.eu
27	Bangkok, Thailand	The 4th UN-wide meeting on the use of space technologies for emergency response and humanitarian assistance Contact details: David.STEVENS@unvienna.org
28-30	Bangkok, Thailand	8th UNGIWG meeting

Library Corner

Building Resilient Communities

A Training Manual on Community-Managed Disaster Risk Reduction.

This training manual provide trainers and practitioners in Community-Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) with a comprehensive guide to conduct a basic two-week course on CMDRR. It will also help practitioners to guide communities in developing local capacity for establishing community-managed DRR programs.



What's Derolin?

A story of Earthquake and Tsunami Edited by Koji Ichii. Compiled under the supervision of Port and Airport Research Institute (PARI), Japan. 2005.

Yoshi meets Derolin, a strange creature, one midnight. An earthquake follows Derolin, and Yoshi need to survive by himself. "Danger of Earthquake reminds us that Our Life Is Naive."

This picture-book results from the suggestion of a researcher of PARI and the collaboration between many people.

Keeping schools safe in earthquakes

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). 2004.

This report brings together expert knowledge, opinions and experiences, and provides valuable insight into the scope of problems involved in protecting schools and those inside them. Its recommendations are a call to action to all governments in OECD and partner countries to help facilitate their implementation.

Responding to the risks from climate change on the coast.

McInnes, Robin, Fairbank, Helen and Jakeways, Jenny
The Good Practice

Guide provides advice and guidance on sustainable coastal risk management for local and regional authorities responsible for managing natural hazards at the coast. The publication describes the physical processes of coastal change and considers the influence of human settlements and coastal defence structures. It includes an account of the nature and scale of coastal risks and current frameworks for monitoring, assessing and managing of coastal risks.



Source: Centre for Coastal Environment, United Kingdom, 2006

<http://www.coastalwight.gov.uk/response/index.htm>



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction

Announcements

Call for contributions on good practices in poverty alleviation and disaster risk reduction:

To be sent by
14 December 2007.
Please contact Michele
Cocchiglia for submission
template.

cocchiglia@un.org

*Panellists at the Roundtable Discussion of the
International Day for Disaster Reduction, 10 October 2007*



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
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In This Issue:

- Education work continues beyond the 2006-2007 Campaign
- Innovative pioneers awarded Sasakawa Award
- RiskCat lands on its feet
- IDDR celebrated extensively in the Americas
- Regional Action Agenda adopted in Bangkok
- Disaster Risk Reduction begins at preschool in Slovenia
- New tool for planning towards Disaster Resilient Communities
- Climate change and DRR are Development Priorities: Action Plan adopted in Stockholm
- New partnership formed at Asia Megacities Forum
- Increased presence for disaster risk reduction: ISDR secretariat
- Iran: allocating resources for disaster risk reduction

Web Resources

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To submit an article or inform us of a new publication/web resource or event, please send your inputs to: isdhighlights@un.org by the **20th day of each month**.

"The information and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the policies of the UNISDR secretariat"

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Highlights

October 2007

Education work continues beyond the 2006-2007 Campaign

UNESCO and UNICEF, as key partners in the ISDR campaign, have committed to leading continued work on disaster risk reduction (DRR) education and school safety, as the two year campaign 'Disaster Risk Reduction begins at School' draws to a close. At the International Day for Disaster Reduction Roundtable in Geneva, the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) announced that the next session of the International Conference on Education, which will be held in Geneva in November 2008 would include discussions about education/school preparedness and disaster risk reduction. It was emphasized that the debate during the Conference would provide an excellent opportunity for high-level advocacy on risk reduction within the context of the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development. UNICEF has confirmed its continued support for disaster reduction initiatives with a special focus on education. In July 2007, UNICEF held a global consultation on education and DRR, to develop a disaster risk reduction strategy and a plan of action for the education sector addressing school curricula and school safety. A new unit will be created to help support global risk reduction efforts and staff capacities will be strengthened on risk reduction in education. UNICEF also indicated its interest in addressing DRR as part of its new cluster responsibilities in the humanitarian reform process.

For more information, please contact Constanza Farina (c.farina@unesco.org) or Heidi Peugeot (hpeugot@unicef.org)

Sasakawa Award honours two innovative pioneers

The work of the two joint Sasakawa Laureates announced on the International day for Disaster Reduction showcases the importance of the two year Campaign 'Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School', and the potential of the 2008-2009 Campaign to make 'Hospitals Safe from Disaster.' Professor Yoshiaki Kawata, a prominent professor in the field of disaster risk reduction at Kyoto University, was awarded for his work towards increasing awareness and deepening research about past disasters, particularly the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake (Kobe Earthquake). He founded the innovative Kobe Earthquake commemorative museum which educates school children, the public at large, and local governments in the latest practical knowledge and skills in disaster reduction. Jointly receiving the Laureate Award was Tony Gibbs, a national of Grenada and Barbados who is advisor to the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) Disaster Mitigation Advisory Group on hospital safety. A pioneer in promoting safe architectural and engineering designs resistant to natural hazards, particularly for hospitals and health facilities, his innovative work has influenced building standards around the world.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/sasakawa/2007/sk-2007-description-eng.htm>

RiskCat lands on its feet

The need to develop sustainable local government policies that take account of natural hazards resulted in the launch of RiskCat on the International Day for Disaster Reduction, in Barcelona. RiskCat is a new Catalan collaborative research project on land use and planning. It will assess the institutional capacity of Catalonia's local government to cope with natural hazards, and will provide recommendations on how to develop sustainable land policy that deals with regional hazard risks better. RiskCat is a joint initiative of the University of Barcelona and the Advisory Body for Sustainable Development of the Catalan Government (CADS).

