



## International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

### Announcements



Mary Robinson and Richard Newfarmer at the World Disaster Reduction Campaign launch: Hospitals Safe from Disasters

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### In This Issue:

- Making Hospitals Safe from Disasters: new global campaign launched
- Regional actions start on Hospitals Campaign
- New CRED report 2007: more floods, Asia hit hardest
- Collaborations with DPPI of SEE
- World Bank scopes Pacific Sustainability and DRR Initiative
- Work towards gender mainstreaming in DRR
- Sri Lanka: new multistakeholder DRR mechanism
- Panama: consolidating national platform
- SEE DRR desk study review published

- 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: [isdrhighlights@un.org](mailto:isdrhighlights@un.org) by the 20th day of each month.

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# Highlights

January 2008

### Making Hospitals Safe from Disasters: global campaign launched

The World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009 'Hospitals Safe from Disasters' was launched in Davos, Switzerland, by the UN/ISDR secretariat and the WHO, with support from the World Bank, as a side-event during the World Economic Forum. The campaign's three main objectives are to better protect the lives of patients, health staff and the public by reinforcing structural resilience of health facilities; to ensure that health facilities and services continue to function in the aftermath of disasters; and to better prepare and train health workers on preparedness plans that will keep health systems operational if natural hazards strike. At the global launch in Davos, speakers included Under-Secretary-General John Holmes, WHO ADG Dr Ala Alwan, Princess Zahra Aga Khan, Mary Robinson, Richard Newfarmer of the World Bank, Walter Fust of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Walter Ammann of the IDRC and Global Risk Forum GRF Davos.

*For more information, please contact Tze Ming Mok ([mokt@un.org](mailto:mokt@un.org)).*

*Videos of the panellists' interventions are available online at:*

[www.unisdr.org/eng/public\\_aware/world\\_camp/2008-2009/launch.html](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/public_aware/world_camp/2008-2009/launch.html)

### Regional actions start on Hospitals Campaign

Coinciding with the Global launch in Davos, regional launches of 'Hospitals Safe from Disasters' took place in Bangkok and Panama on 25 January, with further regional actions to come.

**Bangkok:** The regional campaign was launched by UN/ISDR Asia-Pacific, WHO Regional Office for South East Asia (SEARO), WHO Regional office for the Western Pacific (WPRO) and key regional partners, resulting in concrete first steps and recommendations to develop a joint regional strategy on safe hospitals for Asia and the Pacific. SEARO and WPRO will keep Campaign momentum going throughout the year with staggered regional launches that coincide with high level regional health meetings.

*For more information, please contact Christel Rose ([rosec@un.org](mailto:rosec@un.org))*

**Panama:** UN/ISDR Latin America and the Caribbean launched the campaign in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for the Americas (AMRO), also known as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), which has been working on safe hospitals issues for several years, laying significant groundwork for the World Campaign.

*For more information, please contact Julio Trelles ([jtrells@eird.org](mailto:jtrells@eird.org))*

**Tehran:** The campaign was launched on 29 January with a joint press conference between WHO, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

and UN/ISDR secretariat, and was attended by embassies of ECO states, media and UN agencies.

*For more information, please contact Seyed Mohammad Sadatinejad ([mohammad.sadatinejad@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:mohammad.sadatinejad@unisdr-wana.org))*

**Cairo:** on 3 February the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) and UN/ISDR Western Asia and North Africa (WANA) office will be launching the campaign, with the attendance of the Egyptian Minister of Health, and UN/ISDR secretariat Director Salvano Briceno. The WANA regional Arabic website will also be launched that day at [www.unisdr-wana.org](http://www.unisdr-wana.org).

*For more information, please contact Tine Ramstad ([tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org))*

**PreventionWeb:** an email listserver on Health and Disaster Risk Reduction will be operational from early February, and will be used to share information and support collaboration during the World Campaign. *Subscribe to the list under the 'Networks & Communities' section of: [www.preventionweb.net/english/themes/health/](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/themes/health/)*

## New CRED report for 2007: more floods, Asia hit hardest

2007 saw a marked increase in the number of floods compared with the average of the last seven years, and Asia was the region hit hardest by disasters, according to the new yearly figures released by the Belgian WHO collaborating Center for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED). Eight out of the 10 countries with the highest disaster deaths of 2007 were in Asia, with 4234 killed in Bangladesh by cyclone Sidr last November, and more than 3000 fatalities from severe floods in Bangladesh, India, North Korea and China. "Current trends are consistent with the predictions of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, in that Asia, and also West Africa, are already suffering from more severe and frequent floods," says Professor Debarati Guha-Sapir, director of CRED.

*For more information, please contact Regina Below ([regina.below@uclouvain.be](mailto:regina.below@uclouvain.be))*

## Collaborations with DPPI of SEE

South Eastern Europe's Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative (DPPI) is launching three collaborations for 2008 on disaster risk reduction (DRR) in its yearly workplan. UN/ISDR secretariat is collaborating with DPPI to establish a DRR database within DPPI, and to hold a regional workshop on the roles and establishment of National Platforms in addressing DRR issues. CADRI will collaborate with DPPI to incorporate disaster risk reduction into the DPPI's Disaster Management Training Programme, an ongoing regional training initiative that was established in 2001.

*For more information, please contact Miroslav Vujanic ([miro.vujanic@dpri.info](mailto:miro.vujanic@dpri.info))*

## World Bank scopes Pacific Sustainability and DRR initiative

In preparation for its initiative on 'Sustainable Management through Reduced Risk of Disasters and Climate Variability in the Pacific', the World Bank launched a scoping mission at a meeting of the Pacific

## WEB RESOURCES



Geohazards international, a non-profit working towards Global Earthquake Safety  
<http://www.geohaz.org/contents/projects/tsunamiguide.html>

Geohazards International has a working draft available online of a Tsunami Preparedness guidebook on how to become a Tsunami safety advocate. They are inviting comments and feedback. Also available on the website is an archive of other tsunami preparedness resources.



EIIP Podcast: Top Ten Favorites for 2007  
[www.emforum.org/podcasts/071226.htm](http://www.emforum.org/podcasts/071226.htm)  
This podcast features the top ten favorite virtual presentations given as part of the Emergency Information Infrastructure Partnership (EIIP) Virtual Forum series during 2007 in the form of a ten minute review. All transcripts are archived and available from the EIIP Virtual Forum homepage.



Disaster Zone: Emergency Management in the Blogosphere  
[www.disaster-zone.com/](http://www.disaster-zone.com/)

The weblog of Eric Holdeman, Emergency Management and Homeland Security principal with consultancy firm ICF International. The weblog focuses on contemporary developments in all aspects of disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, recovery, and response.

Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network, hosted by SOPAC, on 16 January in Suva, Fiji. The aim of the initiative, which is funded from GFDRR Track II resources, is to operationalize the World Bank's regional policy note 'Not if but when', and to develop specific investments in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation to be implemented in the coming years. At the meeting, partners, including the UN/ISDR Asia and Pacific Office, were briefed on the proposed methodology for the scoping mission, and input was sought on the approach.

*For more information, please contact: Idah Pswarayi-Riddihough, ([ipswarayiriddiho@worldbank.org](mailto:ipswarayiriddiho@worldbank.org))*

### **Work towards gender mainstreaming in DRR**

A three-day workshop in Geneva began work on policy guidelines for mainstreaming gender into disaster risk reduction (DRR), on 28-30 January. Experts from different backgrounds agreed that there was much common ground between gender mainstreaming in Climate Change Adaptation, Environmental Resource Management and DRR, that a gender perspective had not been adequately integrated into any of these areas, and that joint work was necessary. A great need for policy guidance development was identified. Participants agreed on an outline of policy guidelines that they committed to working on together, to make available to governments at national and local levels. To support implementation of these guidelines, participants also identified a list of documents and tools which need to be developed through joint efforts. Participants committed to follow up the results of this workshop to move the gender mainstreaming agenda to the next level. The workshop was co-organized by IUCN and the UN/ISDR secretariat.

*For more information, please contact Lorena Aguilar ([lorena.aguilar@iucn.org](mailto:lorena.aguilar@iucn.org)) and Ana Cristina Thorlund ([thorlund@un.org](mailto:thorlund@un.org))*

### **Sri Lanka: new multistakeholder DRR mechanism**

Sri Lankan stakeholder groups, led by the Disaster Management Centre, under the chairmanship of the

Secretary to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, set up their national mechanism for coordinating disaster risk reduction (DRR). This took the form of a National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee, established on 7 January, which aims to implement the 'Road Map for Disaster Risk Management: Towards a Safer Sri Lanka' by making DRR initiatives in Sri Lanka coordinated, comprehensive and sustainable. Public and private sector institutions, NGOs, donors, UN agencies, academic institutions and the media were all part of the consultations leading up to the establishment of the NDMCC.

*For more information, please contact Mr U.W.L Chandradasa, director, Mitigation and Technology, DMC ([chandradasa@dmc.lk](mailto:chandradasa@dmc.lk))*

### **Panama: consolidating national platform**

The Panamanian government organized the second national forum for the strengthening of their national platform for DRR on 21 and 22 January. The forum analyzed progress since the platform was established in December 2005, and discussed new issues such as the need to provide institutional resources to address links between climate change and disaster risk reduction, as well as public investment in DRR. Around 110 people from government and civil society attended, including experts and high level officials. Since 2005, the Panamanian national platform has incorporated new actors, including the Panama Canal Authorities.

*For more information, please contact Haris Sanahuja ([hsanahuja@eird.org](mailto:hsanahuja@eird.org))*

### **SEE DRR desk study review published**

The Disaster Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Initiative for South Eastern Europe, developed by the World Bank, UN/ISDR secretariat and partners within the context of the GFDRR, published a desk study review on risk assessment at the end of January. This assessment has been carried out by RMSI, in a form of a desk review of all existing and available assessments, reports, and studies on DRR. The desk study review represents a practical tool for all actors when addressing issues related to the disaster risk reduction in South Eastern Europe at a national and regional level.

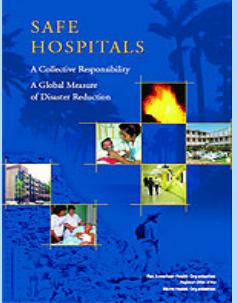
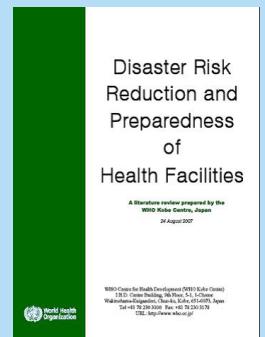
*For more information, please contact Miroslav Vujanic ([miro.vujanic@dppi.info](mailto:miro.vujanic@dppi.info))*

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

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

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 February 2008 - March 2008

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	LIBRARY CORNER
<b>February</b>			
3	Cairo, Egypt	West Asia & North Africa regional launch of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign. Contact: tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org	 <p>Prepared by PAHO/WHO for the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction, 'Safe Hospitals' emphasizes that protecting critical health facilities, particularly hospitals, from the avoidable consequences of disasters, is not only essential to meeting the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations, but also a social and political necessity in its own right.</p>
6-9	New Orleans, USA	Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) Annual Meeting See: <a href="http://www.eeri.org/news/meetings.html">www.eeri.org/news/meetings.html</a>	
7-9	New Delhi, India	Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) 2008, 'Sustainable Development and Climate Change.' See: <a href="http://www.teriin.org/dsds/2008/">http://www.teriin.org/dsds/2008/</a>	
25-27	Richmond, BC, Canada	Emergency Preparedness for Industry and Commerce Council (EPICC) Forum 2008 'Business Continuity is Everybody's Business' See: <a href="http://www.epiccforum.org">www.epiccforum.org</a>	
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: <a href="http://www.fao.org/foodclimate/">http://www.fao.org/foodclimate/</a>	Risk reduction and emergency preparedness: WHO six-year strategy for the health sector and community capacity development, WHO, 2007
<b>March</b>			
1	Online, Netherlands	Flood modelling for management: online short course. See: <a href="http://www.unesco-ihe.org/education/short_courses/online_courses/flood_modelling_for_management">www.unesco-ihe.org/education/short_courses/online_courses/flood_modelling_for_management</a>	Under the aegis of international policies, including WHA resolutions, and as part of its mandate as the international health lead agency and the IASC global health cluster leader, WHO intensified its work during 2006 in the field of emergency preparedness and response. This strategy is based on the recommendations of a global consultation held by WHO in February 2006 that brought together experts in emergency preparedness and response from around the world. The consultation was followed by several important activities to discuss the various components of the strategy and to reach consensus on the objectives and key strategic directions.
1	St Augustine, Trinidad	Disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean: the role of the surveying community, University of the West Indies. Contact: Dr Jacob Opadeyi, <a href="mailto:jacob.opadeyi@tsa.uwi.tt">jacob.opadeyi@tsa.uwi.tt</a>	
3-8	Santiago, Spain	Advanced training course spatial planning as a strategy for mitigation and adaptation to natural hazards, University of Santiago de Compostela. See: <a href="http://www.xente.mundo-r.com/science/atc">www.xente.mundo-r.com/science/atc</a>	Disaster risk reduction and preparedness for health facilities, WHO Kobe Centre, 2007
4 - 12	New Delhi, India	Online training course on comprehensive disaster risk management framework, NIDM & World Bank. See: <a href="http://www.nidm.gov.in/WBI/OnlineCourse.pdf">www.nidm.gov.in/WBI/OnlineCourse.pdf</a>	This literature review was prepared to assess the extent of our knowledge on health facility disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness to better achieve the goals of the HFA by identifying the priority areas of action for the WHO Kobe Centre. Considering the critical need for health facilities in the aftermath of disasters, priority should be put on identifying and reducing the weaknesses of existing facilities and on improving the building standards for new construction.
10-26	Bangkok, Thailand	First certificate training programme in tsunami science and preparedness, Asian Institute of Technology. Contact: Dr. Theerachai Haitook, <a href="mailto:theerachai@ait.ac.th">theerachai@ait.ac.th</a>	 <p>WHO Centre for Health Development (WHO Kobe Centre) 1312-1 Center Building, 2-2-1, Umezono, Wakayama City, Wakayama Prefecture 646-0002, Japan Tel +81-73-453-3100, Fax +81-73-453-3101 E-mail: <a href="mailto:kobe@who.int">kobe@who.int</a></p>
17	Bangkok, Thailand	37th Regional training course on disaster management (DMC 37), 17 March-4 April, ADPC. See: <a href="http://www.adpc.net">www.adpc.net</a>	
31	Online, Turkey	Safe Cities online course in Turkish, 31 March-12 May, World Bank and Turkish universities. Contact: B. Burçak Başbuğ, <a href="mailto:bberna@metu.edu.tr">bberna@metu.edu.tr</a>	



## International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

### Announcements

#### PreventionWeb.net

##### Call for Contributions

PreventionWeb aims at facilitating an understanding of the subject of disaster risk reduction and the work of professionals in DRR by providing current news and information on the topic. Contribute content related to disaster risk reduction online at:

[www.preventionweb.net/english/submit](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/submit)

#### UN/ISDR Website for Europe Launched

The UN/ISDR has a new website for Europe. Similar to the other regional websites, the European one provides a regional focus on news, information, initiatives and publication related to disaster risk reduction in Europe.

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

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### In This Issue:

- Mainstreaming DRR into Development Policies and Programmes
- UN Secretary General Cites HFA as Key Tool for DRR and Climate Change Adaptation
- Sustainable Development Network Week, Washington, DC
- Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction in Asia and Pacific
- Creation of a Regional Thematic Platform Surrounding Urban Risk in Panama
- Institutional Assessment of National Platform in Senegal
- Informal Partnership Promoting the Inter-Linkages between Disasters and Environment
- Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Launch of 2008-2009 World Disaster Risk Reduction Campaign in West Asia and North Africa
- ISDR Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (RPDR) in the Americas
- New Online Encyclopaedia of Hyogo Framework for Action: HFA-Pedia
- Disaster Risk Management Today: Global Contexts and Local Tools

#### Also:

- Web Resources
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# Highlights

February 2008

#### Mainstreaming DRR into Development Policies and Programmes

The UNDG/ISDR Task Team on Disaster Risk Reduction, composed of more than 15 UN agencies, met for the first time in New York on 28 January 2008 to accelerate mainstreaming DRR and Hyogo Framework into UN policies and programmes at country level. The Task Team is expected to finalize shortly the Guidelines on integrating disaster risk reduction into the CCA/UNDAF process and disseminate and advocate use and implementation of the guidelines, as well as support the specific programming needs of UN Country Teams in the area of disaster risk reduction. The ISDR secretariat will contribute to the Task Team to ensure synergies, guidance and harmony with the work being done by the ISDR system partners at the international and regional levels. The Task Team will share information with and consult where necessary with other relevant actors, in particular the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) consisting of UN agencies, NGO consortia, IOM, and the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement.

