



International Strategy for  
Disaster Reduction

Holiday greetings from UNISDR



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

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# Highlights

December 2008

## Mixed results but good DRR progress at Poznań talks

At the Climate Change Conference in Poznań, Poland early this month, disaster issues were highlighted at a special plenary workshop on Risk Management and Insurance. Following an invited UNISDR briefing, many states reiterated that disaster risk reduction and the use of the Hyogo Framework were important elements of adaptation to climate change. This was accompanied by strong advocacy efforts from OCHA and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, reflecting a newly galvanized humanitarian sector focus on disaster prevention - which is providing opportunities for stronger engagement in ISDR System partnerships. Climate risk insurance and risk transfer attracted strong state party interest but are nonetheless the subject of widely divergent views on the kinds of benefits that would result. A notable advance during the talks was the agreement that the climate change Adaptation Fund would be a legal entity granting direct funding access to developing countries. This agreement will allow the Fund, set up in December 2007 at the Bali talks, to actually begin operation. However, developing country representatives were disappointed that there would be no increase in the size of the Fund, which currently contains about US\$80 million. The purpose of the Fund is to help reduce the negative effects of climate change on vulnerable states, including through disaster risk reduction.

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## Loren Legarda named Asian regional DRR champion

Senator Loren Legarda of the Philippines Senate has been named Regional Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asia Pacific by UNISDR. She will help UNISDR promote the benefits of disaster risk reduction policies in Asia, which is the region most vulnerable to disasters. Senator Legarda, who represents one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, accepted her new official engagement during the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She has already been a spearhead of the parliamentarians' initiative on DRR and Climate Change Adaptation, the Manila Call for Action, which she has promoted in a range of global forums since it was issued in October.

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## Asian Ministers call for action plan and more DRR investment

Government Ministers from across Asia called for 10% of humanitarian funding to be allocated to disaster risk reduction (DRR) at a meeting early this month. This was coupled with a call by governments for setting voluntary, multi-year public spending on DRR in various development sectors. The initiative to allocate 10% of humanitarian aid for DRR was proposed by John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in his message to participants, and was strongly supported by conference-host Malaysia. As the international level, this would amount to around US\$750 million per year from humanitarian aid budgets. The Third Asian Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction gathered high ranking official and Ministers from over 40 countries in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The outcome of the meeting, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, will be the first of the Ministerial meeting outcomes to be supported by an action plan, which will be developed by the ISDR Asia Partnership (a partnership of 30 UN, regional, civil society and donor agencies) by March 2009. The conference also launched the Kuala Lumpur Initiative on Public Private Partnership for disaster risk reduction, under the leadership of the Governments of India, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea, respective hosts of the immediate past, present and incoming Ministerial Conferences.

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## Global Platform to push for more DRR investment

The next Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is aiming for high levels of representation from governments and developing countries, in order to increase commitment and action to support the Hyogo Framework for Action. The second biennial session of the Global Platform will be emphasising increased investment in financing DRR at all levels, especially in the face of the escalating effect of climate change on poverty and vulnerability. The event will take place 16-19 June 2009 at the Geneva International Conference Centre. Plenary sessions will be informed by the results of the first Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, which is to be released in May 2009 by UNISDR. Side events and a 'Disaster Risk Reduction Marketplace' area will provide opportunities for stakeholders to further promote their causes, share experiences and link with the work of others. The Global Platform is the main body of the ISDR System, and will be convened by Under-Secretary-General John Holmes in his capacity as ISDR System Chair, and coordinated by UNISDR. More details are available in the Second Announcement of the Global Platform, released this month online.

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

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## WEB RESOURCES

### Poznań: UNFCCC meeting documentation

[http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop\\_14/items/4481.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_14/items/4481.php)  
<http://copportal1.man.poznan.pl/>

The special 'copportal' site provides full webcasts of all the proceedings, while the main UNFCCC

meeting site allows you to download all meeting papers, results, statements, and documentation, including on the Adaptation Fund decision and the legal arrangements for the disbursement of the funds.