For more information, please contact Blanca Payas (blancapayas@gmail.com) or visit: <http://www.ub.es/risknat>

IDDR celebrated extensively in the Americas

Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, USA, and Venezuela observed the International Day for Disaster Reduction with a wide variety of activities including simulation exercises, awareness-raising events, capacity building activities with school children, and media events at local and national levels. Panama organized a regional drawing award (UNICEF, IFRC, Plan International, IFRC and DIPECHO and UN/ISDR), involving 20,000 children from the region.

For more information, please contact Margarita Villalobos (margarita.villalobos@eird.org) or visit: <http://www.eird.org/actividades/intro.html>

Regional Action Agenda adopted in Bangkok

The Bangkok Action Agenda adopted at the Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on School Education and Disaster Risk Reduction 8-10 October, urged priority actions by Governments and key stakeholders in integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into school education, making schools safer from disasters, strengthening DRR Education for community resilience and empowering children in DRR. 304 participants from 24 Asia-Pacific countries attended the Workshop, from government ministers to school children. The Workshop was jointly organized by the Education Task Force (UN/ISDR, UNESCO, UNICEF, IFRC and ADPC) and UN/ESCAP, UNCRD, UN/OCHA, ASEAN, ADRC and ASB.

For more information, please contact Christel Rose (rosec@un.org)

Disaster risk reduction begins at preschool in Slovenia

Slovenia's philosophy is that disaster risk education should start as early as possible in a child's life. Disaster education authorities engage with nurseries as well as primary school, including children aged 3 and over in their mandate. Two of the Civil Protection and Disaster Relief Training Centre's most popular projects have been free children's books, and an engaging puppet show, both targeting children aged 4-10 and featuring a hedgehog who deals with earthquakes, fire, drought, and dangerous situations. The books contain activity sheets, and the style of the puppet show means children can learn safety and prevention through play. Free distribution of the books has been comprehensive, not only via schools, but as inclusions with two popular childrens' monthly magazines.

For more information, please contact Nataša Poje Jovicic (natasa.poje.jovicic@urszr.si)

WEB RESOURCES



Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative
www.unisdr.org/cadri/

The new website of the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) is an online database on disaster risk reduction academic courses worldwide. Currently the database contains more than 70 entries and will continue to expand. CADRI is a joint initiative of the UNDP, OCHA and the ISDR. Please contact cadri@un.org to add programmes to the database



Ready America
www.ready.gov/america/about/instructional.html

The 'Ready America' campaign of the US Department for Homeland Security has a comprehensive multimedia website of preparedness resources, including 5-minute online instructional videos which show people how to be prepared for emergencies, including special emphasis on people with disabilities and the elderly.



GEO-4 multimedia resources
www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media/

The media webpage for the fourth Global Environment Outlook: environment for development (GEO-4) report offers fact sheets, brochures, video clips for reporting, advocacy and education, pod-casts, extensive graph images, posters, a list of expert contacts, and a summary for decisionmakers, as well as the full report.

New tool for planning Disaster Resilient Communities

A significant new tool to help monitor and evaluate community-level disaster risk reduction projects has been made available by the consortium of UK NGOs that comprise the DFID Disaster Risk Reduction Interagency Coordination Group. The guidance note, 'Characteristics of a Disaster-resilient Community', gives a comprehensive picture of what a community would look like if all the actions of the Hyogo Framework for Action were carried out successfully at the grassroots. The guidance note can be used at nearly every stage of a project: For providing vision and direction, developing indicators, analysing community gaps, and even assessing development organizations' own skills and knowledge gaps. All interested organizations are invited to test and ratify the desk-based tool over the next 18 months. Feedback will be integrated into a second edition.

For more information, please contact John Twigg, (j.twigg@ucl.ac.uk) or visit: http://www.benfieldhrc.org/disaster_studies/projects/communitydrindicators/community_drr_indicators_index.htm

Climate change and DRR are development priorities: Action plan adopted in Stockholm

Disaster, climate change and poverty experts at the International Climate Conference in Stockholm adopted the Stockholm Action Plan at the end of October, to make disaster risk reduction and climate change priorities on the development agenda. The conference, co-organized by SIDA, the World Bank and ISDR as part of the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction, highlighted the link between climate change and increased natural hazard risk, and between disaster and poverty. Highlights of the plan include: Closer coordination between national disaster risk prevention plans and poverty reduction, and between development and humanitarian actors; improved risk analyses in the disaster prone countries; and stronger emphasis on building national, regional and local capacities. The workshop coincided with the Global Facility for

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit the following:

Africa:

www.unisdr.org/africa

Asia & the Pacific:

www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

Latin America & the Caribbean:

www.eird.org

Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning:

www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

Disaster Reduction and Recovery Consultative Group and Result Management Council meetings.

For more information, please contact John Harding (jharding@worldbank.org)

New partnership formed at Asia Megacities Forum

The Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI) and the Provincial Government of Jakarta signed a new declaration of cooperation at the Asia Megacities Forum, to work together towards reducing disaster risk to the city of Jakarta. The new partnership formally ushers in Jakarta's involvement in EMI's Cluster Cities Project (CCP), and includes capacity building, development of a framework for a Disaster Risk Management Master Plan, and enhancement of knowledge and practices. The Forum provided a platform for sharing regional knowledge and good practices, in order to facilitate the local implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The EMI, Provincial Government of Jakarta and their partners hosted the Forum in Jakarta, Indonesia on 24-26 October.