*For more information, please contact: [palm@un.org](mailto:palm@un.org)*

#### UN Secretary General Cites HFA as Key Tool for DRR and Climate Change Adaptation

A high-level panel on "Addressing Climate Change: the United Nations and the World at Work" was convened on 11 February, at UN Headquarters in New York. The meeting was assembled by the President of General Assembly who urged all the participants to support the negotiation process launched in Bali and to focus on immediate practical action through effective partnerships. Following the Panel meeting, Member states discussed the recently launched Secretary General's report entitled: "Overview of United Nations activities in relation to climate change". The report refers to the ISDR as a relevant and existing coordination mechanism, and the Hyogo Framework as an existing tool for disaster risk reduction, which need to be fully utilized in the context of climate change adaptation. The report emphasizes the importance of making accessible all existing disaster reduction tools and methods and information on best practices at the national and local levels.

*For more information: <http://www.unisdr.org/climate-change>*

#### Sustainable Development Network Week, Washington, DC

Each year, the World Bank's sustainable development network (SDN) hosts a knowledge sharing week at the Bank's headquarters in Washington DC. This year's theme is "Sustainable and Inclusive Globalization". The highlight of this year's events was the high level session on "Investing in Disaster Prevention for Sustainable Development", which took place on 20 February. Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Sir John Holmes, opened the ceremony in his capacity as the Chair of the ISDR. He underlined the commitment of both the UN and the World Bank to take the issue of disaster risk reduction seriously. The UN/ISDR and the World

Bank have been building an innovative and successful partnership since 2006, which has resulted in creation of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). The GFDRR accelerates implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action at national, regional and international levels.

For more information: [www.gfdrr.org](http://www.gfdrr.org)

### **Regional Task Force on Urban Risk Reduction in Asia and Pacific**

A regional task force on urban risk reduction (RTF-URR) in Asia and the Pacific was launched during a brainstorming session on urban resilience and disaster vulnerability held 23-24 January 2008 in Kobe, Japan. Initial members of the task force include ISDR, UNDP, ADRC, ADPC, UN-Habitat, EMI, UNEP, IRP, JICA, Kyoto University, Kobe University, UNU, UNCRD, WHO, DRI and NSET. The membership may be expanded to other interested organizations. The task force agreed to focus on policy and advocacy, knowledge management, and promoting synergies of national and regional URR activities. The recently established office of the UN/ISDR secretariat in Kobe will act as the focal point for the task force. For more information: <http://www.adrc.or.jp/events/RTFmeeting20080130/top.html>.

### **Creation of a Regional Thematic Platform Surrounding Urban Risk in Panama**

On 7-8 February a workshop was held in Panama with the objective of establishing a sustainable regional thematic platform on urban risk. The workshop was organized to ensure that new and out-of-the box thinking was stimulated and captured. The 60 participants were a wide variety of actors selected for their potential to contribute with new and practical ideas in technical areas and for their inputs surrounding both formal and informal mechanisms to create a wide 'urban risk movement' in the region. OAS, DIPECHO, IDRC and the World Bank representatives were also present. The results of this meeting include a number of practical and creative strategies based on the experience and knowledge of the highly qualified urban risk professionals in the region.

For more information contact: [eird@eird.org](mailto:eird@eird.org)

### **Institutional Assessment of National Platform in Senegal**

As support to, and in collaboration with, the Civil Protection Directorate in Senegal, as the Hyogo Framework Focal Point institution, the UN/ISDR organized a consultant mission in the country. Two experts from Senegal and Madagascar analyzed the current set up of the Civil Protection Directorate, mapped partners' disaster risk reduction activities and sketched the potential for reinforcing the country's national coordinating mechanism/ National Platform (NP). They recommended that a charter highlighting the rights and obligations of NP members be drafted as well as other measures. This draft is proposed to ensure proactive support and necessary dynamism of the NP as a partnership forum, playing a key role in implementing the Hyogo Framework of Action.

For information contact: [Lars.Bernd.bernd@un.org](mailto:Lars.Bernd.bernd@un.org)

### **Informal Partnership Promoting the Inter-Linkages between Disasters and Environment**

UN/ISDR is part of the new Disaster and Environment Working Group for Asia (DEWGA), an informal partnership promoting the mainstreaming of DRR within environmental policies and the integration of environmental components in DRR

## **WEB RESOURCES**

### **Special Web Pages and Websites for "Hospitals Safe from Disasters"**



The ISDR secretariat has created a special webpage on its new campaign: "Hospitals Safe from Disasters". Here you can find all the information you need about the objectives and expected results of the two year campaign.

The World Disaster Reduction Campaign was launched in Davos, Switzerland in January with the support of World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank. The new web page is at: [www.unisdr.org/wdrc-2008-2009](http://www.unisdr.org/wdrc-2008-2009).



The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has created a new website, as a contribution to the WDRC, to encompass activities related to the issue of "Hospitals Safe from Disasters", with particular focus on, but not limited to Latin America and the Caribbean. The Campaign has provided the impetus for creation of this point of collection for documentation, news and advocacy material related to this issue.

<http://safehospitals.info/>



The Regional Disaster Information Center (CRID, for its Spanish acronym), which compiles and disseminates disaster-related information in Latin America and the Caribbean, is dedicating a full page on the WDRC campaign with a wide range of useful information. [http://www.crid.or.cr/crid/hospitales\\_seguros/index.shtml](http://www.crid.or.cr/crid/hospitales_seguros/index.shtml)

national plans in Asia. The group is currently composed of WWF, IUCN, CARE, SEI, ADPC, Kyoto University, UNEP and ISDR. An inventory disaster and environment initiative was developed by Kyoto University as a first step of cooperation. DEWGA expressed strong interest in being closely involved in ISDR initiatives, with a possibility for taking the leadership in the thematic HFA reporting process to GPDRR2 on the issue of disasters, environment and climate change adaptation. Coordination will take place with UNEP at the regional and global levels to avoid duplication of leadership in this area. DEWGA was invited to the IAP meeting as a regional partner. *For more information contact the DEWGA secretariat:*

[Angie.Woo@wwfgreatermekong.org](mailto:Angie.Woo@wwfgreatermekong.org)

### **Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Risk Reduction**

The 10th Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, Monaco, 20-22 February 2008 focused on the theme "Mobilizing Finance for Climate Challenge". It was the largest gathering of environment ministers since last December's historic UN Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia. The ISDR partnership on environment and disaster risk reduction produced a document for the meeting. It includes a multi-agency statement on the intergovernmental mandates and principles for integrated action on environment and disaster risk, as a key element of sustainable development and climate change adaptation. *For more information:* <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/partner-netw/environment/ISDR-environment-and-DRR.pdf>

### **Launch of 2008-2009 World Disaster Risk Reduction Campaign in West Asia and North Africa**

The World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-09: "Hospitals Safe from Disasters" was launched on 3 February for the West Asia and North Africa regions, in Cairo, Egypt. The launch took place at the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO/EMRO) with participation of Dr Hatem Elgabaly, Egypt's Minister of Health and Population; Dr Hussein A. Gezairy, Regional Director for WHO/EMRO, and Mr Salvano Briceno, Director of the UN/ISDR. The event was attended by 90 people from embassies, bilateral agencies, Egyptian hospitals and universities, and WHO staff. Dr Gezairy and Mr Briceno encouraged partners to take an active role in the campaign and work closely with WHO and UN/ISDR to achieve the campaign objectives. Dr Elgabaly stressed the need for a multi-stakeholder involvement in order to take

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

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

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.org](http://www.unisdr-wana.org)

adequate measures, before, during and after a disaster - emphasizing the need for education and public awareness. WHO/EMRO, UN/ISDR and WANA will now partner with governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals throughout the region to raise awareness about why and how to join efforts to protect health facilities. WHO/EMRO, has launched a Regional Hazard Atlas and UN/ISDR recently unveiled a regional website in Arabic ([www.unisdr-wana.org](http://www.unisdr-wana.org)), as practical tools to promote the campaign. *For more information:* [www.unisdr-wana.org](http://www.unisdr-wana.org)

### **ISDR Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (RPDR) in the Americas**

Meetings were held with the representative of the OAS during his last visit to Panama to organize the first session of the RPDR in the Americas. After reviewing the agenda of related regional activities for 2008, which include the Mitch +10 forum, it has now been decided that the RPDR meeting will be held in early November 2008. The meeting of high-level national authorities on DRR to be held in Caracas, Venezuela on 26-27 March will serve to further the preparatory process of the regional platform. *For more information contact: Haris Sanahuja –* [hsanahuja@eird.org](mailto:hsanahuja@eird.org)

### **New Online Encyclopaedia of Hyogo Framework for Action: HFA-Pedia**

The regional unit for the Americas has developed HFA-Pedia, a new online information tool in order to foster the exchange of information. HFA-Pedia is an online 'wiki'-based website with an interactive encyclopaedia-type database relating to the implementation of the HFA. It is available in English and Spanish. Currently, information is largely centred on countries in the Americas. *For further information contact: Jennifer Guralnick at* [jguralnick@eird.org](mailto:jguralnick@eird.org) *or* <http://www.eird.org/hfa.htm>

### **Disaster Risk Management Today: Global Contexts and Local Tools**

"Disaster Risk Management Today: Global Contexts and Local Tools", developed by the UN/ISDR secretariat the Americas and International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC). This new publication provides an overview of DRR in Latin America and the Caribbean and presents practical information for a broad audience, including professionals, decision-makers, and policy makers. Emphasis is placed on the HFA and the possibilities of its implementation for local sustainable development, territorial land-use planning and risk management at the municipal level. *For more information contact:* [www.eird.org](http://www.eird.org), Julio Garcia - [jgarcia@eird.org](mailto:jgarcia@eird.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Conferences, Trainings and Events March 2008 - April 2008

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
<b>March</b>		
01 Mar-15 May	Netherlands	Flood modelling for management: online short course
01	Trinidad and Tobago	Disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean: the role of the surveying community
03-08	Spain	Advanced training course spatial planning as a strategy for mitigation and adaptation to natural hazards
03-07	Switzerland	From rapid response towards prevention in earthquake-prone countries
03-06	Canada	Atlantic climate change conference risks, responses and tools for action
04 Mar-12 Apr	India	Online training course on comprehensive disaster risk management framework
06-07	Jamaica	5th National disaster management conference (NDMC)
10-26	Thailand	First certificate training programme in tsunami science and preparedness
17 Mar-04 Apr	Thailand	37th Regional training course on disaster management (DMC 37)
20-21	Morocco	International conference on forests, bioenergy and climate change
31 Mar-12 May	Turkey	Safe cities online course in Turkish
<b>April</b>		
02-04	Italy	Climate protection and renewable energy: medium and small communities facing the challenge
03	France	1st European day of risk training
13-16	USA	Solutions to coastal disasters 2008
16-18	Germany	Nature-oriented flood damage prevention (nofdp project) - planning, evaluation and communication
20-24	Thailand	Conservation curriculum: blending local culture and knowledge with modern science to enable school children to participate in forest management
21 Apr-02 May	Thailand	Regional training course on climate risk management
21 Apr - 20 Jun	Switzerland	Post graduate certificate for the study and management of geological risk
22-26	USA	Understanding earthquakes: from research to resilience: 2008 national earthquake conference

Source: PreventionWeb.net [www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events)

## Library Corner

### Virtual Disaster Reduction Library II to be released in Davos, Switzerland in August 2008

The Global Risk Forum (GRF) led by Dr Walter Ammann, Director General and Founder, is organizing under the patronage of the UN/ISDR, a second International Disaster Reduction Conference, on 25-29 August 2008 in Davos, Switzerland. The UN/ISDR secretariat will release the 2008 Virtual Disaster Reduction Library II during the conference. UN/ISDR invites contributions to this project by providing us with your most relevant and recent documentation (PDF) and publications, including educational materials and multimedia products. Authorization to download documents from your website is also most appreciated. Should you wish to prepare analytical papers for any of the subjects, address your contributions to Marie-Lou Darricau, UNISDR library, project coordinator E-mail: [darricau@un.org](mailto:darricau@un.org), For more information: <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/library/virtual-library/Virtualibproject.pdf>

### Sharing Knowledge and Information about Disasters

The Bureau de réduction des désastres et formation secourisme (RDFS) of the French Red Cross has produced a new CD-ROM containing important information about how communities can prepare themselves against disasters. The French Red Cross which has renowned expertise in risk reduction activities and emergency response is offering this new CD-ROM, "Partageons nos connaissances, valorisons nos acquis, préparons-nous aux catastrophes naturelles", to communities worldwide. (CDR) Croix-rouge française, [www.croix-rouge.fr](http://www.croix-rouge.fr). Contact : [deskreducrisk@croix-rouge.fr](mailto:deskreducrisk@croix-rouge.fr)



### Bibliography Offered on Health, Disasters and Health

ISDR-Biblio 3: Health, Disasters and Risk supports the theme of the 2008-2009 World Disaster Reduction Campaign: "Hospitals Safe from Disasters, Reduce Risk, Protect Health Facilities, Save Lives". The bibliography contains literature on health and disaster risk; disaster and emergency management; health facilities and services; environmental impact on health; climate change effects on health; mental health; mitigation and preparedness; public health; water and sanitation; and gender and health. A CD-ROM complements the ISDR-Biblio 3 with its compilation of key documents and publications which is available in PDF. Contact: Marie-Lou Darricau : [darricau@un.org](mailto:darricau@un.org)





## International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

### Announcements

Call for contributions: Good practices in public-private partnerships for disaster risk reduction. To be sent by 31 May 2008. Please contact Stefanie Dannenmann for submission template ([dannenmann@un.org](mailto:dannenmann@un.org)) or visit [www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=1683](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=1683)

Call for contributions: Good practices in drought risk reduction. To be sent by 30 June 2008. Please contact Elena Dokhlik ([dokhlik@un.org](mailto:dokhlik@un.org)), for a submission template.



Painting by Melda Tacyildiz, 13, winner of Turkish painting competition 'How do I get ready for an Earthquake', organized by Bogazici University Kandilli Observatory and the Earthquake Research Institute's Earthquake Sensibility Days

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### In This Issue:

- Regions launch Hospitals Safe from Disasters Campaign
- Rio Group declares support for ISDR System
- Philippines focuses on local level DRR
- Gender perspective on Pacific DRM and climate change adaptation
- Local Central Asian DRR collaboration emphasized
- Norway and China collaborate on bilateral DRR
- NGO inputs wanted for DRR & climate change report
- Middle Eastern and North African countries pinpoint risk assessment challenges
- Madagascar and Senegal's National Platforms launch South-South DRR partnership
- Grassroots and indigenous women lead on DRR
- ISDR system joint work programme launched

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: [isdrhighlights@un.org](mailto:isdrhighlights@un.org) by the 20th day of each month.

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# Highlights

March 2008

### Regions launch Hospitals Safe from Disasters Campaign

Regional launches of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign: Hospitals Safe from Disasters, continued to roll out. On March 11, UN/ISDR secretariat and WHO in the Americas (also known as the Pan American Health Association or PAHO) launched the regional campaign for the Americas in Panama City, at the Saint Thomas Hospital. With over 200 people in attendance, participants in this event included Dr Cirilo Lawson, National Director of Health representing the Health Ministry, Roberto Velasquez Abood, Director of the National System of Civil Protection (SINAPROC), Dave Zervaas, Regional Coordinator for the Americas of UN/ISDR secretariat, and Dr Guadalupe Verdejo of PAHO in Panama. The Central Asia regional campaign launch will take place in Dushanbe, Tajikstan, in early May, co-organized by UN/ISDR secretariat and the WHO. Globally, regions and countries are in the process of developing joint plans of action and sharing assessment tools, particularly between UN/ISDR secretariat, the WHO, and Ministries of Health.

*For more information on the Campaign in the Americas, please contact Julio Trellés ([jtreilles@eird.org](mailto:jtreilles@eird.org)).*

*For more information on Campaign activities in Central Asia, please contact Goulsara Pusatova ([goulsara.pusatova@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:goulsara.pusatova@unisdr-wana.org))*

### Rio Group declares support for ISDR System

Government representatives of the 20 Latin American and Caribbean countries of the Rio Group emphasized the importance of supporting the ISDR system and the UN/ISDR secretariat, at its 20th Group Summit of Heads of State and Government. Its Santo Domingo Declaration of March 7 refers to the need to support initiatives of the ISDR system in the region and UN/ISDR secretariat, as well as calling upon nations for more active participation in advancing with their National Platforms for disaster risk reduction (DRR), exchange of good practices in DRR, and policies that support DRR. The declaration draws special attention to the need to support ongoing regional initiatives such as those by UN/ISDR secretariat, OAS, ACS, CEPREDENAC, CDERA, CAPRADE, the White Helmets Commission and the Simon Bolivar Humanitarian Task Force, as well as to the ACS Plan of Action for DRR agreed at the High-Level Conference in Saint-Marc, Haiti in November 2007.