### Poznań: blogged and twittered

<http://blogs.nature.com/news/blog/>  
<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/12/14/rich-poor-rift-persists-over-climate/>  
<http://search.twitter.com/search?q=poznan+adaptation>

Reporters for the magazine Nature, and New York Times environmental journalist

Andrew Revkin, have blog coverage and commentary on the results of the Poznań Climate Change Talks, including the debates over the Adaptation Fund. Twitter feeds show worldwide interest in the result for the Adaptation Fund.



### Climate Change: Coping with the Humanitarian Impact

<http://ochaonline.un.org/climatechange>

The new OCHA climate change campaign calls for more investment in planning and preparedness to reduce the effects of extreme



weather on communities. The webpage of the OCHA campaign 'Climate Change: Coping with Humanitarian Impact' emphasizes increasing disasters and the need for more prevention. View videos, slideshows, photogalleries and other resources that make complex facts and figures accessible.

### Private sector action in DRR highlighted

A new publication of 17 private sector good practices in disaster risk reduction (DRR) is showcasing the important role that corporations need to play in building disaster resilience. The UNISDR publication looks at three ways that private companies have taken action, often through public-private partnerships: Advocacy and awareness raising partnerships; Investment and Corporate Social Responsibility partnerships; and practicing risk reduction as part of core business. The publication notes that while corporate response to humanitarian emergencies generally has been reactive, limiting its overall effectiveness and efficiency, the private sector has increasingly practised DRR through risk transfer and corporate social responsibility, better risk assessment and also in reducing impact of disaster to their own businesses.

View publication: [www.unisdr.org/ppew/PPP-bestpractices.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/ppew/PPP-bestpractices.pdf)

### Europe conference takes on climate change and DRR

'Colloque Risq-JE 2008', a European Union conference held last month, reviewed disaster risk reduction and climate change initiatives being implemented in Europe which are mobilizing public authorities and civil society, in cooperation with international agencies. The French Government hosted the 'Conference on Natural Disaster Risk Reduction' in the context of its Presidency of the EU. Stakeholder experiences are captured in 17 online video interviews, including with the Greater London Authority, the Swedish Civil Contingency Agency, UNISDR, and the German National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction DKKV.

See: <http://aleas.terre.tv/>

### Landslide Forum inaugurated in Japan

The First World Landslide Forum was held in Tokyo, Japan, 18-21 November, emphasizing the urgent need to enhance cooperation in landslide research and landslide disaster risk management among multi-stakeholders. About 430 participants from 48 countries adopted the Tokyo Declaration 2008, which focuses on promoting

multi-stakeholder cooperation in landslide research and disaster risk management among the global scientific community, national academies of sciences, research funding agencies, industry, national governments, and intergovernmental bodies. The Forum was convened by the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) together with the Government of Japan, United Nations University, UNISDR, and many other partner organizations. The second WLF will take place in 2011.

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See: [www.ichq.org/WLFWeb/WLF.htm](http://www.ichq.org/WLFWeb/WLF.htm)

### DRR covered in Asian development forum

The 9th Assembly of Asia Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development was held 13-14 December, 2008 in Hanoi, Vietnam. UNISDR representatives made links with parliamentarians from Sri Lanka, China, Japan, Vietnam, New Zealand, India, Kazakhstan, Nepal and the Philippines. Parliamentarians shared their experiences and underlined that more action is urgently required from both developed and developing countries, and that gender perspectives in climate change mitigation and adaptation should be seriously addressed. Ms. Mabel Rebello, an Indian MP, emphasized that parliamentarians need to influence public policy and make legislative change at the federal and provincial levels, overseeing local implementation.

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### Pre-holiday reminders:

*Sasakawa Award Nomination closing date 18 March 2009*

The Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction will be awarded in June 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland at the Global Platform for Disaster Reduction, and nominations close on March 18. The biennial prize is worth approximately US\$40-50,000, and is awarded in recognition of significant achievements in DRR that have made real change at community and institutional levels. Applicants can be nominated by any ISDR System partner.