For more information, please contact Kristoffer Berse (krisb@emi-megacities.org) or visit: <http://www.emi-megacities.org>

Increased presence for disaster risk reduction: ISDR secretariat

The ISDR secretariat opened a new office "ISDR Hyogo Office" in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, the birthplace of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The ISDR Hyogo Office will promote and develop collaborative disaster risk reduction activities with regional agencies, academics, scientists, civil society, and governmental institutions. In launching the new office, the ISDR secretariat and partners organized a public panel on "Human Security and Disaster Risk Reduction", featuring the Governor of the Hyogo Prefecture, representatives from the University of Osaka, UNIC Tokyo and the UN/ISDR secretariat, and well known local actress Norika Fujiwara.

For more information, please contact Yuki Matsuoka (matsuoka@un.org)

Iran: allocating funds for disaster risk reduction

For the first time, Iran is balancing funding between different phases of disaster planning. Iranian authorities announced to international agencies on International Disaster Reduction Day that it was now allocating 45% of disaster resources for prevention, preparedness and response.

For more information, please contact Seyed Mohammad Sadati Nejad (mohammad.sadatinejad@unisdr-wana.org)

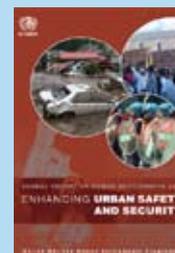
MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
Conferences, Trainings and Events
November 2007 - December 2007

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
November		
5-8	Malta	32nd Conference on Pacem in Maribus (PIMXXXII) "Women, Youth and the Sea: Partnering for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Use of its Resources" Contact details: www.capemalta.net/pim2007
5-9	Rome, Italy	2007 International Geohazards Week in ESRIN Contact details: http://earth.esa.int/workshops/2007Geohazards/
8-9	Verona, Italy	Consensus Conference on the Verona Charter Contact details: http://internazionali.ulsw20.verona.it
12-13	New Delhi, India	2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Organizer: Ministry of Home Affairs, India
12-19	Philippines	The 8th Training on Making Governance Gender Responsive Contact details: http://www.capwip.org/training/mggr.htm
12-30	Bangkok, Thailand	Disaster Management Course (DMC-36) Contact details: ADPC
22-23	Brussels, Belgium	2nd Civil Protection Forum Contact details: Cecile.WENDLING@ec.europa.eu
27	Bangkok, Thailand	The 4th UN-wide meeting on the use of space technologies for emergency response and humanitarian assistance Contact details: David.STEVENS@unvienna.org
28-30	Bangkok, Thailand	8th UNGIWG meeting
December		
3-5	Guangzhou, China	UN/China Regional UN-SPIDER Workshop Contact details: David.STEVENS@unvienna.org
9-13	Khartoum, Sudan	UN/Sudan International UN SPIDER Workshop: Space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response Contact details: David.STEVENS@unvienna.org
10-12	Hong Kong	International Forum on Landslide Disaster Management Contact details: kenho@cedd.gov.hk
10-14	Bangkok, Thailand	Training on Trainers (ToTs) Contact details: ADPC
18-21	New Delhi, India	International Conference on Water, Environment, Energy and Society (WEES-07)

Library Corner

Enhancing urban safety and security: Global report on Human Settlements 2007, UN-HABITAT
<http://shop.earthscan.co.uk>.

The report addresses three major threats to the safety and security of cities, including natural and human-made disasters. The report shows that, between 1974 and 2003, 6367 natural disasters caused the death of 2 million people and affected 5.1 billion people. The report highlights the need to place people, poverty reduction and community participation at the centre of policy responses.



ECB Risk Reduction Pilot Project Overview Reports

http://www.ecbproject.org/publications_3.htm
 The Emergency Capacity Building project (ECB) has released the reports from its three pilot risk reduction projects in Indonesia, Guatemala and Ethiopia, along with an overview report summarizing key learnings from the three pilots. The overview report sets the learning in the context of other sector initiatives, and suggests practical ways forward.

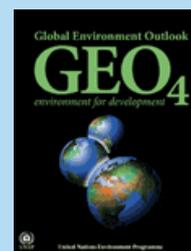
Europe's environment. The fourth assessment Executive summary.

Sixth Ministerial Conference, European Environment Agency (EEA)
www.eea.europa.eu/
 Ministers and high-level officials from 51 UNECE member States and the European Commission, international organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders discussed progress achieved in the implementation of environmental policies since the Kiev Conference in 2003, capacity building and partnerships as well as the future of the Environment for Europe process.

Global Environment Outlook: environment for development (GEO-4)

UNEP
http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/GEO-4_Report_Full_en.pdf

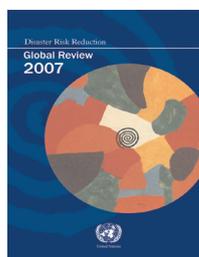
On 25 October, at over 40 sites around the world, UNEP launched its fourth Global Environment Outlook (GEO4) – the result of five years work. The report links findings on the state of the environment with policy analyses, and highlights emerging environmental issues that require policy attention, 20 years after the Brundtland report was issued. Chapter 7 mainstreams natural hazard risks as part of a development and vulnerability assessment.