*For the full Rio Declaration (Spanish only) please paste this link into your browser: [www.eird.org/newsroom/declaracion-S-D.pdf](http://www.eird.org/newsroom/declaracion-S-D.pdf). For more information, please contact Julio Trellés ([jtreilles@eird.org](mailto:jtreilles@eird.org))*

### Philippines focuses on local level DRR

The Philippines National Conference on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Local Governance (NCDRR 2008) took place on 4-6 March in Makati City, and was attended by around 60 national and local government representatives. How to facilitate easier access to development funds for local-level DRR activities was highlighted as a particular area needing further guidance and support. In general, participants sought guidance and support for better coordination between national and local DRR, from key international partners such as the World Bank, the European Commission, UN/ISDR

secretariat, UNDP, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre and the Earthquake Megacities Initiative. Participants noted that significant progress in the Philippines had been made in disaster risk reduction and Hyogo Framework for Action implementation at the national level through the National Disaster Coordination Council, and at the provincial and district levels through Local Government Units. The Conference was organized by the Philippines Department of the Interior and Local Government and the University of the Philippines, with the support of Germany (GTZ) and the European Commission (DIPECHO).

For more information, please visit [www.ndcc.gov.ph](http://www.ndcc.gov.ph)

## Gender perspective on Pacific DRM and climate change adaptation

Governments, donors and NGOs from Pacific Island Countries attended the Forum on the *Gendered Dimensions of Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change: Ways forward for collaboration on research and programming in the Pacific*, in late February. The workshop explored potential for collaboration between practitioners in the Pacific region, with particular attention to the gendered dimensions of this work. Participants highlighted further opportunities for collaboration between disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA) such as 1) translating technical weather and climate information to be better understood by community practitioners; 2) integrating gender, traditional environmental knowledge (TEK), DRM, and CCA into curriculum at all school levels; 3) including gender, TEK, and participatory methods into all Pacific initiatives and national strategies; and 4) sensitizing donors to the importance of gender and cultural roles in DRM, CCA, and natural resource management. The forum was sponsored by AusAID and the UNDP Pacific Centre.

For more information, please contact Cheryl Anderson ([canderso@hawaii.edu](mailto:canderso@hawaii.edu))

## Local DRR collaboration emphasized in Central Asia

Long term local cooperation over disaster risk reduction (DRR) between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan was the goal of a regional meeting in the Ferghana Valley, in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, on March 3. Participants were local government representatives from across the three countries, as well as from the National Red Crescent Societies. Participants believed that higher level regional inter-state agreements over DRR cooperation had not yet provided specific strategies for dealing with local inter-state needs, and that local level cooperation was sorely needed. Immediate recommendations included the establishment of a working group for Ferghana Valley, work on early warning systems, reappraisal of interstate and border agreements in the area, and better knowledge sharing and capacity building. A key medium term goal was to work towards permanent joint training exercises in the area. The meeting was held by the Uzbekistan Ministry of Emergency Situations with support from DIPECHO and was attended by the UN/ISDR secretariat in Western Asia/North Africa.

For more information, please contact Goulara Pulatova ([goulara.pulatova@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:goulara.pulatova@unisdr-wana.org)).

## Norway and China collaborate on bilateral DRR

In a bilateral meeting this March, Norway and China agreed to cooperate on disaster risk reduction (DRR) through their national platforms. The two countries aim to report on the results of their cooperation during the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in June 2009. There will be a follow-up regional meeting, building on a South-South approach, and follow-up bilateral meetings on sub-topics, which may include climate change and DRR.

For more information, please contact German Velasquez ([velasquezg@un.org](mailto:velasquezg@un.org))

## WEB RESOURCES



### [International Year of Sanitation](http://esa.un.org/iys/)

The website for the International Year of Sanitation provides resources on building resilience through sanitation and clean drinking water, including a collection of publications on the risks of emergency sanitation, and disaster reduction in the water and sanitation sector.



### [Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre](http://www.bdpc.org.bd/video/)

Two Cyclone Sidr documentaries showcasing Bangladesh's preparedness for disasters, are now available via the website of the Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre. The short documentary films are "Phoenix: Surviving SIDR" and "Coordination of SIDR Response".



### [Hospitals Safe from Disasters on Youtube](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tXa2VNgbwM)

A 'Hospitals Safe from Disaster' campaign trailer is the latest addition to the UN/ISDR Youtube playlist. More World Disaster Reduction Campaign resource videos including speeches and news clips are available by searching 'Hospitals Safe from Disasters' on Youtube.

## NGO inputs wanted for DRR & climate change report

NGOs have the opportunity to participate in developing a report to the UN Secretary General on climate change and disaster risk reduction, while also participating in a caucus for action. Sponsored by the UN Department of Public Information, the report's four sections will be: An Introduction, a section on Risk Reduction and Climate Change, specific thematic issues such as water security and biodiversity, and a resource list. ProAct Network, an environmental NGO based in Switzerland with a particular focus on DRR and climate change, has been asked to co-ordinate NGO inputs to this report. Their first goal is to establish a working group of members which would a) help identify information on DRR from different parts of the world, representing experiences from different parts of society and a suite of approaches; b) collate this information into a series of draft reports; and c) circulate these reports to all contributing partners for review, before finally submitting the report to the UN Secretary General on behalf of all contributors.

*For more information, or to indicate interest in participating, please contact David Stone ([david.stone@proactnetwork.org](mailto:david.stone@proactnetwork.org))*

## Middle Eastern and North African countries pinpoint risk assessment challenges

Representatives of the League of Arab States, UN agencies, Regional Organizations, Universities and the IFRC, stressed the need for urban planning, and for identifying, assessing, and monitoring risk, during the Middle-East and North Africa Regional Inter-agency Workshop on Disaster Risk Assessment on 11-12 March. Given the region's characteristics of rapid urbanization, increased vulnerability to disasters, and the challenges of desertification and climate change to the region's socio-economic situation, participants showed strong commitment to disaster risk reduction (DRR). For example, massive water management challenges were identified, in light of demographic pressures and rising demand for water and power. Risk assessment for this purpose was seen by the participants as a critical tool for planning and development. The workshop was arranged by UN/ISDR secretariat in cooperation with the World Bank and the Arab Academy. The Workshop generated technical input into the Second Regional Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Yemen, 19-21 of May.

*For more information, please contact Tine Ramstad ([tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org))*

## REGIONAL NEWS

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

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.org](http://www.unisdr-wana.org)

## Madagascar and Senegal National Platforms launch South-South DRR partnership

The multi-stakeholder National Platforms of Senegal and Madagascar (Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes - BNGRC) have formed an official partnership to support each others' DRR work and to advocate for a regional DRR network. A agreement of partnership was signed following a week-long exchange visit between the two countries. The Madagascar delegation visited Senegal and shared experiences in national platform coordination, mainstreaming DRR into school curricula, training for DRR at all levels, and decentralization. In turn, the Senegal National Platform shared experience on institutionalizing their National Platform and mainstreaming DRR in the country's Poverty Reduction strategy. The partnership follows institutional analyses in both countries supported by UN/ISDR secretariat and UNDP.

*For more information, please contact the HFA Focal Point in Madagascar, Colonel Rakatotomalama (cnsmira@netclub.mg) or Senegal, Cheikhou Ciss (gestion\_risque@yahoo.fr)*

## Grassroots and indigenous women lead on DRR

More than 50 leaders representing 25 grassroots and indigenous organizations launched a regional networking platform to publicize women's good practices in disaster risk reduction (DRR) via grassroots networks, and to advocate for their representation in DRR policy in local, national, and regional decision making. The launch concluded a workshop entitled "The Role and Power of Grassroots and Indigenous Women's Groups in Disaster Risk Reduction" attended by women's groups from 10 Latin American and Caribbean countries. The group's recommendations will be brought forth to the April ProVention 2008 Consortium Forum in Panama City April 8-10 focusing on People-Centered Disaster Risk Reduction.

*For more information, please visit [www.groots.org](http://www.groots.org), or contact Sarah Silliman ([silliman.sarah@gmail.com](mailto:silliman.sarah@gmail.com))*

## ISDR system Joint Work Programme launched

The first ever ISDR system Joint Work Programme was launched at the ISDR Support Group meeting in Geneva on 7 March 2008. The Joint Work Programme was developed by a core set of ISDR system partner agencies, the FAO, IFRC, ILO, OCHA, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, WMO, the World Bank, and the UN/ISDR secretariat. The Joint Work Programme's purpose is to promote ISDR system wide coherence and coordinated action to support countries in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action. The Joint Work Programme sets out a set of 18 global joint results which ISDR system partners will pursue during 2008 - 2009, linked to the Hyogo Framework.

*For more information, please contact Glenn Mittermann ([mittermann@un.org](mailto:mittermann@un.org))*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

### Conferences, Trainings and Events

#### March 2008 - April 2008

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
<b>April</b>		
31 Mar-4 Apr	Bangkok, Thailand	UNFCCC climate change talks 2008, UNFCCC, UNESCAP, <a href="http://unfccc.int">unfccc.int</a>
13-16	Oahu, USA	Solutions to coastal disasters 2008, <a href="http://content.asce.org/conferences/cd2008">content.asce.org/conferences/cd2008</a>
16-17	New Delhi, India	Operationalising public private partnerships for disaster management: towards resilient and sustainability goals, Aidmatrix Foundation & Response Net, <a href="http://www.respondnet.org">www.respondnet.org</a>
16-18	Darmstadt, Germany	Nature-oriented flood damage prevention (nofdp project), Technischen Universität Darmstadt (TUD) and European Commission, <a href="http://nofdp.bafg.de/servlet/is/14733/">nofdp.bafg.de/servlet/is/14733/</a>
20-24	Thailand	Conservation curriculum: blending local culture and knowledge with modern science to enable school children to participate in forest management. Held at Phu Hin Rong Kla National Park, <a href="http://www.bidnetwork.org/person-49712-en.html">www.bidnetwork.org/person-49712-en.html</a>
21 Apr-20 Jun	Geneva, Switzerland	Post graduate certificate for the study and management of geological risk, University of Geneva, <a href="http://www.unige.ch/hazards">www.unige.ch/hazards</a>
22-26	Seattle, USA	Understanding earthquakes: from research to resilience: 2008 national earthquake conference, FEMA, <a href="http://capps.wsu.edu/registration/earthquake">capps.wsu.edu/registration/earthquake</a>
28	Turks & Caicos Is	10th Caribbean conference on sustainable tourism development (STC-10). Contact CTO Barbados, <a href="mailto:cbar@caribsurf.com">cbar@caribsurf.com</a>
<b>May</b>		
5-7	Cephalonia, Greece	6th International conference on computer simulation risk analysis and hazard mitigation, Wessex Institute of Technology, <a href="http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2008/">www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2008/</a>
5-16	Bangkok, Thailand	Use of GIS and remote sensing in disaster risk management: second regional training course, ADPC, <a href="http://www.adpc.net">www.adpc.net</a>
8-10	Colombo, Sri Lanka	7th Regional Consultative Committee meeting on disaster management: ADPC and Sri Lankan Government
14-16	Islamabad, Pakistan	2008 International conference on school safety: Aga Khan Planning and Building Services and Focus Humanitarian Assistance
19-23	Lodz, Poland	International conference - ecohydrological processes and sustainable floodplain management opportunities and concepts for water hazard mitigation, and ecological and socioeconomic sustainability; European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology, <a href="http://www.erce.unesco.lodz.pl">www.erce.unesco.lodz.pl</a>
19-30	Klong Luang, Thailand	Capacity development for disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation: Asian Institute of Technology, <a href="http://www.ait.ac.th">www.ait.ac.th</a>
24-26	Kobe, Japan	Pre-G8 Environment Ministers' Meeting: Ministry of Environment, Japan, <a href="http://www.env.go.jp/en/">www.env.go.jp/en/</a>

Source: PreventionWeb.net [www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events)

## Library Corner

Call for contributions: Virtual Disaster Reduction Library II (deadline 30 April 2008)



The UN/ISDR secretariat will release the 2008 Virtual Disaster Reduction Library II at the 2nd International Disaster Reduction Conference in Davos, Switzerland, from 25-29 August 2008. Building on the success of the first Virtual Disaster Reduction Library released in 2005 in Kobe, a new edition is being developed as a set of DVDs including, documents, multimedia, interviews and articles. It will contain a selection of most relevant publications and technical documents, public information such as fact sheets, videos, produced by various partners in the ISDR system and other stakeholders around the world, in the field of disaster risk reduction, natural, environmental and technological hazards, and related issues.

The DVDs will be organized as follows:

1. Foreword(s)
2. Introduction
3. Content:
  - Section 1: HAZARDS. Articles, interviews, videos and documents that illustrate hazards
  - Section 2: SUBJECTS. Articles, papers, case studies, strategies, reports and publications on climate change adaptation, urban risks, environmental vulnerability, health, regional aspects in disaster reduction and risk management, gender, technological disasters.
  - Section 3: SIGNIFICANT DISASTERS. Organized around disasters that occurred over the last 20 years, including success stories, interviews, and information on medium and smaller disasters.
  - Section 4: The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). Articles, documents, papers, and strategies linked to the development of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction since its inception in 2000. It also includes a catalog of ISDR related publications.

The UN/ISDR secretariat is undertaking a consultation in order to identify and collect most relevant documents. To contribute to this project, please provide your most relevant and recent documentation (in PDF preferably) and other publications, as well as your authorization to download useful documents from your website.

Please send your contribution or requests for further information to: Marie-Lou Darricau ([darricau@un.org](mailto:darricau@un.org), tel +41229178859) UN/ISDR Library, IEH 2, 7-8 Chemin de Balexert, Room 0-56, 1219 Chatelaine/Geneva, Switzerland



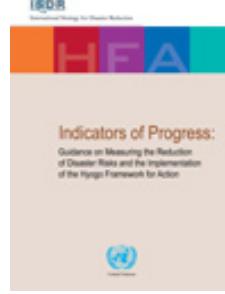
## International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

### Announcements

Call for contributions: Good practices in drought risk reduction. To be sent by 30 June 2008. Please contact Elena Dokhlak ([dokhlak@un.org](mailto:dokhlak@un.org)), for a submission template.

Call for contributions: Good practices in public-private partnerships for disaster risk reduction. To be sent by 31 May 2008. Please contact Stefanie Dannenmann for submission template ([dannenmann@un.org](mailto:dannenmann@un.org)) or visit [www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=1683](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=1683)

**Indicators of Progress:**  
Guidance on Measuring the Reduction of Disaster Risks and the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.  
This new publication helps set priorities for implementing disaster risk reduction while regularly monitoring and reviewing achievements against clear indicators. Available from [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)



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### In This Issue:

- Bangkok: risk reduction on climate change work programme
- Senegal hosts African regional training workshop on DRR
- South Asia and Southeast Asia take action on Safe Hospitals campaign
- APEC moves on adopting HFA in preparedness strategy
- South Eastern Europe Governments call for DRR action plan
- Hyogo Framework Monitoring Tool now online
- ProVention takes drawing board to the streets
- European National Platforms engage CCA agenda
- Venezuela's National Platform holds First Session

### 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: [isdrhighlights@un.org](mailto:isdrhighlights@un.org) by the 20th day of each month.

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# Highlights April 2008

### Bangkok: risk reduction on climate change work programme

Risk management and risk reduction strategies will be included in the fourth session of the UN Climate Change Conference in Poznan, Poland, in December this year. This was agreed at the UNFCCC Climate Change Talks in Bangkok, Thailand, held from 31 March to 4 April. In Bangkok, countries negotiated and agreed on a workplan for negotiating a post-Kyoto international agreement, which must be concluded in Copenhagen in 2009. Following the main talks, the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change held an informal meeting of representatives to assess outcomes and identify next steps. The Chair's summary stressed the need to focus on how to create enabling environments for adaptation, and called for more work on vulnerability mapping at the global level, such as developing vulnerability indices as benchmarks. Economic diversification for building resilience, enhancing links with other activities such as the Adaptation Learning Mechanism of UNDP, additional work on insurance, and learning from the NAPA process were also identified as next steps. The next major meeting this year will be two sessions in Bonn, Germany, 2-13 June, which will include adaptation to climate change through finance and technology.