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*Safe hospitals good practices deadline 30 May 2009*

UNISDR and WHO are inviting submissions from all stakeholders on good practices and lessons learned on making Hospitals Safe from Disasters: including health authorities, health facilities, governments, international agencies, health professionals, NGOs, architects, engineers, critical infrastructure, private sector, professional associations and academic institutions

Submission template: [http://safehospitals.info/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=53&Itemid=190](http://safehospitals.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=53&Itemid=190)

## REGIONAL NEWS

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

Africa: [www.unisdr.org/africa](http://www.unisdr.org/africa)

Asia & the Pacific: [www.unisdr.org/asiapacific](http://www.unisdr.org/asiapacific)

Europe: [www.unisdr.org/europe](http://www.unisdr.org/europe)

Latin America & the Caribbean: [www.eird.org](http://www.eird.org)

West Asia and North Africa: [www.unisdr-wana](http://www.unisdr-wana)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

Conferences, Trainings and Events  
January 2009 - February 2009

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
<b>January</b>		
18 - 20	Kobe, Japan	Forum on Disaster-Resilient Regional Development Strategies in the World UNCRD
21 - 23	Santiago, Chile	Conferencia internacional WAFLA: Herramientas mejoradas para combatir la desertificación y la sequía Accion por la Tierra - Chile
22-23	Nairobi, Kenya	Roundtable Consultative Meeting for Parliamentarians in Africa: Make Disaster Risk Reduction a Tool for Climate Change Adaptation UNISDR
25	Kobe, Japan	Disaster Risk Reduction Forum (DRA Forum 2009) - Hospitals Safe from Disasters Disaster Reduction Alliance (DRA)
26-29	Steyping, UK	Responding to flooding: Improving the preparation and response Wilton Park Conferences
26-27	Kobe, Japan,	International Recovery Forum International Recovery Platform
28	London, UK	Civil contingencies 09 GovNet Communications
<b>February</b>		
1	Ouagadougou, Burkina-Faso	International workshop on adaptation to climate change in West African agriculture. WMO
4-6	New Delhi, India	2nd India disaster management congress National Institute of Disaster Management
9-13	Newcastle, UK	Hydrological risks and climate change Newcastle University
10-13	Canberra, Australia	Australian disasters conference 2009: surviving future risks: Emergency Management Australia
16-20	Nairobi, Kenya	UNEP Governing Council/global ministerial environment forum: UNEP
19-22	Orlando, USA	2009 international disaster management conference Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center
22-26	Dhaka, Bangladesh	3rd international conference on community based adaptation to climate change Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies
25-27	Penang, Malaysia	ICESE 2009 - international conference on earthquake and structural engineering World Academy of Science Engineering and Technology

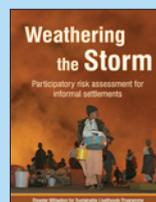
For more details, please see [www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events)

**Library Corner**

**Weathering the storm: participatory risk assessment for informal settlements**

[www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=4163&pid:50](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=4163&pid:50)

Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (DIMP), 2009. Field research over ten sites during the Training, Education, Awareness and Marketing (TEAM) project, combined with extensive previous community risk assessment experience in the Western Cape made it possible to produce a facilitator's guide that is useful in informal settlements.



**Poznań Communique on Climate Change**

[www.poznancommunique.com](http://www.poznancommunique.com)

The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders' Group on Climate Change  
The business leaders of over 140 global companies are calling for an adaptation strategy and funding solution to assist the poorest countries which are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. It was issued during The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 14) taking place from December 1st to 12th 2008 in Poznań, Poland.

**NDMA Monsoon contingency plan**

[www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=5498&pid:50](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=5498&pid:50)

NDMA emphasizes the contingency process as a preparedness measure for response to natural hazards. Following contingency planning for winter hazards, this exercise focuses on planning for the oncoming monsoon season to identify and analyze related risks for their humanitarian impact, and to define roles and responsibilities of diverse national stakeholders for preparedness and response.

**Tsunami Flash Appeal report: Evaluation and Strengthening of Early Warning Systems in Countries Affected by the 26 December 2004 Tsunami**

[www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=5535](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=5535)

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.