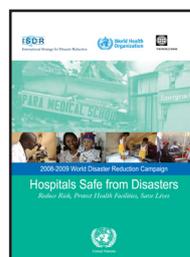
International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction

Announcements:



Available now:
Disaster Risk Reduction Global Review 2007

Download from:
www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/global-review/



Campaign brochure available now:
World Campaign for Disaster Reduction 2008-2009:
Hospitals Safe from Disasters

Download from: www.unisdr.org/eng/public_aware/world_camp/2008-2009/pdf/wdrc-2008-2009-brochure.pdf

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Geneva, Switzerland

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- 2007 Global Review: radical realignment needed in DRR
- Asian governments gear up for DRR: Delhi Declaration
- Chinese govt increases DRR capacity building
- African Ministers promote DRR in climate change talks
- PreventionWeb: new web portal for DRR community
- South Eastern Europe's DRR collaboration
- New office for UN-SPIDER
- Caribbean puts HFA priorities into Plan of Action
- India establishes National Alliance for DRR
- Council of Europe, education and DRR knowledge

Also:

- Web Resources
- Mark Your Calendar
- Library Corner

To submit an article or inform us of a new publication, web resource or event, please send your input to: isdhighlights@un.org by the 20th day of each month.

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Highlights

November 2007

2007 Global Review: radical realignment needed in DRR

A radical realignment of priorities in addressing the Hyogo Framework for Action is required if the growing population living in high risk conditions is to be adequately protected, the recently released UN/ISDR 2007 Global Review has concluded. Current emphasis on saving lives has to be complemented by a vision of protecting and strengthening livelihoods and human development. While political momentum is building behind disaster risk reduction, the lack of dedicated resources and trained personnel may inhibit progress. The Review defines two main categories of disaster risk, both of which may be exacerbated by climate change, and which are closely related to development trends. Rural poor and marginal urban communities are increasingly subject to 'extensive disaster risks' – that is, highly localised, low intensity but cumulative impact from small-scale, mainly climatic hazards. This kind of risk is increasing rapidly due to climate change and environmental degradation. Despite causing lower apparent mortality and damage, it represents a significant challenge to sustainable livelihoods and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The impact of 'intensive disaster risks' – characteristic of large-scale hazards affecting densely populated areas, is also becoming more severe. Climate change and rapid urbanization may continue to increase mortality and economic losses from these kinds of hazards. The Review emphasizes the need for addressing underlying risk factors, through livelihood diversification, environmental management, climate change adaptation, better building practices and settlement planning.

For more information, please contact Shefali Juneja (junejas@un.org) or visit: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/global-review/>

Asian governments gear up for DRR: Delhi Declaration

Asian governments have agreed to a new declaration on regional disaster risk reduction (DRR) action, and have committed to leading a comprehensive Regional Platform. The Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted at the Indian Government-organised Second Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR in New Delhi, from 7-8 November. The Declaration committed governments to more concrete implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, urging them to formulate Action plans and put in place mechanisms for periodic review, monitoring and reporting, linking specifically to the Millennium Development Goals, and mainstreaming DRR into development, recovery and reconstruction. The Ministerial meeting also adopted the recommendations of the Expanded ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) to expand the conference into a comprehensive Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, led by the region's Ministers of Disaster Risk Reduction with support from the UN/ISDR secretariat, and including International Agencies, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society, experts, and the media.

For more information, please contact O. Ravi, Joint Secretary, Indian Ministry of Home Affairs (jsdm2-mha@nic.in)

Chinese Govt increases DRR capacity building

The Chinese Government has increased efforts in disaster risk reduction in and outside China since the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, working on information and knowledge exchange, and capacity building, through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. 'To build back better', a training course on post disaster recovery and rehabilitation management is being conducted on 19 November to 3 December 2007. Government officials from 11 Asian countries are participating. The course includes presentations, case studies, policy and measures on recovery as well as discussions of problems and solutions in post disaster recovery and reconstruction. The course benefited from UN agency input, including from UNICEF, WFP and the UN/ISDR secretariat.

For more information, please contact Guan Yan (guanyan@ndrcc.gov.cn)

African ministers promote HFA in climate change talks

Ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) urged CHOGM to prioritize the HFA as a part of the urgent action required on climate change. The HFA priority actions were one of the 8 recommendations to CHOGM of the Jinja Declaration adopted in Uganda on 17 November, which drew attention to the urgency of required action on climate change adaptation and mitigation. Strong support of the HFA priorities from the Vice President of Uganda was noted. Hosted by the Uganda Ministry of Water and Environment, the proceedings included a ministerial roundtable on "Bringing Climate Change from the Margins to the Stage of Policy Making in Africa". The proceedings were attended by representatives of UNEP, UN-Habitat, WMO, The Global Water Partnership, the African Development Bank, GTZ and UN/ISDR Africa. At CHOGM, Commonwealth Governments adopted the Lake Victoria Climate Change Action Plan, advocating greater financial support for climate change adaptation and better disaster management.

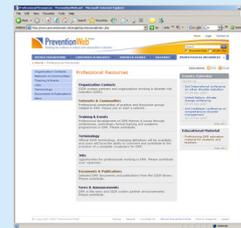
For more information, please visit: www.amcow.org

PreventionWeb: new web portal for the DRR community

PreventionWeb launched on 15 November, providing for the first time a comprehensive web portal for everyone working in, or simply interested in, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). PreventionWeb can be used to connect and share information at all levels of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, aiming to be a working tool for strengthening connections between DRR professionals, and promoting more understanding of the subject by non-specialists. PreventionWeb is a project of the UN/ISDR secretariat, and is expected to become a tool for DRR practitioners in the way that Relief Web has served the humanitarian response community. PreventionWeb's content is supplied from the DRR community and will be updated daily. The site will feature news, DRR initiatives, event calendars, online discussions, contact directories, policy documents, reference documents, training events, jobs, terminology, country profiles, fact sheets, as well as audio and video content. Full information will be available about the Hyogo Framework and the ISDR System, including guidance for the development of National Platforms for DRR and the UN General Assembly process. It will also contain a listing of all major disaster risk reduction initiatives.