*For more information, please visit <http://unfccc.int>*

### Senegal hosts African regional training workshop on DRR

In an step towards building a regional network on disaster risk reduction, an African Regional Workshop on disaster risk reduction (DRR) gathered some 90 officials, experts and scholars from 31 countries and various agencies, to focus on training in loss and damage assessments, using the HFA online reporting tool, and mainstreaming DRR into policies and programmes. Held in Dakar, Senegal, on 14-17 April, and co-organized by UNDP, the World Bank, the African Union, and UN/ISDR secretariat, the workshop demonstrated how DRR fits into development, poverty reduction and climate change strategies, and provided practical training and tools. Countries that were interested in further engagement on HFA reporting and monitoring, be it to pilot the online tool, undertake in-depth studies, or strengthen National Platforms, included Seychelles, Lesotho, Mauritania, South Africa, Madagascar, Uganda, and Burundi. Comoros, Uganda and many others were interested in further Damage Assessment and Loss Assessment training workshops. Uganda, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Seychelles and others expressed interest in sharing information how to access Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery Track II funding and adjustment of current Track II projects. The Regional Platform meeting planned for September, in conjunction with the second Ministerial Council meeting for the African Strategy for DRR, will be an opportunity to review progress and confirm next steps.

*For more information, please contact Pedro Basabe ([basabe@un.org](mailto:basabe@un.org))*

## South Asia and Southeast Asia take action on Safe Hospitals

Substantial regional work on making hospitals safe from disaster started at the New Delhi regional consultation and launch of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign. The Hospitals Safe from Disasters Campaign for the WHO South-East Asia Region (or SEAR, including most of South Asia, several Southeast Asian countries, and DPR Korea), launched on 15 April, and was followed by a three day consultation and workshop entitled 'Keeping health facilities safe from disasters.' Attended by 60 people, the consultation included country presentations, discussion of technical elements and tools such as the Hospital Safety Index, partnership case studies, reviewing and validating indicators for disaster-resilient hospital and health facilities, drafting of national plans of action, and validation of Regional Framework of Action for SEAR countries on 'Hospitals Safe from Disasters'. Participants included health and disaster professionals from nine countries across South and Southeast Asia, WHO, UN/ISDR secretariat, and partner organizations including National Disaster Management Authority, National Institute of Disaster Management, SEEDS India, and the ICRC.

For more information, please visit: [www.searo.who.int/Safe-Hospitals](http://www.searo.who.int/Safe-Hospitals)

## APEC moves on adopting HFA in preparedness strategy

The first 'APEC Dialogue among APEC Economies, Business Community and Key International Organizations on Emergency Preparedness' took place on 24-25 April in Hanoi, Vietnam. The meeting grouped together around 50 participants from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Secretariat, APEC Economies' representatives from Ministry of Trade, UN/ISDR secretariat, WFP and the Pacific Disaster Centre to discuss the development of an APEC Strategic framework on emergency preparedness for 2009-2015. The initiative is led by Peru, as the Chair of the APEC Task Force for Emergency Preparedness. Extensive discussions took place on the issue of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and preparedness as part of the Task Force's activities, along the lines of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Concrete recommendations were made by the group to adopt the HFA as a valuable common policy framework for action on disaster risk reduction activities and will be submitted by Task Force co-chairs (Australia and Indonesia) to the Task Force Senior Officials Meeting (August 2008, Lima) for endorsement, before final approval at the APEC Ministerial Meeting in November. Upon endorsement of the HFA, there will be more discussion of the involvement and possible leadership of the APEC Secretariat in public private partnership for disaster risk reduction and the economic cost of disasters in the Asia Pacific region.

For more information, please contact Christel Rose ([rosec@un.org](mailto:rosec@un.org))

## South Eastern European Governments call for DRR action plan

Calls for the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI), to develop a bi-annual action plan to support and complement national activities in disaster management, were a part of the Joint Statement of the Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Preparedness and Prevention in South Eastern Europe. The meeting was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, 9 April 2008, and was attended by Ministers from the region and the Prime Minister of Bulgaria. Interventions on issues for future regional cooperation on disaster risk reduction included statements from the International Community including Slovenia as EU Presidency, Statement from European Commission, NATO, the World Bank, and the UN/ISDR secretariat.

For more information, please contact Miroslav Vujanic ([miro.vujanic@dppi.info](mailto:miro.vujanic@dppi.info))

## WEB RESOURCES



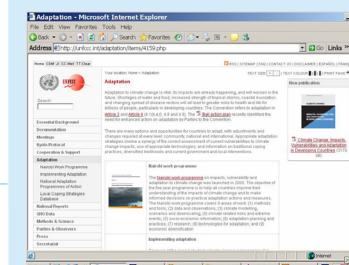
<http://www.searo.who.int/Safe-Hospitals>

Resource page for WHO South-East Asia Region consultation and activities on the World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009: Hospitals Safe from Disasters. Includes meeting proceedings, presentations, case studies, resource documents, and more.



[http://unfccc.int/meetings/intersessional/awg-lca\\_1\\_and\\_awg-kp\\_5/items/4288.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/intersessional/awg-lca_1_and_awg-kp_5/items/4288.php)

Proceedings of the Bangkok meeting of the UNFCCC, including video, statements, information notes, agendas, conclusions, and submissions from IGOs and NGOs.



<http://unfccc.int/adaptation/items/4159.php>

UNFCCC resource section on climate change adaptation, including background papers, definitions, and the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, implementation, and National Adaptation Plans of Action.

## Hyogo Framework Monitoring Tool now online

Training and piloting have been preparing the way for the online launch of 'HFA Monitor', the ISDR system's online tool to monitor, review and report on progress and challenges in implementing disaster risk reduction at the national level, in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Regional orientation workshops and training sessions have taken place in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, with numerous countries' National Platforms and HFA focal points already starting to pilot the reporting method.

Training, workshops and consultations have been organized and supported by UN/ISDR secretariat and ISDR system partners, including UN organizations such as UNDP, and national platforms. Inputs to the online tool will lead to the generation of comprehensive National Progress Reviews for the period 2007-09, and will give countries easy access to its disaster risk information and monitoring trends in progress over the years. Designated national authority/ HFA focal points will have access to the HFA Monitor online tool from May 2008 onwards.

For more information, please visit: [www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/hfa-monitor/hfa-monitor/index.php](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/hfa-monitor/hfa-monitor/index.php)

## ProVention takes drawing board to the streets

One of the highlights of the 2008 ProVention Annual Forum 'From Grassroots to Global: People-Centered Disaster Risk Reduction', hosted in Panamá City 8-10 April together with the IFRC, was an 'Urban Risk Charrette', which engaged participants in an extensive agenda of local field visits and workshops for developing solutions to urban risks. Charrettes are an intensive workshop tool used in city planning. Through field visits and case studies over several days, participants developed stronger real-world links between international, national, and local practitioners, looking at risks of fires, floods, and urban violence in informal settlements, as well as risks springing from what has been called the 'Dubaization' of Panama – the dense construction of high-rise buildings, with little planning for access or fire protection in emergencies. Case studies also looked at climate risk challenges for urban areas elsewhere in the Americas, an innovative urban risk indicators project in Istanbul, and the role of the National Platform in Panama in addressing urban risk. The charrette highlighted the overlaps between disaster

risk and human security, and provided an opportunity to engage with local leaders who stressed the need to identify practical opportunities to collaborate on problem-solving, especially through existing networks such as the Urban Risk Thematic Platform in the Americas, regional governmental organizations, and various Red Cross networks.

*For more information about the charrette, please contact Ian O'Donnell at the ProVention Consortium ([ian.odonnell@ifrc.org](mailto:ian.odonnell@ifrc.org)).*

## European National Platforms engage CCA agenda

Climate change adaptation (CCA), and how National Platforms can make a stronger impact at the European level, were two key issues discussed at the second meeting of European National Platforms and Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) Focal Points in Paris from 24-25 April. National Platforms presented their work on CCA, including the Swedish National Platform's involvement in a broader national report on Climate Change, and the work of the German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV) in the UNFCCC Working Group on Extreme Events. The prominence of the Climate Change issue in Europe is providing openings for European NPs and HFA focal points to be further involved in European-level processes. The participants highlighted the French government's intention to call a Climate Change meeting in November as it takes the EU Presidency, as an opportunity to ensure the involvement of European National Platforms. At the April meeting, the Council of Europe (European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement) signed an MoU with the co-organizing body, the UN/ISDR secretariat, agreeing on activities to support and develop European National Platforms. The meeting was held in collaboration with the DKKV, and hosted by UNESCO.

*For more information, please contact Paola Albrito ([albrito@un.org](mailto:albrito@un.org))*

## Venezuela's National Platform holds First Session

The First Session of the Venezuelan National Platform for DRR was held from April 22-23 as a workshop to support Venezuela's participation as pilot country for testing out UN/ISDR's new online tool, the HFA Monitor. This workshop sought to strengthen the integration of DRR within the State's planning and policy framework for sustainable development while using the ISDR system's HFA Monitor as a way of determining the levels of progress and the challenges being faced, surrounding the implementation of the HFA at the national and local levels. This event was hosted by Venezuela's National Civil Protection, with participation from Venezuela's many ministries and institutions that make up the National System of Civil Protection.

*For more information, please contact Jennifer Guralnick ([jguralnick@eird.org](mailto:jguralnick@eird.org))*

## REGIONAL NEWS

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

- 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.org](http://www.unisdr-wana.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

### Conferences, Trainings and Events

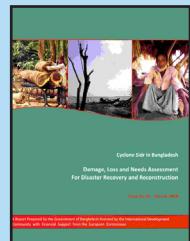
May 2008 - June 2008

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
<b>May</b>		
5-7	Cephalonia, Greece	6th International conference on computer simulation risk analysis and hazard mitigation, Wessex Institute of Technology, <a href="http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2008/">www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2008/</a>
5-16	Bangkok, Thailand	Use of GIS and remote sensing in disaster risk management: second regional training course, ADPC, <a href="http://www.adpc.net">www.adpc.net</a>
8-10	Colombo, Sri Lanka	7th Regional Consultative Committee meeting on disaster management: ADPC and Sri Lankan Government
14-16	Islamabad, Pakistan	2008 International conference on school safety: Aga Khan Planning and Building Services and Focus Humanitarian Assistance
19-23	Lodz, Poland	International conference - ecohydrological processes and sustainable floodplain management opportunities and concepts for water hazard mitigation, and ecological and socioeconomic sustainability; European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology, <a href="http://www.erce.unesco.lodz.pl">www.erce.unesco.lodz.pl</a>
19-30	Klong Luang, Thailand	Capacity development for disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation: Asian Institute of Technology, <a href="http://www.ait.ac.th">www.ait.ac.th</a>
24-26	Kobe, Japan	Pre-G8 Environment Ministers' Meeting: Ministry of Environment, Japan, <a href="http://www.env.go.jp/en/">www.env.go.jp/en/</a>
<b>June</b>		
2-4	Bled, Slovenia	24th Conference of the Danubian countries on the hydrological forecasting and hydrological bases of water management, <a href="http://ksh.fgg.uni-lj.si/bled2008">http://ksh.fgg.uni-lj.si/bled2008</a>
2-5	Emmitsburg, USA	11th annual emergency management higher education conference, FEMA, <a href="http://www.fema.org">www.fema.org</a>
2-13	Bonn, Germany,	Twenty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC, <a href="http://www.unfccc.int">www.unfccc.int</a>
3-5	Rome, Italy	High-level conference on world food security and the challenges of climate change and bioenergy, FAO, <a href="http://www.fao.org">www.fao.org</a>
5-6	Kathmandu, Nepal	UK-South Asia young scientists and practitioners seminar on climate change and disaster impact reduction, Northumbria University, <a href="http://www.unn.ac.uk">www.unn.ac.uk</a>
11-13	Toronto, Canada	Livelihoods based planning for disaster risk reduction, RedR, <a href="http://www.redr.ca">www.redr.ca</a>
15-18	Toronto, Canada	18th World conference on disaster management, Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness, <a href="http://www.ccep.ca">www.ccep.ca</a>
26-27	Bern, Switzerland	Gender equality and climate change: gender mainstreaming in natural resource management programmes - training course. SDC, contact: <a href="mailto:susanne.berger@deza.admin.ch">susanne.berger@deza.admin.ch</a>
27-29	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	International conference on water related disaster reduction, Government of Tajikistan, <a href="http://www.icwdr2008.tj/eng/">www.icwdr2008.tj/eng/</a>

Source: PreventionWeb.net

## Library Corner

### Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh: Damage, loss and needs assessment for disaster recovery and reconstruction, March 2008



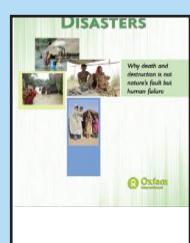
A report prepared by the Government of Bangladesh assisted by the international development community with financial support from the European Commission. The cyclone was the second natural hazard to hit Bangladesh in a year. Monsoon floods had previously caused extensive destruction and crop loss, totaling near US\$ 1.1 billion. The occurrence of these events in close succession is a reminder of the country's extreme vulnerability to frequent hydro-meteorological hazards, which stand to be further exacerbated by climate change.

### Disaster risk reduction in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, January 2008

By the Commission of the African Union, UN/ISDR and the World Bank This report is the result of ongoing efforts to effectively integrate disaster risk reduction into development processes. The first section provides background on disaster risks in the region followed by an overview of disaster management at the World Bank and activities currently undertaken by other partners in SSA. The next section summarizes efforts at the regional and country levels in DRR, followed by best practices in the region. The final chapter identifies gaps, constraints and needs in DRR.

### Rethinking disasters – Why death and destruction is not nature's fault but human failure

Oxfam International, April 2008



Oxfam's experience shows that successful disaster risk reduction policies, integrated into development work, saves lives and money, making communities more resilient and protecting development. This report, focusing on South Asia, examines how to achieve those goals – and the cost of failure.

### REMINDER: Call for contributions to our upcoming Virtual Disaster Reduction Library II (extended deadline 15 May 2008)

At the International Disaster Reduction Conference in Davos, Switzerland, from 25-29 August 2008, the UN/ISDR secretariat will release the 2008 Virtual Disaster Reduction Library II. Please send your contribution and request for further information to: Marie-Lou Darricau (darricau@un.org, tel +41229178859) UN/ISDR Library, IEH 2, 7-9 Chemin de Balexert, Room 0-56, 1219 Chatelaine/Geneva, Switzerland



## International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

### Announcements

Call for contributions: Mapping initiatives for Hospitals Safe from Disaster

What is being done and where to make hospitals, health facilities and systems, and health workers safe from disasters? Does your organization have a project or initiative? For more information and a copy of the brief questionnaire, please visit: [www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=2523](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=2523)

Please return questionnaires to Ms Tze Ming Mok ([mokt@un.org](mailto:mokt@un.org)) by 15 August 2008.



*Students clutching their rescued books after a fire at the State Medical University, Dushanbe, Tajikstan. Winner of the UN/ISDR and ECHO 'Disasters through a photo lens' competition in Central Asia. Photo by Qalandarov Nozim, photographer for Asia-Plus and Reuters.*

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### In This Issue:

- WHO Director-General calls for better disaster preparedness
- Local governments make start on DRR alliance
- Pakistan conference calls for more action on school safety
- Partnership needed to reduce drought and desertification risk
- Asian NGOs build on regional DRR collaboration
- Asian Ministers bring DRR into the city
- Gender Capacity ready for deployment
- UNDP tightens GRIP on risk
- Central Asian countries build resilience, literally

# Highlights

May 2008

### WHO Director-General calls for better disaster preparedness

WHO Director-General Margaret Chan opened the World Health Assembly on 19 May in Geneva, Switzerland, by emphasizing the importance of making hospitals safe from disasters, and the vital role of early warning systems and preparedness plans for preventing humanitarian and health crises when natural hazards strike. Dr Chan paid tribute to the human cost of the recent disasters in Myanmar and China, noting that "[i]n China, I was especially touched by the images of a collapsed school and hospital... Every death is tragic, but the deaths of students and patients touch me most especially." In describing the pressing health concerns in Myanmar after Cyclone Nargis, Dr Chan noted that the huge needs there now for health surveillance and response "demonstrate the vital importance of early warning systems, and preparedness to reduce risks in advance." Dr Chan highlighted the work of the WHO, particularly in the Americas, in promoting disaster resilient hospitals, and the cost-effectiveness of this approach. "In most cases, a very small increase in construction costs is sufficient to give health facilities this survival capacity, when their services and staff are most needed. AMRO [WHO Regional Office for the Americas/Pan American Health Association], in particular, has pursued this approach. Unfortunately, as we look ahead, we must all brace ourselves for more humanitarian crises in the immediate and near future."

*For more information, please contact Jonathan Abrahams ([abrahamsj@who.int](mailto:abrahamsj@who.int))*

### 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: [isdrhighlights@un.org](mailto: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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### Local governments make start on DRR alliance

A Consultative Meeting for developing a Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction (LGA/DRR) was held in Barcelona, Spain, on 22-23 May 2008. The meeting was attended by some 15 representatives of local and regional authorities from Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States, as well as UN agencies, NGOs and the academia. The meeting served as a reality check and a brainstorming session to obtain preliminary feedback on a proposal to develop the LGA/DRR. Based on the draft Concept Note prepared by the UN/ISDR secretariat in consultation with the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, the meeting stimulated a constructive debate around the potential scope, objectives and added value of the Alliance. As a result, substantive comments and observations on the LGA/DRR concept were put forward, and initial commitment to the Alliance reached. Next steps and follow-up actions were also discussed and agreed upon, in the lead-up to the next session of the GP/DRR in June 2009. A broader meeting will be organized in the coming months, to which additional partners – including a broader range of local governments and city associations – will be invited to participate. The meeting was co-organized by the UN/ISDR secretariat, the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Collaboration, and the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development of the Government of Catalonia.

