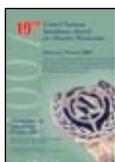




International Strategy for  
Disaster Reduction

## 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)

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](mailto:dokhlik@un.org)

International Strategy for  
Disaster Reduction (ISDR)  
Tel. : (+41 22) 917 8908/8907/8849  
Fax : (+41 22) 917 8964  
[isdrhighlights@un.org](mailto:isdrhighlights@un.org)  
[www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)  
International Environment House II  
7-9 Chemin de Balexert  
CH 1219 Châtellaine  
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: [isdrhighlights@un.org](mailto:isdrhighlights@un.org) by the 20th day of each month.

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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](http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/first-session/docs/session_docs/ISDR_GP_2007_3.pdf) or visit: [www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.unisdr.org/ngos) or Contact: Mr. Marcus Oxley, [marcus.oxley@tearfund.org](mailto: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](mailto:burkej@un.org)

## WEB RESOURCES

### Emergency Management: Status of School Districts' Planning and Preparedness

[www.gao.gov/docsearch/abstract.php?rptno=GAO-07-821T](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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](http://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](mailto: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/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.unisdr.org/africa)

Asia & the Pacific:

[www.unisdr.org/asiapacific](http://www.unisdr.org/asiapacific)

Latin America & the Caribbean:

[www.eird.org](http://www.eird.org)

Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning:

[www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources](http://www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources)

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

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

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.unisdr.org/words-into-action)