For more information, please contact Craig Duncan (duncanc@un.org), or visit www.preventionweb.net. To submit news, initiatives, events or other information to PreventionWeb, please visit: www.preventionweb.net/english/submit/.

WEB RESOURCES



PreventionWeb Professional Resource Page
<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/index.php>

Preventionweb's professional resource page includes useful information for the DRR professional, such as a comprehensive and growing DRR contact list, publication archive, terminology list and vacancy section



The Himalayan School Earthquake Laboratory Programme (HIMSELP)
<http://himseip.net.in>

The Himalayan School Earthquake Laboratory Programme (HIMSELP) is part of the Mission Mode Project of Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India. This multimedia learning resource develops risk assessment skills among school children, and passes the knowledge through them to the community at large.



'Expect the Unexpected' (Canadian Red Cross)
<http://www.croixrouge.ca/article.asp?id=009889&tid=025>

'Expect the Unexpected' includes three guides for teachers and educators, each including some fifteen adaptable activities. It also includes a brochure for parents designed to help the whole family learn about natural disasters and emergency situations that could occur and how to prepare for them. The site also includes online videos, posters and certificates for students.

South Eastern Europe's DRR collaboration

A new MoU between South Eastern European countries is enhancing regional cooperation on disaster management, and facilitating technical and financial commitments to disaster preparedness, prevention and risk reduction. Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania and Slovenia have signed the Institutional Framework of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE). The remaining two members of the Stability Pact of South Eastern Europe, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, are also preparing to join the MoU. Under this collaborative framework, six SEE countries are already working together on new seismic hazard maps of the region. As well as producing an important tool for disaster preparedness and prevention, the NATO-funded project is spearheading closer regional scientific collaboration on disaster risk reduction. Involved in the project are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as experts from Turkey, Greece and Slovenia, NATO and the Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA).

For more information, please contact Miroslav Vujanic (miro.vujanic@dppi.info) or visit www.dppi.info

New office for UN-SPIDER

The UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), opened its first office in Bonn, Germany late last month, kicking off a three day workshop to discuss and shape its future work. UN-SPIDER is being implemented by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and is an open network of providers of space-based solutions to support disaster management. UN-SPIDER will be supporting universal access to satellite technology used in early warning systems, and other space-based information relevant to disaster management. During the workshop, 90 experts from 35 countries discussed how to define user requirements, horizontal coordination, the framework of a knowledge portal, and a capacity building framework. The workshop's recommendations to UNOOSA will be taken into consideration when carrying out UN-SPIDER activities in 2008 and 2009.

For more information please contact David Stevens (david.stevens@unvienna.org) or visit: www.unspider.org

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit these weblinks:

Africa: www.unisdr.org/africa
 Asia & the Pacific: www.unisdr.org/asiapacific
 Latin America & the Caribbean: www.eird.org
 Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning:

Caribbean puts HFA priorities into Plan of Action

The Association of Caribbean States (ACS) adopted a regional Plan of Action on disaster risk reduction (DRR) at its High Level Conference on Disaster Reduction in Saint-Marc, Haiti on 14 and 15 November. The Plan's comprehensive list of 27 actions includes commitments on strengthening the ACS role as the key regional DRR forum, evaluating regional progress on HFA priorities, promoting DRR national platforms and their links to the Global Platform, mainstreaming of DRR, gender and adaptation to climate change, and policy frameworks promoting synergies between the HFA and mechanisms that relate to Small Island Developing states, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The meeting emphasized the need for a common strategy on the region's sustainable development, particularly for the priority action areas for implementing the HFA regionally. It was marked by the highest ever turnout of Caribbean states on DRR issues. For more information, please contact Jennifer Guralnick (jguralnick@eird.org)

India establishes National Alliance for DRR

Preceding the Asian Ministerial Conference, over 150 Indian civil society leaders launched The National Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction (NADRR) on 4 November in New Delhi, at a two day event: 'People, Policy and Partnerships for Disaster Resilient Development'. The NADRR aims to be a common platform to scale up community-led disaster risk reduction initiatives, to enable communities to lead practice and influence policy. It presented three recommendations: focusing on enabling communities to access resources and critically engage policymakers; ensuring that development does not increase disaster risk; and to recognize, validate and build on local knowledge and capacities. Organizers included SEEDS India, Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), and ActionAid.

For more information, please contact P. Chandran (SSP) or Amit Tuteja (SEEDS), (nadrrinfo@gmail.com) or visit: www.disasterwatch.net/nadrr.htm

Council of Europe, education and DRR knowledge

In preparation for the Conference on Education and Disaster Risk Reduction, scheduled for November 2008 in Geneva within the IBE/UNESCO International Meeting of Ministries of Education, the Council of Europe (EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement) in co-operation with the Government of Cyprus organized a European and Mediterranean workshop on Disaster Reduction at School in Cyprus this October. The workshop compiled a rich array of experience and practices from the region and discussed recommendations for the 2008 Conference.