*For more information, please contact Michele Cocchiglia ([cocchiglia@un.org](mailto:cocchiglia@un.org))*

## Pakistan conference calls for more action on school safety

In the shadow of tragic events in China, where collapsed schools killed thousands of students during a massive earthquake, a three day International School Safety conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, recommended stronger support for building safe schools. The conference, held 16-18 May, delivered its recommendations to international and private stake-holders, and the Government of Pakistan. The conference recommended that governments develop mechanisms to provide technical, financial and capacity support to design and implement School Safety Action Plans. Communities, civil society and private organizations would play a critical role as partners in the implementation of these plans. The participants also observed a moment of silence in memory of those who have lost their lives in recent earthquakes. Organized by the Agha Khan Planning and Building Service, participants included UN Agencies, the World Bank, BASIN Network, ADPC, SDC, Austrian Development Association, Institute of Architects, Pakistan, and local, international and government agencies.

For more information, please visit: [www.schoolsafetyconference.org](http://www.schoolsafetyconference.org)

## Partnership needed to reduce drought and desertification risk

The Chair's summary of the 16th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (5-16 May) noted that drought management, resilience building, early warning systems, and adaptation measures were even more urgently required, given current climate change projections. A side event was held on 'Building partnerships to reduce risk of drought and desertification' on 8 May, where, against the backdrop of the international crisis over food security, participants drew attention to the need to build effective partnerships at all levels to reduce drought risk. WFP and FAO presenters made the link between drought and food security, while the UN/ISDR secretariat Director Salvano Briceno emphasised the need "not to wait until a drought becomes a famine." High level speakers included USG Cheick Sidi Diarra, Special Adviser for Africa and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, and Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD. The event built on preparations for a Global Drought Risk Reduction and Preparedness Network, which is expected to assist in identifying drought risk reduction priorities, coordinating global support initiatives, developing guidance, and supporting regional drought risk reduction networks.

For more information, please contact Yoko Hagiwara ([yoko.hagiwara@un.org](mailto:yoko.hagiwara@un.org))

## Asian NGOs build on regional DRR collaboration

Asian NGOs have agreed to set up Steering Group to take forward a proposal for a regional collaboration mechanism for NGOs working on disaster risk reduction. The Steering Group will initially focus on drafting the Terms of Reference for a regional collaboration mechanism, and conduct a mapping exercise of existing national and regional NGO networks working on DRR in Asia. This agreement was an outcome of a Regional NGO Consultative Meeting held in Bangkok on 27-28 May, organized by OXFAM HK in collaboration with the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN), the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and the UN/ISDR secretariat. The meeting brought together some 30 representatives of NGOs and NGO networks from Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia and covered: 1) Extreme events and climate change adaptation; 2). Urban risk; 3). Conflict and migration; 4). Training and learning on DRR.

For more information, please contact Michele Cocchiglia ([cocchiglia@un.org](mailto:cocchiglia@un.org))

## WEB RESOURCES

Online lecture on Sichuan earthquake

[www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec32381/index.htm](http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec32381/index.htm)

Supercourse is a global repository of lectures on public health and prevention targeting educators



across the world, run by the University of Pittsburgh. The 'lecture of the week' is an overview of the Sichuan earthquake from a disaster management perspective, which is currently available online in English and Chinese as long and short powerpoint presentations. The lecture describes the key elements of the Sichuan earthquake, what risk factors and vulnerabilities were present, what secondary hazards may be arising, and how disaster risk reduction can contribute.

Center for Disaster Risk Policy

[www.cdrp.net](http://www.cdrp.net)

The Center for Disaster Risk Policy (CDRP) of the College of Social Sciences at Florida State University provides technical assistance, emergency management programmes, and information system development to government, especially in Florida. The website includes descriptions of their emergency management tools, links to a risk assessment database, and to professional networks.

PAHO's new Caribbean Wind Hazard Maps

[www.paho.org/english/dd/ped/caribbeanwindhazardmaps.htm](http://www.paho.org/english/dd/ped/caribbeanwindhazardmaps.htm)

PAHO/WHO, through Applied Research Associates, has developed new state-of-the-art wind hazard maps for Caribbean islands and nearby coastal areas of Central and South America. The maps use the most up-to-date meteorological records and methods and are intended to replace older maps currently in use for structural design and risk assessment. They are an important aid for engineers, developers, and others whose work requires knowledge of wind hazards.

Do you know what to do in case of an earthquake? An online flash quiz.

[www.nwcn.com/sharedcontent/features/flash/quake/during.html](http://www.nwcn.com/sharedcontent/features/flash/quake/during.html)



## Asian Ministers bring DRR into the city

Asia-Pacific Government Ministers agreed on a range of actions to develop sustainable urbanization with a focus on natural hazards at the second Asia-Pacific Ministerial conference on housing and Urban Development held in Tehran from 12-14 May 2008. Around 39 government representatives from across the region attended. The action plan called for countries to improve mechanisms for knowledge sharing on DRR, expand insurance coverage, design and improve the use of sports facilities as disaster shelters, base all city development plans on natural hazard risk assessments, carry out voluntary technical assessments and studies for retrofitting key infrastructure within two years, in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action, undertake feasibility studies for a disaster loan fund, use Iran and Japan as knowledge sources on seismic risk mitigation, implement training in safe construction, establish an Asian Disaster Mitigation Centre in Tehran to run training courses for the region, and establish a city twinning programme for support and knowledge sharing. UN/ISDR secretariat and UN-Habitat also attended the conference.

For more information, please visit: <http://apmchud.com/>

## Gender Capacity ready for deployment

The IASC Sub-working Group on Gender in Humanitarian Action completed a week-long preparatory workshop for gender advisors in humanitarian action as a part of the IASC Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap), 19-23 May. The IASC Gender Standby Capacity is a pool of approximately 20 technical experts on gender equality programming in humanitarian action. The GenCap Advisers are deployed for up to 6 months to support the Humanitarian Coordinator and cluster leads. The IASC Gender Handbook and the IASC GBV Guidelines form the standards and norms for the work of the GenCap Advisers. The workshop therefore focused on practical ways to apply these tools in the different areas of work of humanitarian action (shelter, food, water and sanitation, etc). The GenCap is an inter-agency resource: The request for a GenCap Adviser should be the result of inter-agency consultations and must be endorsed and signed by the Humanitarian Coordinator HC. 11 new GenCap Advisers are available for deployment as of the last day of the preparatory workshop, 23 May.

For more information, please email [gencap@un.org](mailto:gencap@un.org)

## REGIONAL NEWS

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

Africa: <a href="http://www.unisdr.org/africa">www.unisdr.org/africa</a>
Asia & the Pacific: <a href="http://www.unisdr.org/asiapacific">www.unisdr.org/asiapacific</a>
Europe: <a href="http://www.unisdr.org/europe">www.unisdr.org/europe</a>
Latin America & the Caribbean: <a href="http://www.eird.org">www.eird.org</a>
West Asia and North Africa: <a href="http://www.unisdr-wana.org">www.unisdr-wana.org</a>

## UNDP tightens GRIP on risk

UNDP launched the Global Risk Identification Programme (GRIP) in Mozambique on 7 May. GRIP is the ISDR System's Official Thematic Platform for Risk Identification, focusing on one of the five priority actions of the Hyogo Framework for Action. UNDP launched the initiative in 2007 when highlighting the importance of Disaster Risk Reduction in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The launch of GRIP is a starting point for implementing the Joint Program for Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness, recently signed between the Government of Mozambique and the UN System, in support of the National Master Plan for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Naomi Kitahara noted at the launch, that the floods and cyclones which again affected the country earlier this year have demonstrated that a coordinated and timely efforts of the government, with the support of the international community, is key to minimize the impact of disasters. GRIP's supporting partners include the World Bank, the Government of Norway, DFID, USAID, the Inter American Development Bank, UN/ISDR secretariat, the Government of Japan, the SDC, the IFRC, and the ProVention Consortium.

For more information, please contact Carlos Villacis ([carlos.villacis@undp.org](mailto:carlos.villacis@undp.org))

## Central Asian countries build resilience, literally

A regional conference on Ensuring Seismic Safety of Buildings and Structures made from Local Materials in Central Asia was held in Biskek, Kyrgyzstan from 22-23 May. The conference discussed perspectives of regional cooperation on seismic safety, and put forth recommendations to ensure seismic resistance of buildings and structures using local materials. Participants discussed resources in development, including a proposed training manual on safer construction practices called the 'Tenant Builder's Guidelines for Construction Using Local Materials' and another resource called 'Effects of earthquakes on buildings made of local materials'. They also discussed developing provisional regulations, and an atlas of strong earthquakes for the Central Asian countries. Participants included earthquake engineering experts, seismologists, university professors and researchers from academic institutions, governments and international organizations. The conference was organized by the UN/ISDR West-Asia/North Africa Office, along with Kyrgyz State University of Construction, Transport and Architecture, with the financial support of European Commission Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO).

For more information, please contact Goulsara Pulatova ([goulsara.pulatova@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:goulsara.pulatova@unisdr-wana.org))

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

### Conferences, Trainings and Events

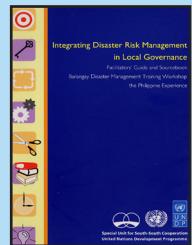
#### May 2008 - June 2008

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
<b>June</b>		
2-4	Bled, Slovenia	24th Conference of the Danubian countries on the hydrological forecasting and hydrological bases of water management, <a href="http://ksh.fgg.uni-lj.si/bled2008">http://ksh.fgg.uni-lj.si/bled2008</a>
2-5	Emmitsburg, USA	11th annual emergency management higher education conference, FEMA, <a href="http://www.fema.org">www.fema.org</a>
2-13	Bonn, Germany,	Twenty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC, <a href="http://www.unfccc.int">www.unfccc.int</a>
3-5	Rome, Italy	High-level conference on world food security and the challenges of climate change and bioenergy, FAO, <a href="http://www.fao.org">www.fao.org</a>
5-6	Kathmandu, Nepal	UK-South Asia young scientists and practitioners seminar on climate change and disaster impact reduction, Northumbria University, <a href="http://www.unn.ac.uk">www.unn.ac.uk</a>
9-20	Bangkok, Thailand	8th regional training course on earthquake vulnerability reduction for cities, ADPC, <a href="http://www.adpc.net">www.adpc.net</a>
9-27	Enschede, Netherlands	Multi-hazard risk assessment training course, International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), <a href="http://www.itc.nl/education/courses/course_descriptions/C08-ESA-SCD-01.aspx#forwho">www.itc.nl/education/courses/course_descriptions/C08-ESA-SCD-01.aspx#forwho</a>
11-13	Toronto, Canada	Livelihoods based planning for disaster risk reduction, RedR, <a href="http://www.redr.ca">www.redr.ca</a>
15-18	Toronto, Canada	18th World conference on disaster management, Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness, <a href="http://www.ccep.ca">www.ccep.ca</a>
18-20	Southampton, UK	2nd International conference on debris flow including all aspects of debris flow monitoring, modelling, hazard assessment, mitigation measures, case studies, and extreme events, erosion, slope instability and sediment transport, Wessex Institute of Technology, <a href="http://www.wessex.ac.uk">www.wessex.ac.uk</a>
26-27	Bern, Switzerland	Gender equality and climate change: gender mainstreaming in natural resource management programmes - training course. SDC, contact: <a href="mailto:susanne.berger@deza.admin.ch">susanne.berger@deza.admin.ch</a>
27-29	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	International conference on water related disaster reduction, Government of Tajikistan, <a href="http://www.icwdr2008.tj/eng/">www.icwdr2008.tj/eng/</a>
<b>July</b>		
7-9	Hokkaido Toyako, Japan	G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit 2008, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, <a href="http://www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/">www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/</a>
8-11	St Michael, Barbados	United Nations regional UN-SPIDER workshop: building upon regional space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response for the Caribbean
10-11	Cardiff, UK	Dealing with disasters 2008 international conference: putting resilience into response
7-18	Brussels, Belgium	Assessing public health in emergency situations: international CRED summer course 2008
28 Jul-1 Aug	Cambridge, UK	Summer course on natural and cultural heritage of coastal zones

Source: PreventionWeb.net

## Library Corner

**Integrating Disaster Risk Management in Local Governance: A Facilitators' Guide and a Sourcebook for Barangay Disaster Risk Management Training Workshop. The Philippine Experience.**



Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, UNDP, 2007

A step-by-step guide on how to facilitate sessions and modules on disaster risk management training, designed to help local government units to reduce risks at the community or local levels. The guide contains four modules: introduction to disaster risk management; barangay governance and disaster risk management; barangay risk assessment; and barangay risk reduction planning. It also includes the reference material or the required readings for each session in the four modules.

### The Shakeup Scenario

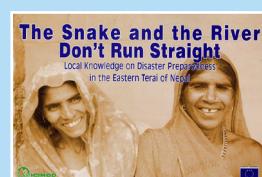
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2008/1150/>

A new online U.S. Geological Survey report on a hypothetical scenario describes how a magnitude 7.8 Southern California earthquake - similar to the recent earthquake in China - would impact the region. Such an earthquake would kill 1800 people, injure 50,000, cause \$200 billion in damage, and have long-lasting social and economic consequences. It will form the scientific framework for what will be the largest earthquake preparedness drill in Californian history, scheduled for 13 November 2008.

### Disaster Risk Reduction in the Education Sector (CD-ROM), ADPC

A resource CD packed with reports on activities, advocacy products, research papers on disaster impact in the Philippines, Laos and Cambodia, and practical tools for teaching disaster risk reduction in schools - a teacher manual and full lesson plans, curricula, and textbooks in several languages.

**The Snake and the River Don't Run Straight: Local knowledge on disaster preparedness in the Eastern Terai of Nepal,**  
ICIMOD and ECHO, 2007



One of a series of publications on local knowledge, this publication presents findings from projects with rural communities living on riverbanks. Local communities had strengths in describing experience, identifying and interpreting early warning signals, identifying where and when to run, adopting various technical, structural, and non-structural measures to adapt to floods, and transmitting lessons through proverb and song.



## International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

### In This Issue:

- UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme asks for more DRR
- Senegal launches national parliamentarian DRR network
- A 'Stern Report' for DRR gets the green light
- CBD requests more info on drought early warning
- DRR moves onto international education agenda
- Civil protection focuses on disaster prevention
- CADRI supports RC Regional Workshop
- Govts and NGOs shown community DRM solutions

### 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: [isdrhighlights@un.org](mailto: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*

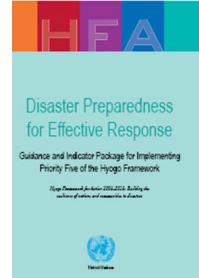
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What is being done and where to make hospitals, health facilities and systems, and health workers safe from disasters? Does your organization have a project or initiative? To fill out the questionnaire online, please visit: [http://safehospitals.info/form\\_June08/questionnaire.htm](http://safehospitals.info/form_June08/questionnaire.htm) or contact Ms Tze Ming Mok ([mokt@un.org](mailto:mokt@un.org)), by 15 August 2008.

Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response:  
A Guidance and Indicator Tool designed to provide guidance on preparedness to respond as set out in Priority Five of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). This tool aims primarily to assist governments, local authorities, and other stakeholders.



[www.unisdr.org/eng/about\\_isdr/isdr-publications/OCHA-Disaster-preparedness-for-effective-response/Disaster-preparedness-for-effective-response.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about_isdr/isdr-publications/OCHA-Disaster-preparedness-for-effective-response/Disaster-preparedness-for-effective-response.pdf)

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# Highlights

June 2008

### UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme asks for more DRR

Substantial technical input on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) are part of the next stage of the Nairobi Work Programme, agreed in Bonn during the UNFCCC meeting of the subsidiary body for scientific and technological advice (SBSTA). The 4-13 June meeting was the 28th session of the SBSTA. In its conclusions, the SBSTA made numerous requests for technical and practical input on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, from global, national and local actors. Among these was a request to the UN/ISDR secretariat to prepare by the 29th session a technical paper on integrating practices, tools and systems for climate risk assessment and management, and disaster risk reduction strategies, such as those included in the HFA, into national policies and programmes. It also requested the secretariat to organize a supporting technical workshop before SBSTA 30 (June 2009), involving country representatives, relevant organizations and experts, to identify successful examples of using these tools.