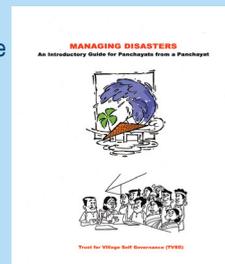
For more information, please visit: www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/activities/Paphos2007_en.asp

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
Conferences, Trainings and Events
December 2007 - January 2008

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
December		
3-14	Bali, Indonesia	United Nations Climate Change Conference see: http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_13/items/4049.php
3-5	Guangzhou, China	UN/China Regional UN-SPIDER Workshop Contact: David.STEVENS@unvienna.org
3-6	Cusco, Peru	Geosciences, Planning and Communities: Opportunities and Challenges in Development—Multinational Andean Project: Geosciences for Andean Communities (MAP:GAC). Contact: mulmi@nrca.gc.ca
6-7	Beijing, China	UN Disaster Management Team China Strategic Planning Workshop Contact: anthea.webb@wfp.org
10-14	Needham's Point Barbados	Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management, See: http://cdm.cdera.org/cccdm/2007/about.htm
9-13	Khartoum, Sudan	UN/Sudan International UN SPIDER Workshop Contact: David.STEVENS@unvienna.org
10-12	Hong Kong, China	International Forum on Landslide Disaster Management Contact: kenho@cedd.gov.hk
10-14	Bangkok, Thailand	Training on Trainers (ToTs), Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre Contact: tedadpc@adpc.net
January		
3-5	Tamil Nadu, India	Innovative and Smart Structural Systems for Sustainable Habitat Organizer: Coimbatore Institute of Technology. See www.citnshab2008.info .
16-18	Washington D.C	8th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment: Climate Change: Science and Solutions. Organizer: National Council for Science and the Environment. see www.ncseonline.org/2008conference/
25	Davos, Switzerland	Launch of World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009: Hospitals Safe from Disaster WHO, UN/ISDR secretariat. Contact: Tze Ming Mok, mokt@un.org
28-29	Orissa, India	Disability-Disaster Conference 2008 Contact: Asha Hans, smrc_bbsr@hotmail.com . See: www.smrcorissa.org
31- 3 Feb	Orlando, USA	29th Annual International Disaster Management Conference. Organizer: Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center. Visit www.emlrc.org/disaster2008.htm .

Library Corner

Managing Disasters: An Introductory Guide for Panchayats from a Panchayat, Trust for Village Self Governance (TVSG)



A step by step guide to setting up a village Disaster Management Plan and a Disaster Mitigation Plan, in a reader-friendly booklet.
For more information, please contact: panchayat@yahoo.com

Flood hazards and health. Responding to present and future risks

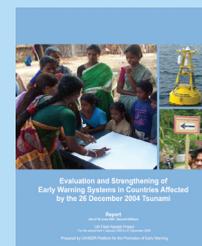
Roger Few and Franziska Matthies
Earthscan, 2006
www.earthscan.co.uk

This book combines an analysis of the human health impacts of flooding with analysis of individual and societal response to those risks, in light of potential future increases in flood hazard as a result of climate change.

Floods in Bangladesh. History, dynamics and rethinking the role of the Himalayas
Thomas Hofer and Bruno Messerli
United Nations University Press, 2006
www.unu.edu

Are deforestation and land use practices of the Himalayan farmers to blame for the recurring and devastating monsoon floods in the plains of the Ganga and Brahmaputra? This book presents new evidence to challenge the assumption that deforestation and mountain dwellers are to blame for flood catastrophes. The book notes that politicians and engineers often cite monsoon floods as the main problem for Bangladesh but that flood-affected people are more concerned with lateral river erosion, landlessness and economic survival problems.

Evaluation and strengthening of early warning systems in countries affected by the 26 December 2004 Tsunami. Report UN/ISDR Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning, 2007



The objective of this initiative was to provide an overall integrated framework for strengthening early warning systems in the Indian Ocean region, by building on the existing systems and to facilitate coordination among various specialized and technical institutions.



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction



Season's greetings from UN/ISDR secretariat!

International Strategy for
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Geneva, Switzerland

In This Issue:

Highlights

December 2007

- Bali Roadmap on Climate Change recognizes importance of DRR
- Cape Verde launches multi-stakeholder National Platform for DRR
- Journalists link Climate Change Adaptation and DRR
- Venezuela consolidates multi-stakeholder National Platform for DRR
- Education Task Force Expands in Asia-Pacific
- Enhanced capacity for mainstreaming gender perspectives into DRR
- Raised profile for DRR and Development
- New disaster law guidelines endorsed
- Security studies institutes embrace DRR

Bali Roadmap on Climate Change recognizes importance of DRR
Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was included in the Bali Action Plan as a tool for climate change adaptation. The Bali Action Plan was adopted by UN member states on 15 December at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference. It called for enhanced action on adaptation, including DRR strategies to lessen the impact of disasters on developing countries; risk management and risk reduction strategies including risk transfer mechanisms such as insurance; and more international cooperation on implementation, such as through vulnerability assessments. At a side event, the Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction recommended that adaptation be a pillar of any eventual climate change agreement; that DRR and climate risk management be core elements of adaptation; that mechanisms for funding adaptation and disaster risk reduction be established; and that immediate action be taken to implement risk reduction measures from 2008-2012. Participants included representatives from UNEP, UNDP, UN/ISDR, WHO, WMO, WB, Red Cross, Oxfam, and CARE International.
For a UN webcast of the Working Group side event please visit: <http://www.un.org/webcast/unfccc/2007/index.asp?go=06071207>