*For the full draft conclusions, please see: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/sbsta/eng/l13r01.pdf>*

### Senegal launches national parliamentarian DRR network

In a first for Africa, the Senegalese national platform for disaster risk reduction (DRR) has launched a national DRR network of parliamentarians. Members of the two Chambers - the National Assembly and the Senate - will gather in a network with a view to updating the legal and institutional framework for DRR in Senegal, as part of the country's wider national strategy for disaster risk reduction. The network is a component of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of Senegal. Currently in its early stages, the network has the objective of creating a formal structure in the future. Lending the network weight at a national level, its president is the Minister of Finance. The network's small group of parliamentarians will first work on disaster risk reduction issues, and will communicate the project to the presidents of the two Chambers, who will then call a parliamentary plenary session to discuss the project. The parliamentarians will also be trained on DRR issues so that they can become local and traveling advocates. The network's annual workplan will be developed with support from the Senegalese National Platform and other stakeholders, including UNDP.

*For more information, please contact: Amadou Lamine N'Diaye ([gestion\\_risque@yahoo.fr](mailto:gestion_risque@yahoo.fr))*

## A 'Stern Report' for DRR gets the green light

A joint UN-World Bank assessment of the economics of disaster risk reduction (DRR) has been approved for go-ahead. The eventual report is intended to be a review of the economics of DRR that will hold similar authoritative sway as the Stern Report did for economic costs of climate change. The study will have six major themes including: Balancing ex ante and ex post facto actions and the role of public intervention; the relationship of DRR to long-term development prospects; cost-benefit analysis for DRR; disasters and conflicts; the urbanization of disasters; and the implications of climate change on disaster economics. The findings of the study will be made available at the next Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held 15-19 June 2009, in Geneva. The project concept-note was adopted on 30 May at meeting between World Bank and UN representatives.

For more information, please contact Reid Basher ([reid.basher@un.org](mailto:reid.basher@un.org))

## CBD requests more information on drought early warning

The Conference on Biodiversity's working group on drylands requested more information and solutions on drought management to be submitted to the CBD process. The decision on biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands issued at the end of May, at the Conference of the Parties on the Convention for Biodiversity in Bonn, requested relevant organizations, including the UN/ISDR secretariat, to compile information on the impacts of drought on biodiversity. It also requested proposals on management options for biodiversity and drought, including early warning systems, for consideration by the CBD's subsidiary body for scientific, technical and technological advice (SBSTTA) prior to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2010. The International Day to Combat Drought and Desertification was also marked on 17 June. The UNCCD recently made a strong connection between drought, desertification, climate change adaptation and risk reduction, and on the International Day, highlighted the importance of forging a coalition to combat desertification as well as drought in the context of climate change.

For the full CBD decision, please contact Jaime Webbe ([jaimewebbe@cbd.int](mailto:jaimewebbe@cbd.int))

## DRR moves onto international education agenda

A Regional Preparatory Conference in advance of the International Conference on Education (ICE) for Education Ministers, took place 29-31 May in Bali, Indonesia. The ICE will take place 25-28 November 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Preparatory Conference discussed how to define the approach to the ICE theme of inclusive education policies. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Education, including the integration of DRR into school curricula and building the resilience of school infrastructures to disasters, was recognized as one of the eight policy issues of concern for the Asia Pacific region, proposed to be discussed at ICE "as an integral component of Inclusive Education". Presentations on DRR education were made by the NGO ASB, and UN/ISDR secretariat. The conference recognized access to education as a basic human right, with specific emphasis on the urgent need to ensure safer schools for all

## WEB RESOURCES

### *inTERRAgate*

[www.interragate.info](http://www.interragate.info)

[interragate.info](http://interragate.info)

info

Aggregates

natural hazard

information

and risk



data both by country and by hazard, as well as blogs, links, and news. Information, including text and graphics, is uploaded by users in a wiki-type format. A project of the Benfield UCL Hazard Research Centre (BUHRC).

### *NASA's hurricane resource page*

[www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/hurricanes/main/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/hurricanes/main/index.html)

Up to date information on the latest cyclones, and past hurricane and typhoon seasons, covering the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans, including satellite imagery. It also provides hurricane alerts for the Atlantic, and comprehensive education resources including posters, multimedia, and lesson plans for middle school and high school teachers.

### *Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response*

<http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/index.html>

Information from the Yale New Haven Center, a Connecticut centre that aims to advance healthcare planning, preparedness and response in emergencies and disasters through collaboration. This site includes community preparedness programs; training for emergency managers, first responders, healthcare workers, and others.

### *Hospitals Safe from Disasters - WHO-EMRO*

<http://www.emro.who.int/eha/hospitals.htm>

The new WHO-Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office webpage for the World Disaster Reduction Campaign: Hospitals Safe from Disasters includes region-specific resources such as the WHO e-Atlas of

Disaster Risk for the Eastern Mediterranean, the Hospitals Safe from Disasters Campaign Kit in both English and Arabic,

information about the regional Campaign launch, and a photogallery.



children expected to start school by 2015. Displacement and poverty resulting from disasters, were recognized as major causes of children's exclusion from education. Follow-up discussions have already been initiated with the International Bureau of Education (IBE), as well as with UNESCO and UNICEF to promote further DRR Education at ICE through the plenary session, as well as through a pre-ICE International Workshop and a side event on DRR Education to be jointly organized by UNICEF, UNESCO, UN/ISDR secretariat and the members of the Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education.

For more information, please contact Christel Rose ([rosec@un.org](mailto:rosec@un.org))

### Civil protection looks to disaster prevention

As a joint initiative of the Italian and Russian Departments of Civil Protection supported by Switzerland, a workshop on the topic 'The Roles of Modern Civil Protection Systems and the New Global Challenges - From the Hyogo Framework for Action to Real Time Response' was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 25 June. The objective was to promote the creation of a global civil protection network offering a wide range of tools aimed at providing a coherent and coordinated response to catastrophes, under the umbrella of the United Nations System. The meeting was the first event to focus on civil protection agencies and disaster risk reduction (DRR) since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action in 2005. Participants acknowledged that more work needed to be done to identify how to include DRR into civil protection activities, how to bring funds in for DRR, and how to clearly define the role of civil protection agencies within the varied landscape of DRR stakeholders.

For more information, please see: [www.protezionecivile.it/cms/view.php?cms\\_pk=14373&dir\\_pk=52](http://www.protezionecivile.it/cms/view.php?cms_pk=14373&dir_pk=52)

### CADRI supports UN workshops

The Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) has been delivering support to agencies across the United Nations system this month. On 17 and 18 June CADRI supported OCHA's Humanitarian Coordination System Strengthening Project to deliver the Humanitarian Coordination session of the UNSSC Leadership and Coordination Skills Workshop in Turin, Italy. CADRI's participation enabled the design and facilitation of a more integrated session with a stronger emphasis on disaster risk reduction and early recovery. CADRI also participated in the

Resident Coordinators Regional Workshop on Humanitarian Coordination which took place from 16-18 June 2008 in Panama City, Panama. CADRI collected and analyzed capacity development requests that the Resident Coordinators raised during the workshop, designed a capacity development strategy to answer those needs and explored how to offer support for implementation, in cooperation with UNDP/BCPR, UN/ISDR secretariat and OCHA regional. At the request of UNDP country office, CADRI also produced a capacity development strategy for Mozambique in May, to develop an enabling environment for disaster risk reduction and to support the UNCT in the implementation of the Joint Programme. Specific recommendations were related to the Joint Programme, UNDAF activities and the creation of a DRR network.

To receive copies of these reports, please contact Geraldine Becchi ([becchi@un.org](mailto:becchi@un.org))

### Govts and NGOs shown community DRM solutions

A raft of practical recommendations for local and national governments on one hand, and NGOs on the other, for better supporting community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) are part of Tearfund's comprehensive report 'Turning Practice into Policy', now available as a CD-ROM resource. Based on two years of research, 'Turning Policy into Practice' identifies key obstacles to 'top down' government engagement and 'bottom up' NGO work on CBDRM, and provides key methods to overcome these. Some key methods for governments are to ensure more training and dedicated DRR staff to increase capacity in a cost-effective way, provide tools, checklists and guidelines for officials, raise awareness within government of the long-term cost-effectiveness of DRR, and develop legislation to increase synergy between all DRR stakeholders, in support of CBDRM. Key recommendations for NGOs include gaining better understanding of national policy contexts to increase government receptiveness, engage with government through meetings and consultations, forming alliances and networks of advocates, and using more visual tools such as videos/DVDs rather than reports and manuals to avoid 'workshop fatigue' and literacy barriers. A major recommendation to both sides is to work on breaking down mistrust, by focusing on multi-stakeholder platforms and good quality research on good practices in specific contexts.

For more information, please contact Jessica Faleiro ([Jessica.Faleiro@tearfund.org](mailto:Jessica.Faleiro@tearfund.org)) or visit <http://tilz.tearfund.org/Research/Disaster+Risk+Reduction+reports>

### Correction: Focus on school safety in Pakistan

The main sponsors of the International Conference on School Safety held on 14-16 May in Islamabad, Pakistan were the Aga Khan Planning and Building Services (AKPBS) and Focus Humanitarian Pakistan, representing the Aga Khan Development Network - not solely the AKPBS.

For more information, please visit: [www.schoolsafetyconference.org](http://www.schoolsafetyconference.org)

## REGIONAL NEWS

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

Africa: <a href="http://www.unisdr.org/africa">www.unisdr.org/africa</a>
Asia & the Pacific: <a href="http://www.unisdr.org/asiapacific">www.unisdr.org/asiapacific</a>
Europe: <a href="http://www.unisdr.org/europe">www.unisdr.org/europe</a>
Latin America & the Caribbean: <a href="http://www.eird.org">www.eird.org</a>
West Asia and North Africa: <a href="http://www.unisdr-wana.org">www.unisdr-wana.org</a>

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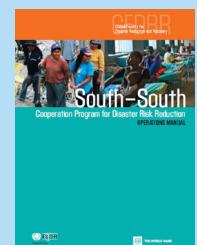
May 2008 - June 2008

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
<b>July</b>		
7-9	Hokkaido Toyako, Japan	G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit 2008, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, <a href="http://www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/">www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/</a>
8-11	St Michael, Barbados	United Nations regional UN-SPIDER workshop: building upon regional space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response for the Caribbean: <a href="http://www.unoosa.org">www.unoosa.org</a>
10-11	Cardiff, UK	Dealing with disasters 2008 international conference: putting resilience into response, Northumbria University: <a href="http://www.unn.ac.uk">www.unn.ac.uk</a>
7-18	Brussels, Belgium	Assessing public health in emergency situations: international CRED summer course 2008: <a href="http://www.cred.be">www.cred.be</a>
16	New York, USA	ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment panel discussion: 'Disaster risk reduction and preparedness: addressing the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including the impact of climate change': <a href="http://www.un.org/ecosoc">www.un.org/ecosoc</a>
28 Jul	Cambridge, UK	Summer course on natural and cultural heritage of coastal zones, Cambridge Centre for Landscapes and People: <a href="http://www.cclp.group.cam.ac.uk">www.cclp.group.cam.ac.uk</a>
<b>August</b>		
10-24	Peshawar, Pakistan	Recent developments in geo-hazard disaster management: focusing on earthquake vulnerability reduction in mountainous regions, International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation: <a href="http://www.itc.nl">www.itc.nl</a>
17-23	Stockholm, Sweden	2008 World Water Week: <a href="http://www.worldwaterweek.org">www.worldwaterweek.org</a>
21-27	Accra, Ghana	UNFCCC Accra Climate Change Talks 2008: <a href="http://unfccc.int/meetings/intersessional/accra/items/4437.php">http://unfccc.int/meetings/intersessional/accra/items/4437.php</a>
25-28	Umeå, Sweden	Adaptation of Forests and Forest Management to Changing Climate with Emphasis on Forest Health: A Review of Science, Policies, and Practices: <a href="http://www.forestadaptation2008.net">www.forestadaptation2008.net</a>
25-29	Davos, Switzerland	International Disaster and Risk Conference, 'Public-private partnership – key for integral risk management and climate change adaptation': <a href="http://www.idrc.info">www.idrc.info</a>

## Library Corner

**South-South Cooperation Program for Disaster Risk Reduction: Operations Manual.**  
<http://gfdr.org/docs/south/SouthOperationsManual.pdf>

The overarching goal of the GFDRR South-South Cooperation Program is to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action through technical assistance to low- and middle-income countries for inter-country collaboration. The objective is to build and expand capacities to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development planning and programming. This initiative will catalyze strong inter-country partnerships within the South that collaborate on disaster reduction and recovery, including climate change adaptation



### Annual Disaster Statistics Review

[www.emdat.be/Documents/Publications/Annual%20Disaster%20Statistical%20Review%202007.pdf](http://www.emdat.be/Documents/Publications/Annual%20Disaster%20Statistical%20Review%202007.pdf)

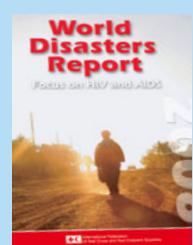
In 2007, 414 disasters resulting from natural hazards were reported. They killed 16,847 people, affected more than 211 million others and caused over 74.9 US\$ billion in economic damages. Last year's number of reported disasters confirmed the global upward trend in natural hazard-related disasters, mainly driven by the increase in the number of hydro-meteorological disasters. In recent decades, the number of reported hydrological disasters has increased by 7.4% per year on average.



### 2008 World Disasters Report

[www.ifrc.org/publicat/wdr2008/index.asp](http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/wdr2008/index.asp)

The AIDS epidemic is a disaster on many levels. In the most affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa, where prevalence rates reach 20 per cent, development gains are reversed and life expectancy may be halved. HIV is a challenge to the humanitarian world whose task is to improve the lives of vulnerable people and to support them in strengthening their capacities and resilience. Disasters, man-made and 'natural', exacerbate other drivers of the epidemic and can also increase people's vulnerability to infection. The World Disasters Report 2008 includes chapters on the humanitarian interface: using the HIV lens, HIV and population mobility: reality and myths, and Natural disasters: the complex links with HIV.





## International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

### Announcements

#### Call for contributions: Mapping initiatives for Hospitals Safe from Disaster

What is being done and where to make hospitals, health facilities and systems, and health workers safe from disasters? Does your organization have a project or initiative? To fill out the questionnaire online, please visit: [http://safehospitals.info/form\\_June08/questionnaire.htm](http://safehospitals.info/form_June08/questionnaire.htm) or contact Ms Tze Ming Mok ([mokt@un.org](mailto:mokt@un.org)), by 15 August 2008.

#### Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response

This Guidance and Indicator Tool is designed to provide guidance on how to meet the challenge of being prepared to respond as set out in Priority Five of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). This tool aims primarily to assist governments, local authorities, and other stakeholders concerned with natural hazards in potentially vulnerable settings.



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### In This Issue:

- G8+5 adopt GLOBE Climate Change Adaptation paper
- El Salvador launches National Platform for disaster risk reduction
- WHO team investigates earthquake-affected hospitals in China
- China Planning Network Week
- ECOSOC emphasizes DRR for climate change adaptation
- DRR economics study keenly awaited
- ASEAN supporting ISDR in mapping out Disaster Risk
- Reduction Education activities in Asia Pacific
- Arab States move on climate change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Safe Hospitals Campaign consolidates in Middle East
- Middle East NGOs have first Regional DRR consultation

#### Also:

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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 input to: [isdrhighlights@un.org](mailto: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

July 2008

### G8+5 adopt GLOBE Climate Change Adaptation paper

A GLOBE paper on climate change adaptation that called for the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development work, was formally agreed by legislators from the G8+5 countries in Tokyo on 28-29 June. The paper was presented at a private meeting between the Japanese Permanent Mission and the Heads of the GLOBE country delegations on 30 June, just before the G8 Summit. Disaster risk reduction is a recurrent theme in the document, which recommends that "[a]daptation strategies should build on the established international disaster risk reduction framework - the Hyogo Framework for Action". All GLOBE G8+5 delegations have made a commitment to take this paper into their national level parliamentary committee work and to promote it in their dealings with business and civil society groups.

*For more information, please contact Terry Townshend, [townshend@googlemail.com](mailto:townshend@googlemail.com)*

### El Salvador launches National Platform for DRR

The official launching of the El Salvador's National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction took place in San Salvador on 16 July, 2008. This National Platform is intended to serve as an inter-sectoral mechanism for the coordination and promotion of disaster risk reduction activities at the national level, in line with the Priority 1 of the Hyogo Framework for Action. El Salvador is one of the first three countries in Central America to establish a National Platform.

*For more information, please contact Unidad de Comunicación Social, [comunicacionessnet@snet.gob.sv](mailto:comunicacionessnet@snet.gob.sv)*

### WHO team investigates earthquake-affected hospitals in China

A five-member WHO team, including Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction Laureate Tony Gibbs, visited health facilities at the Chinese earthquake's epicentre in Sichuan province over the last few months. Many hospitals were damaged and destroyed, forcing thousands of patients to be transferred to other areas. While numerous structures were beyond repair, some remained standing due to proper design and building standards. The team advised Chinese authorities on whether to vacate damaged health facilities, strengthen or retrofit existing ones and to design and construct new healthcare structures. "This was an opportunity for WHO to cooperate with China on key issues regarding the safe hospitals initiative, [Hospitals Safe from Disasters]" says Dr Eric Laroche, Assistant Director-General for WHO's Health Action in Crises. "I am positive about the Chinese commitment to rebuilding its health infrastructure with the safe hospitals concept in mind."

*For more information, please contact Jonathan Abrahams, [abrahamsj@who.int](mailto:abrahamsj@who.int)*

## CPN week highlights city resilience to disasters

The 2008 China Planning Network (CPN) week was organized from the 14-19 July in Beijing. It highlighted the city resilience in the context of the on-going Wenchuan earthquake recovery effort among other issues discussed. M. John Holmes, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs opened the roundtable by emphasizing that disaster risk reduction must be translated into political commitment at many levels and supported by financial resources for reducing risk and vulnerabilities. The statement was followed by 13 presentations from scholars and professors from different key universities around the world. Mr. Richard Stone from the American Association for the Advancement of Science summarised three main lessons learned after the Wenchuan earthquake: 1) The earthquake was unexpected for two reasons: a) More eastwards movement of the Anninghe Fault to the south of Longmenshan, and b) Earthquakes of that magnitude occur on Longmenshan once every 2,000 to 10,000 years, on average. 2) Earthquake like Wenchuan cannot be predicted given the current knowledge and 3) Reconstruction must be based on an updated seismic risk map. The scholars and the Director of UN/ISDR secretariat visited part of the earthquake affected area and were received by the local government of Chengdu, the provincial capital of the earthquake affected province – Sichuan.

*For detailed information please contact Mr. Jinhua Zhao, Executive Commissioner, China Planning Network or check <http://www.ChinaPlanningNetwork.org>*

## ECOSOC emphasizes DRR for climate change adaptation

Mainstreaming climate change adaptation and preparing for increased disaster risk was a common call during a panel discussion of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) humanitarian segment in New York on 16 July. During the panel discussion on "Disaster risk reduction and preparedness: addressing the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including the impact of climate change", the session called for climate change adaptation mechanisms that draw on existing risk-reduction measures, and for increased synergies between the climate change and humanitarian agendas. Barbara Carby from Cayman Islands Hazard Management Centre presented the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, which helped the Caribbean countries integrate risk reduction into national programmes, planning and legislation. She emphasized that many expected and present effects of climate change could be managed within the Hyogo Framework.

*For more information, please contact Elina Palm, [palm@un.org](mailto:palm@un.org)*

## DRR economics study keenly awaited

Representatives from Bangladesh, Jamaica and South Africa, and Under-Secretary-General John Holmes emphasised the need for significantly increased resources to disaster risk reduction at an ISDR side event gathering over a hundred participants from 15 organizations and over 50 Permanent Mission to the UN, on 15 July at the UN Headquarters in New York. Panelists acknowledged that despite progress, the message about the urgency of investing in disaster risk reduction was not getting through. They all emphasized the need to provide a solid evidence base for the economic benefits of disaster risk reduction – and the cost of not investing in prevention.

## WEB RESOURCES

### IFRC Hurricane Season 2008 site

[http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/response/hurricane\\_season/index.asp](http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/response/hurricane_season/index.asp)

The Atlantic hurricane season officially started on 1 June. The number of hurricanes forecast continues to rise every year. It is predicted that there will be 15 named storms in 2008, four of which are expected to be severe - that is, category 3, 4 or 5. The Red Cross is working to identify challenges and analyse operational constraints that could affect the hurricane response, as a follow-up to a 2007 meeting that focused on the analysis of contingency plans and coordination.



### MunichRe's Topics Geo natural catastrophe reports

<http://www.munichre.com/en/publications/default.aspx?id=1060>

For the past 14 years, MunichRe has presented the results of their annual worldwide survey of disasters in Topics Geo. The report for 2007 has been released, with a slightly different approach. The new format, starting with the subtitle, Analyses – Assessments – Positions, reflects this change of emphasis. Instead of constituting an essentially statistical study of natural catastrophes, the focus is now on providing background analyses that are of practical application.



### PreventionWeb podcasts

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/podcast/?pid=50&pif:3>

Features eight interviews with DRR experts. Latest addition: Ronald Jackson, Director of ODPEM Jamaica, on the challenges of moving from a culture of response to a culture of prevention.



### WMO El Niño/La Niña Update

[http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcasp/enso\\_update\\_latest.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcasp/enso_update_latest.html)

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) presents a forecast for El Niño and La Niña activity through the rest of this year. Available in English, French and Spanish.



Convincing governments and other donors by “shocking” them with the cost of not investing in disaster risk reduction was seen as a key lever. In this context, the prospect of the joint World Bank- UN study on the economics of disaster risk reduction was strongly welcomed. The event was co-hosted by Japan and Ecuador, in cooperation with the UN/ISDR secretariat, and was entitled ‘Disaster risk reduction as an essential element for climate change adaptation: Progress made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action’.

*For more information, please contact Elina Palm, [palm@un.org](mailto:palm@un.org)*

### **ASEAN supporting ISDR in mapping out DRR Education activities in Asia Pacific**

Lao PDR, as the Chair of the ASEAN Committee on Public Awareness and Education, is cooperating closely with the UN/ISDR to identify education-related contributions from all ASEAN countries to the Bangkok Action Agenda Implementation Plan. The UN/ISDR, ASEAN and UNESCO plan to produce an analysis of the activities that are taking place in education in Asia Pacific, which are consistent with the four priorities identified by the Bangkok Action Agenda adopted at the 2007 Asia Pacific Workshop on School Education and Disaster Risk. This analysis will be complemented by a similar exercise for the whole Asia and Pacific region and disseminated as a regional contribution from Asia Pacific at the International Conference on Education, to be held in November 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland.

*For more information, please contact Christel Rose, [rosec@un.org](mailto:rosec@un.org)*

### **Arab States move on climate change adaptation and DDR**

The League of Arab States is finalizing the Arab Regional Framework Plan for Climate Change, which is focusing on adaptation to reduce vulnerabilities of communities in the region. The Framework aims to set out multisector methodologies to bring community-level actors together, and then integrate local ideas and initiatives into the process. The plan of action included components for regional cooperation, as well as national and local implementation. The League of Arab States had presented the Arab Ministerial Declaration

on Climate Change at the United Nations Conference in Bali last year. As a result, a working expert group had been established and, over the past year, various stakeholders and experts -- including representatives from the disaster risk reduction community – have been meeting to develop the framework. The Arab States recognize disaster risk reduction as an important methodology for climate change adaptation because it established links between different relevant sectors, including those focusing on the socio-economic aspects of climate change. The final draft of the Framework will be adopted in a few months.

*For more information, please contact Mostafa Mohaghegh [mostafa.mohaghegh@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:mostafa.mohaghegh@unisdr-wana.org)*

### **Safe Hospitals Campaign consolidates in Middle East**

World Health Organization’s Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO/EMRO) and UN/ISDR secretariat for West Asia and North Africa jointly arranged the last month the first expert regional consultation on the World Disaster Reduction Campaign: Hospitals Safe from Disasters. The Regional Expert Consultation was the formal launched for the regional working group for safe hospitals in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, aiming at finalizing the regional framework for the Safe Hospitals and the Hospital Safety Index for the region. The participants attending the consultation will by 1 August finalize the regional framework as well as the Safety Index. The two outcome products from the consultation will lay the foundations for short and medium term goals, objectives and activities undertaken by the working group in the coming 18 months of the Campaign. Attendees included 35 regional experts, governmental officials, WHO and UN/ISDR staff. *For more information, please contact Tine Ramstad, [tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org)*

### **Middle East NGOs held the Regional DRR consultation**

UN/ISDR secretariat for West Asia and North Africa, in cooperation with the IFRC Middle East and North Africa, conducted the first Regional Consultation for community based organizations working in disaster risk reduction in Cairo, Egypt, 23-24 June, 2008. The meeting aimed to create a clear understanding of needs and capacities amongst the stakeholders, and how to utilize existing resources to scale-up community based Disaster Risk Reduction in the region. 32 participants represented local and international NGOs, NGO networks and the Red Cross/Red Crescent family.

*For more information, please contact Tine Ramstad, [tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org)*

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

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

Africa: <a href="http://www.unisdr.org/africa">www.unisdr.org/africa</a>
Asia & the Pacific: <a href="http://www.unisdr.org/asiapacific">www.unisdr.org/asiapacific</a>
Europe: <a href="http://www.unisdr.org/europe">www.unisdr.org/europe</a>
Latin America & the Caribbean: <a href="http://www.eird.org">www.eird.org</a>
West Asia and North Africa: <a href="http://www.unisdr-wana.org">www.unisdr-wana.org</a>

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Conferences, Trainings and Events

August 2008 - September 2008

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
<b>August</b>		
04 - 08	California, USA	International user conference Environmental Systems Research Institute, ESRI
17 - 23	Stockholm , Sweden	World Water Week Stockholm International Water Institute
21 - 27	Accra, Ghana	Accra Climate Change Talks 2008 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC
24 - 28	Umeå, Sweden	Adaptation of forests and forest management to changing climate with emphasis on forest health: a review of science, policies, and practices International Union of Forest Research Organizations
25 - 29	Davos, Switzerland	International Disaster and Risk Conference: IDRC Davos 2008
26 - 27	Davos, Switzerland	International Conference on Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resilience (ICCR) 2008 Federal Office for Civil Protection
<b>September</b>		
15 - 17	Coventry, UK	Health Protection 2008
16 - 19	Suva, Fiji	United Nations regional UN-SPIDER workshop: building upon regional space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response for the Pacific region
17 - 19	Paraguana, Venezuela	III Seminario internacional: Involucrando a la comunidad en los programas de reducción de riesgos Centro de Investigación de Riesgos
17 - 19	Toledo, Spain	International conference on modelling, monitoring and management of forest fires Wessex Institute of Technology
18 - 19	Graz, Austria	Climate Change in South Eastern European countries III: causes, impacts, solutions Joanneum Research
21 - 27	British Columbia, Canada	International Snow Science Workshop, Whistler 2008
26 - 30	Vorarlberg, Austria	11th Interpraevent congress : protecting living space from flooding, debris flow, avalanches and mass movements Interpraevent Research Association and the Forest Technical Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control

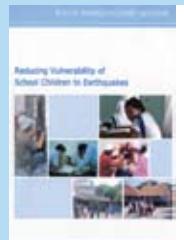
Source: PreventionWeb.net  
[www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events)

## Library Corner

### Reducing Vulnerability of School Children to Earthquakes

School Earthquake Safety Initiatives  
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)  
Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office  
2008, 35 pages

This publication summarizes the activities under the ongoing School Earthquake Safety Initiative (SESI) project and includes an introduction and some background information



about the project together with country reports from the four project countries: Fiji, India, Indonesia and Uzbekistan. As components of the project is the dissemination and sharing of knowledge, experience and information from the project countries to a wider audience throughout the region. This report is expected to disseminate good practices from the project countries to other countries in the region.

### Global Symposium +5

Information for Humanitarian Action  
Bringing together a community of practice on humanitarian information and knowledge  
Final Report  
ReliefWeb/United Nations Office for the Coordination of humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)  
2008, 75 pages



The Global Symposium +5 on Information for Humanitarian Action was held in Geneva at the Palais des Nations on 22-26 October 2007. It brought together more than 300 humanitarian professionals to build upon a community of practice on humanitarian information and knowledge to strengthen humanitarian response through timely and reliable information. Preparedness in the context of humanitarian information refers mainly to have tools and systems with agreed standards and methodologies for data collection established well in advance of an emergency.



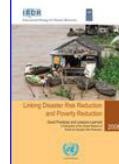
## International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

### Announcements

#### Linking Disaster Risk Reduction and Poverty Reduction

This publication highlights initiatives that have successfully linked poverty reduction and disaster risk reduction and shows how DRR can be integrated into poverty reduction to help reduce the vulnerability of the poor and protect their livelihoods and development gains.

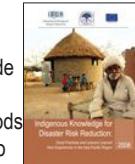
[http://unisdr.org/eng/about\\_isdr/isdr-publications/19-Indigenous\\_Knowledge-DRR/Indigenous\\_Knowledge-DRR.pdf](http://unisdr.org/eng/about_isdr/isdr-publications/19-Indigenous_Knowledge-DRR/Indigenous_Knowledge-DRR.pdf)



#### Indigenous Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction: Good Practices and Lessons Learned from Experiences in the Asia-Pacific Region

Many local communities worldwide have prepared and responded to disasters using indigenous methods passed on from one generation to the next. This publication aims to build awareness for indigenous knowledge as an effective tool for reducing risk from natural hazard-related disasters.

[http://unisdr.org/eng/about\\_isdr/isdr-publications/19-Indigenous\\_Knowledge-DRR/Indigenous\\_Knowledge-DRR.pdf](http://unisdr.org/eng/about_isdr/isdr-publications/19-Indigenous_Knowledge-DRR/Indigenous_Knowledge-DRR.pdf)



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### In This Issue:

- APEC agrees on strategic framework to mitigate the impact of natural hazards
- Academics and Governments join forces to address large-scale disasters
- International Disaster and Risk Conference begins in Davos
- Switzerland supports National Platform coordination
- Safe Hospitals Campaign launched in Manila
- Kingdom of Bahrain holds national DRR workshop
- Norway and ISDR system ask IPCC to write DRR and Climate Change Adaptaion report
- DRR issues discussed at World Water Week
- Climate Resilient Cities Primer launched in Thailand
- DRR workshop held in Panama City

Also:

- Web Resources
- Mark Your Calendar
- Library Corner

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# Highlights

August 2008

### APEC agrees on framework to mitigate the impact of natural hazards

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) has agreed on a strategic framework to mitigate the impact of natural hazards. Initiated by Peru with support from Australia and Indonesia, the framework focuses on monitoring volcanoes and hydrographic watersheds where the "El Nino" phenomenon is generated. This framework for the "Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in Asia Pacific region from 2009/2015" was endorsed during the 2nd Emergency Management CEO Seminar 2008 of APEC, 12-14 August, in Lima, Peru. The agreed framework incorporates the Hyogo Framework for Action and is an important step forward in focusing attention on disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness in the APEC process. If the proposal is ratified in November at the 16th APEC summit in Lima, Peru, it is expected to enable all 21 APEC member economies to exchange technologies and resources to reduce the impact of disasters and speed up the delivery of aid.

*For more information, please contact Christel Rose, [rosec@un.org](mailto:rosec@un.org)*

### Academics and Governments join forces to address large-scale disasters

Hong Kong University and Beijing Normal University are partnering to establish a large-scale Catastrophe Management Initiative (CMI) in response to the Sichuan Earthquake. The universities signed a Memorandum of Collaboration on 27 July at a ceremony in Chengdu, Sichuan, with a number of high-ranking government officials in attendance. By synergising the strengths of the two universities, the CMI will be the first of its kind - the most comprehensive, holistic and integrated project that addresses all aspects of catastrophe management, ranging from rehabilitation to reconstruction and redevelopment, at both policy and practice levels. The CMI will serve as a focal point to promote links and synergies between, and the coordination of, Wenchuan earthquake rehabilitation, reconstruction and redevelopment activities in the socio-economic, humanitarian and development fields. The CMI will also support policy integration in all functional areas. Some of the projects currently underway include:

- organizing the first Annual Global Dialogue of the Wenchuan Earthquake;
- developing a pre-school education programme for children; and
- conducting a follow-up survey on earthquake survivors.

*For more information, please see <http://www.hku.hk/chinaearthquake/cmi.html>*

## International Disaster and Risk Conference begins in Davos

The International Disaster and Risk Conference (IDRC) 2008 began in Davos, Switzerland on 25 August. In around 100 different events, approximately 1000 participants from 100 countries discussed how to address a wide range of natural hazards, the array of technical and biological risks, terrorism, climate change and pandemics. The slogan of the conference, "100 ideas for action," reflects IDRC's emphasis on tangible and practical results. Every day is dedicated to a different focal theme, such as climate change and the 12 May earthquake in China. The conference closed today on 29 August.

For more information, please see <http://www.idrc.info>

## Switzerland supports National Platform coordination

Hyogo Framework for Action focal points and other high-level disaster risk reduction (DRR) representatives from Bangladesh, Jordan, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal, and Tajikistan met with their French, German and Swiss counterparts from a European network of National Platforms, during the International Disaster and Risk Conference in Davos, Switzerland. Substantially supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) this week-long workshop promoted the establishment and strengthening of National Platforms for DRR. Following UNDP and UN/ISDR secretariat information sessions and country presentations, participants engaged in concrete action planning to improve their national coordination for DRR. The SDC plans to further support national coordination mechanisms in selected countries.