- Also:
- Web Resources
- Mark Your Calendar
- Library Corner

Cape Verde launches multi-stakeholder National Platform for DRR
The West African country of Cape Verde launched its National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction at a major meeting from 27 to 28 November, attended by 120 representatives from Ministries, municipalities, technical services, academia, NGOs, the Red Cross society and the international community. At the meeting participants provided a comprehensive overview of hazards and risks of natural or man-made origin facing the country including droughts, landslides, volcanic eruptions, oil spills, traffic accidents, epidemics and drug trafficking. The meeting was organized by the National Service for Civil Protection with support from the "One UN" Country Team, UN-OCHA Dakar and the UN/ISDR secretariat. Attended by two Ministers and several Ambassadors.
For more information, please contact Tenente-Coronel Alberto Fernandes (acbfernandes@hotmail.com) or visit: <http://www.snpc.cv/platNacRedCatastrofes.html>

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Journalists link Climate Change Adaptation and DRR

Journalists and broadcasters from 17 Asian broadcasting companies took part in a two day media training in during the Bali Climate Change Conference to explore the link between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Two speakers from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, explained to journalists the importance of adaptation and the relevance of the Hyogo Framework for Action to reduce the impacts of disasters linked to climate change. The participants engaged positively with the DRR message, and expressed interest in the upcoming World Campaign for Disaster Reduction 2008-2009. The workshop was held on 10-11 December, and was jointly organized by the Asian Pacific Broadcasting Union, UNEP and UN/ISDR secretariat. *For more information, please contact Brigitte Leoni (leonib@un.org)*

Venezuela consolidates work on multi-stakeholder National Platform for DRR

National Civil Protection authorities of Venezuela organized a capacity-building, training and political lobbying workshop from 22 to 24 November in Caracas, in which the country's main priorities according to the Hyogo Framework for Action were analyzed, and the legal and administrative issues needed to set up a fully functional multi-sectoral National Platform were identified, along with the outline for a plan of action. The workshop gathered a variety of Venezuelan government institutions, and was organized with the support of UN/ISDR Americas. *For more information, please contact Haris Sanahuja (hsanahuja@eird.org)*

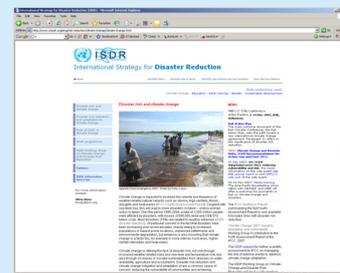
Education Task Force expands in Asia-Pacific

The Education Task Force (ETF) met on 21 November to build on the successful experiences shared during October's Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on School Education and Disaster Risk Reduction. The ETF confirmed the importance of expanding its membership to new regional partners, and welcomed Save the Children as a new member. An Implementation Plan is currently being developed to map out existing activities being undertaken at the regional, national and local levels in DRR Education and to identify major gaps requiring joint action. This document will support the development of a regional strategy for the implementation of DRR Education in line with the Bangkok Action Agenda, which will be presented at the International Conference on Education that is being organized by UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) next 25-28 November 2008 in Geneva. *For more information, please contact Christel Rose (isdr-bkk@un.org)*

WEB RESOURCES



UNFCCC website
<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>
 Includes reports from the negotiations, decisions, meetings, webcasts and videos from the Bali Conference on Climate Change, and from previous conferences. For more full webcasts of the UNFCCC sessions, see also www.un.org/webcast/unfccc/



Climate Change and Disaster Risk
<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/risk-reduction/climate-change/climate-change.html>
 A new section of the UN/ISDR secretariat website with resources on how climate change affects disasters, and how disaster risk reduction is a key tool for climate change adaptation. Also includes links to key follow-up actions and meetings after the Bali Conference on Climate Change.



All India Disaster Mitigation Institute website
www.southasiadisasters.net
 Website features latest news, events and publications focusing on disaster mitigation issues in South Asia, and including learnings and reports on current programmes in water, habitat, food, and livelihood security.

Enhanced capacity for mainstreaming gender perspectives into DRR

Developing capacity in South Asia on integrating gender into the development-disaster continuum was the subject of a five day Training of Trainers in Colombo, which concluded on 7 December. The programme had a specific emphasis on disaster risk reduction. Participating trainers committed to conducting training programmes incorporating the training's messages within six months. 'Gendering Disaster Risk Reduction' was organised by UNDP, UN/ISDR, the Sri Lankan Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, and Oxfam GB Sri Lanka, and was attended by 34 participants from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan, the Sri Lankan government, UNDP, UNVs, and NGOs. Issues covered were key gender concepts, disaster-development dynamics, Applied Gendering of DRR practice aspects, and opportunities for gendering DRR throughout the disaster cycle.

For more information, please contact: Man B. Thapa (man.b.thapa@undp.org)

Response week", which recently won an Alfonso Bonilla Aragon Award for journalism.

For more information, please contact: Alice Vozza (a.vozza@itcilo.org) or visit: <http://learning.itcilo.org/delnet/>

New disaster law guidelines endorsed

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) adopted the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance on 28 November, at its 30th International Conference in Geneva. Early warning and DRR were dealt with in Part II of the Guidelines which state that an as essential element of a larger disaster risk reduction programme, "the guidelines recommend that States adopt comprehensive legal, policy, and institutional frameworks and planning for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, relief and recovery."

For more information, please contact David Fisher (david.fisher@ifrc.org)

Raised profile for DRR and Development

Students of ILO/DELNET'S first-ever year-long course on "Disaster Risk Reduction within the Framework of Sustainable Local Development" marked their graduation last month with a workshop on GIS and local DRR planning. The class met November 19-24 in Managua, Nicaragua to participate in "The Use of GIS Based on Satellite Imagery Applied to Strategic Planning for Disaster Risk Reduction at the Local Level." This marked the beginning of an inter-agency partnership between ITC-ILO/DELNET, UNOSAT and UN/ISDR secretariat to support the continuation of the course, and the creation of a disaster risk reduction and sustainable local development network. Participants in DELNET training also took part this year in an episode of the Colombian television show "Antemeridiano", on "Disaster Prevention and

Security studies institutes embrace DRR

1. The UN University for Peace in Costa Rica is launching a course in 2008 on 'Encompassing Disaster Risk Reduction and Human Health Resilience in Environmental Security and Peace Studies', as part of its Masters programme on Environmental Security and Peace. The programme launches in February 2008, and has five scholarships available for practitioners from the Central American or Caribbean regions. The course was developed by the Pan American Health Organization and the UN/ISDR secretariat. For more information, please contact: Rolain Borel (rborel@upeace.org) or visit: <http://drr.upeace.org/english/how.cfm>

2. The International Institute for Crisis and Security Studies (IICSS) as been established in Florence, Italy, as an offshoot of CESPRO, the Centre for Civil Protection and Risk Studies at the University of Florence. IICSS plans to develop collaborative programmes in disaster risk reduction and emergency management, with emphasis on research, teaching, training and international co-operation. For more information, please contact David Alexander (david.alexander@unifi.it)

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit these weblinks:

Africa: www.unisdr.org/africa
 Asia & the Pacific: www.unisdr.org/asiapacific
 Latin America & the Caribbean: www.eird.org
 Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning: www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
Conferences, Trainings and Events
January 2008 - February 2008

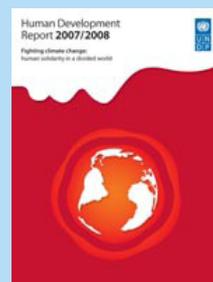
DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
January		
3-5	Tamil Nadu, India	Innovative and Smart Structural Systems for Sustainable Habitat Organizer: Coimbatore Institute of Technology. See www.citinshab2008.info .
16-18	Washington D.C	8th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment: Climate Change: Science and Solutions. Organizer: National Council for Science and the Environment. See www.ncseonline.org/2008conference/
25	Davos, Switzerland and regional WHO & UN/ISDR offices	Launch of World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009: Hospitals Safe from Disasters WHO, UN/ISDR secretariat. Contact: Tze Ming Mok, mokt@un.org
28-29	Orissa, India	Disability-Disaster Conference 2008 Contact: Asha Hans, smrc_bbsr@hotmail.com . See: www.smrcorissa.org
31	Cairo, Egypt	Regional launch of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009: Hospitals Safe from Disasters, WHO, UN/ISDR secretariat. Contact: Tine Ramstad, tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org
31- 3 Feb	Orlando, USA	29th Annual International Disaster Management Conference. Organizer: Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center. See www.emlrc.org/disaster2008.htm .
February		
TBA		Further regional launches of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009: Hospitals Safe from Disasters. Contact: Tze Ming Mok, mokt@un.org
6-9	New Orleans, USA	Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) Annual Meeting See: www.eeri.org/news/meetings.html
7-9	New Delhi, India	Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) 2008, 'Sustainable Development and Climate Change.' See: http://www.teriin.org/dsds/2008/
20-22	Strasbourg, France	12th Annual International Symposium 'Space Solutions to Earth's Global Challenges' See: http://www.isunet.edu
25-27	Richmond, BC, Canada	Emergency Preparedness for Industry and Commerce Council (EPICC) Forum 2008 'Business Continuity is Everybody's Business' See: www.epiccforum.org
28-29	Rome, Italy	Preparatory Expert Meeting on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, for the High Level Conference on World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy. Organizers: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), see: http://www.fao.org/foodclimate/

Library Corner

Human Development Report 2007/2008
Fighting climate change,
UNDP

<http://hdr.undp.org>

The Human Development Report 2007/2008 argues that climate change is not just a future scenario, and that increased exposure to droughts, floods and storms is already destroying opportunities and reinforcing inequalities. It also states that there is overwhelming scientific evidence that the world is moving towards the point at which irreversible ecological catastrophe becomes unavoidable. The report argues that climate change poses challenges at many levels, and its 4th chapter addresses Climate Change Adaptation, including disaster risk reduction.



Disaster Management
Harsh K. Gupta (Editor), Universities Press (India), 2007 edition

The issue of disaster management for the Himalayan region needs to be viewed in the context of the rapid land use and land cover changes. From the disaster management perspective of this book, issues involved include coping with the ecological fragility of the mountains one on the one hand, and dealing with the general apathy of the mountain societies towards the pathways adopted for development on the other. This book contains articles on natural disaster management in the Himalayas, the spatio-temporal aspects of monsoon floods in India, flood hazard management, monitoring and forecasting of tropical cyclones, and a new seismic hazard map for the region

Why Advocate for Disaster Risk Reduction
Tearfund and World Vision International
in English and French
<http://tilz.tearfund.org/>

A booklet for Tearfund and World Vision partners dealing with advocacy and DRR, aimed at organisations which are already involved in DRR, but have not yet considered an advocacy approach. It sets out why advocacy on DRR is important, why governments should be held accountable, and how civil society can influence them.