For more information, please contact Franz Stössel, [franz.stoessel@deza.admin.ch](mailto:franz.stoessel@deza.admin.ch)

## Safe Hospitals Campaign launched in Manila

The WHO-Western Pacific Regional Office held their regional launch of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign: Hospitals Safe from Disaster in Manila, Philippines, on 20 August. Calling on members states to ensure that hospitals are disaster safe, the WHO emphasized the importance of DRR to the WHO Western Pacific Region, which includes much of Asia. "Over the past 10 years, the Western Pacific Region encountered 127 major disasters from natural hazards or 23% of all disasters worldwide," said Dr. Soe Nyunt-U, WHO Representative to the Philippines. "The Philippines is the most disaster-prone country in the Region, exceeding China and Vietnam. This is the reason why we need hospitals and healthfacilities that will not collapse in disasters, killing patients and staff."

For more information please contact Dr. Art Pesigan, [pesigana@wpro.who.int](mailto:pesigana@wpro.who.int)

## Kingdom of Bahrain holds national DRR workshop

The Kingdom of Bahrain, in collaboration with the UN Country Team and ISDR regional office for West Asia and North Africa, organized a national disaster risk reduction workshop in Manama, Bahrain 18-19 August.

This initiative was held with the goal of enhancing national coordination mechanisms on risk reduction and ensuring effective progress on Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) implementation, monitoring and reporting. More than 70 participants representing ministries, governmental agencies, the private sector and civil society engaged in a multi-stakeholder dialogue on global, regional and national disaster risk reduction trends, and the needs,

## WEB RESOURCES

### Maplecroft interactive risk maps

<http://maps.maplecroft.com/>

Maplecroft interactive maps provide a highly visual starting point for those interested in understanding environmental, social, economic and political issues with in a global context and the correlations between them. Maplecroft online climate change risk report contains risk analysis and mapping for 168 countries that can be used to assess, quantify and compare climate change risks and develop strategies to mitigate them.



Risks relating to emissions from energy and land use, unsustainable energy use and climate change regulation are covered. A risk mapping service is also available to assess risk for specific cities and regions at the sub-national level.

### UNCCD Focus on Land and Climate page

<http://www.unccd.int/science/soilandclimate/menu.php>

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has launched a new webpage on the interrelationship between land and climate. The webpage highlights that soil can make a difference in addressing climate change issues, and presents information on land and climate change, land degradation and poverty, energy security, food security, and UNCCD processes to address climate change and soil.

### China Earthquake: HKU Action portal

<http://www.hku.hk/chinaearthquake/>

This is a one-stop information-sharing portal where details of the university community's wide range of activities and responses to the 12 May Sichuan earthquake can be found. This resource contains a variety of documents on the actions taken by Hong Kong University in response to the disaster. Among the available resources are fund raising drives, round table discussion summaries, media interviews given by members of the academic community. Most documents are written in Chinese, but many are also in English.



### The PHREE-Way portal

<http://www.phree-way.org/>

PHREE-Way is a global action-learning consortium of organizations working together to expand education and strengthen capacity for disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action towards sustainable development and human security. The portal is a highly flexible and robust set of website modules, allowing users to browse, edit and add content based on certain permissions. The aim of the PHREE-Way portal is to make the process of searching for disaster risk reduction resources and information easier for individuals.

challenges and priorities facing risk reduction in Bahrain. As requested by the government, UN/ISDR secretariat provided technical support and guidance to national stakeholders on strengthening national coordination mechanisms on disaster risk reduction and providing guidance on the implementation, monitoring and reporting of HFA at the national level.

For more information, please contact Luna Abu-Swaireh,  
[abu-swaireh@un.org](mailto:abu-swaireh@un.org)

### **Norway and ISDR system ask IPCC to write DRR and Climate Change Adaptation report**

In preparation for the 29th Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), scheduled 31 August-4 September 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland, the ISDR system and the Government of Norway have asked the IPCC to write a special report on "Managing the Risk of Extreme Events to Advance Climate Change Adaptation." The request is based on the recognition of the linkages between disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change, as well as the need to learn from risk reduction experience in order to guide the adaptation activities of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change parties. According to the written request, the relevance of disaster risk reduction to advance adaptation has been widely acknowledged; however, no comprehensive assessment of the disaster risk reduction and management policies and measures that can inform climate change adaptation has been carried out. The request then describes how the special report would comply with the IPCC framework and criteria for establishing priorities for IPCC reports, and provides an outline of the proposed assessment.

The proposal is available online at [http://www.unisdr.org/eng/risk-reduction/climate-change/docs/IPCC\\_Norway\\_ISDR\\_system\\_Proposal.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/risk-reduction/climate-change/docs/IPCC_Norway_ISDR_system_Proposal.pdf)

### **DRR issues discussed at World Water Week**

World Water Week, an annual venue for discussing global water issues organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute, took place in Sweden 17-23 August. Two days of presentations, workshops and discussions focused on issues related to the relationship between water and climate change. The connection between climate change and changing water availability was highlighted by many experts. During one

session, World Wildlife Fund freshwater researcher Jamie Pittock used case studies from four continents to show how measures to improve the health of stressed water systems, such as restoring the flood holding and drought proofing services of flood plains and wetlands, can improve our ability to cope with projected climate impacts.

For more information, please see <http://www.worldwaterweek.org>

### **Climate Resilient Cities Primer launched in Thailand**

The Climate Resilient Cities Primer was launched in July during the Green Cities Workshop held in Pattaya, Thailand. The World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and UN/ISDR secretariat teamed up to produce the Primer *Climate Resilient Cities: A Primer on Reducing Vulnerabilities to Climate Change Impacts and Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in East Asian Cities*. The primer serves as a tool for city governments in the East Asia region to better understand how to plan for climate change impacts and impending natural disasters through sound urban planning to reduce vulnerabilities. It gives local city managers information to actively engage in training, capacity building, and capital investment programs that are identified as priorities for building sustainable, resilient communities. Global and regional examples from 20 cities undertaking sound practices in mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction are offered as practical lessons of experience.

The primer is available online at <http://www.worldbank.org/eap/climatecities>

### **DRR workshop held in Panama City**

UN/ISDR-Americas hosted and co-organized a bilingual (Spanish and English) workshop 11-13 August in Panama City focusing on how to build and keep alive Early Warning Systems in Central America and the Caribbean. The workshop was organized in the framework of Working Group IV – “Preparedness, Readiness and Resilience,” of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions. Community preparedness leaders and planners from across the region shared their experiences in developing community-based programmes for dealing with coastal hazards, including tsunamis. This initiative supports the development of Caribbean-wide early warning systems for tsunami and other coastal hazards. The workshop produced recommendations for capacity building and strengthening at the regional and national level, pointers for the development of standard operational procedures, and concrete steps to move forward based on current initiatives.

For more information, please contact Sophia Scherer, [sscherer@eird.org](mailto:sscherer@eird.org)

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

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

- 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.org](http://www.unisdr-wana.org)

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Conferences, Trainings and Events  
September 2008 - October 2008

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
<b>September</b>		
15 - 17	Coventry, UK	Health Protection 2008
16 - 19	Suva, Fiji	United Nations regional UN-SPIDER workshop: building upon regional space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response for the Pacific region
17 - 19	Paraguana, Venezuela	III Seminario internacional: Involucrando a la comunidad en los programas de reducción de riesgos Centro de Investigación de Riesgos
17 - 19	Toledo, Spain	International conference on modelling, monitoring and management of forest fires Wessex Institute of Technology
18 - 19	Graz, Austria	Climate Change in South Eastern European countries III: causes, impacts, solutions Joanneum Research
21 - 27	British Columbia, Canada	International Snow Science Workshop, Whistler 2008
26 - 30	Vorarlberg, Austria	11th Interpraevent congress : protecting living space from flooding, debris flow, avalanches and mass movements Interpraevent Research Association and the Forest Technical Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control
28 - 4 Oct	Ruimsig, South Africa	Disaster project management training course Monash University South Africa campus
<b>October</b>		
8	Worldwide	<b>International Day for Disaster Reduction</b>
8 - 9	Western Cape Province,	Disaster risk reduction workshop Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa
9 - 10	Chisinau, Moldova	Regional scientific and technical conference on the role of the NMHSs in prevention and mitigation of natural hazards impact World Meteorological Organization
10 - 14		WBI distance learning program on natural disaster risk management World Bank Institute
14 - 15	London, UK	International disaster and emergency resilience conference 2008 International Disaster and Emergency Resilience
18-22	Manila, Philippines	Third congress on women in politics and governance: focus on gender, climate change and disaster risk reduction, CAPWIP

See [www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events)

## Library Corner

### Survival of the fittest: Pastoralism and climate change in East Africa

<http://www.oxfam.org/en/policy/bp116-pastoralism-climate-change-0808>

Oxfam International, 2008, 48 pages  
Climate change is having a destructive impact on many groups around the world. Pastoralists in East Africa have been adapting to climate variability for millennia and their adaptability ought to enable them to cope with this growing challenge. This report explains the policies required to enable sustainable and productive pastoralist communities to cope with the impact of climate change and generate sustainable livelihoods.

### Disaster risk financing: Reducing the burden on public budgets

[http://www.swissre.com/pws/research%20publications/risk%20and%20expertise/focus%20reports/focus\\_report\\_disaster\\_risk\\_financing.html](http://www.swissre.com/pws/research%20publications/risk%20and%20expertise/focus%20reports/focus_report_disaster_risk_financing.html)

Swiss Reinsurance Company Ltd., 2008, 8 pages

In 2005, despite a record insurance payout of more than USD 83 billion world-wide, uninsured direct losses of USD 150 billion had to be carried by individuals, companies and the public sector.



In this report, Swiss Re explores new forms of public-private partnership that can make societies more resilient by addressing the rising cost of disaster relief and reconstruction. Examples of new financial risk transfer products are given that allow stakeholders to manage disaster expenses more efficiently by funding them before – instead of after – a catastrophe occurs.

### Humanitarian implications of climate change: Mapping emerging trends and risk hotspots

<http://www.climate-i.org/2008/08/ocha-commission.html>

UN OCHA & CARE International, 2008, 30 pages

This report identifies the most likely humanitarian implications of climate change for the next 20-30 year period. Geographical Information Systems is used to map specific hazards associated with climate change, place them in relation to factors influencing vulnerability, and identify hotspots of high humanitarian risk under changing climatic conditions.



## International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

### Announcements

#### Gender perspectives: integrating DRR into climate change adaptation

This publication points out the vital nexus between women's experiences of natural resource management, climate change adaptation and DRR, and how they can come together to make whole communities strong and sustainable.

[www.unisdr.org/gender\\_perspectives\\_drr\\_climate\\_change](http://www.unisdr.org/gender_perspectives_drr_climate_change)



### International Day for Disaster Reduction

#### 8 October: Hospitals Safe from Disasters

The International Day will focus on ensuring health facilities can function during and in the aftermath of a disaster. The new campaign website launches 8 October, featuring campaign news, good practices, resources for health practitioners and health facility managers, and information about the Hospital Safety Index.

Visit: [www.safehospitals.info](http://www.safehospitals.info)



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### In This Issue:

- Secretary-General calls on Ministers to use DRR for climate change adaptation
- African drought forum supports stronger networks
- IPCC makes moves towards DRR-adaptation report
- DRR networking survey at IDRC Davos conference
- China and Africa meet to discuss drought risk reduction
- Education alliances for DRR growing in the Americas
- University of Capetown plans DRR training
- Meteorological services conference on natural hazard impact mitigation
- Sasakawa Award for DRR open for nominations
- International Day for Disaster Reduction events planned worldwide

#### 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: [isdrhighlights@un.org](mailto: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

September 2008

### Secretary-General calls on Ministers to use DRR for climate change adaptation

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called a special meeting of Ministers in New York, 29 September, urging them to make greater commitments to using disaster risk reduction for climate change adaptation. The Secretary-General called on Ministers to lead the way at Poznan, Poland, in championing disaster risk reduction as a core element of climate change adaptation. He urged Governments to give high priority to implementing disaster risk reduction measures, in order to achieve the goals set by the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015). "We must not delay," said the Secretary-General. "If we are too slow to adapt to climate change, we risk making disasters even more catastrophic than they need to be. We must draw on the Hyogo Framework for Action and disaster risk reduction knowledge to protect the world's most vulnerable populations against climate change." The meeting also urged substantial scaling up of disaster risk reduction funds at national and international levels in order to reduce the vulnerability of the most affected and the poorest.

*For more information, please contact Elina Palm, [palm@un.org](mailto:palm@un.org)*

### African drought forum supports stronger networks

Strengthening networks for knowledge management and information exchange on drought such as the African Drought Risk and Development network (ADDN) was a key focus of the 3rd African Drought Adaptation Forum, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 17-19 September. Through the ADDN, knowledge and good practices in drought risk management are being shared between countries and practitioners in Africa. Recent achievements of the network include the Drought Risk Reduction Framework, which guides actions and national and local level to address drought concerns in development. The drought forum itself was an opportunity to directly share information on the latest methodologies, on-going activities, programmes and networking for drought risk assessment, monitoring, mitigation and preparedness. This included group input into revised editions of several publications: such as the revised version of the UNDP-Drylands Development Centre (DDC) publication Mainstreaming Guidelines: Drylands Development, the revised version of the Drought Risk Reduction: framework and practices, and a forthcoming UNISDR collection of good practices on drought. The event was jointly hosted by UNDP-DDC (Nairobi), UN Economic Commission for Africa and UNISDR Africa. The approximately 80 participants included representatives from governments, donor agencies, the World Bank, the African Union Commission and UN organizations.

*For more information, please contact Eric Patrick, [eric.patrick@undp.org](mailto:eric.patrick@undp.org) or visit [www.undp.org/drylands/](http://www.undp.org/drylands/)*

## IPCC makes moves towards DRR-adaptation report

At the 29th session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 31 August - 4 September 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland, parties agreed to hold a scoping workshop on the IPCC Special Report on Managing Extreme Events to Advance Adaptation proposed by Norway and the ISDR system with support from Luxembourg. The workshop will be held in early 2009 and recommend to the IPCC's 30th session whether it should carry out the proposal. The proposal seeks to develop a scientifically sound assessment of information and practices on risk reduction and risk management to support policies and programmes for adaptation to climate change.

For more information, please contact Reid Basher, [reid.basher@un.org](mailto:reid.basher@un.org)

## DRR networking survey at IDRC Davos conference

A survey of 207 participants at the International Disaster and Risk Conference found that networks outnumbered people in the sample surveyed. Prior to the conference, 46 online networks and communities of practice had been identified and promoted via the disaster risk reduction (DRR) community site PreventionWeb, managed by UNISDR. The preliminary survey results identified 288 additional groups - both private and public - for further validation and study. Few people were connected to the same networks, though the majority indicated an interest in joining groups to facilitate their work. The survey, carried out by UNISDR's PreventionWeb team, aimed to identify new networks and to broker connections between people and networks where needed. After validation, the data will be shared with the Penn State University (USA) COHORT project to further analyze the patterns in the DRR environment. One goal will be to continue the study in similar conference environments to measure future connectedness and the impact of brokering connections.

For more information, please contact Craig Duncan, [duncanc@un.org](mailto:duncanc@un.org)

## China and Africa meet to discuss drought risk reduction

The Sino-Africa Forum on Drought Risk Reduction, a joint initiative between the Chinese government and UNISDR, was held on 23 September in Beijing. The main objectives were to share information and knowledge on drought risk reduction and explore ways to further cooperate on the issue. Government officials from China and 12 African countries attended, along with representatives from UNISDR, UNDP, the World Food Programme and the Australian Embassy in China. Compared to other types of disasters, droughts have had a larger negative impact on socio-economic development in both China and Africa. Presentations highlighted the need for a paradigm shift from drought crisis management to drought risk management. Mr Mariga from Zimbabwe encouraged China to share its know-how and experience of managing agricultural drought with African countries and used the expression "Don't give us the fish, but teach us how to fish" to emphasize the need to work towards self-sufficiency. At the Forum's conclusion, participants agreed that more effort is needed to make drought risk reduction an integral component of climate change negotiations, and food security and poverty reduction programmes.

For more information, please contact Feng Min Kan, [kanf@un.org](mailto:kanf@un.org)

## WEB RESOURCES

### OIKOS City risk management game

[www.e-oikos.net](http://www.e-oikos.net)

OIKOS City is an interactive online game designed to educate secondary students about disaster risk reduction, raising awareness of how disasters affect people every day and how very simple measures can save lives. Players become mayor of Oikos City and must manage city development while facing six natural hazard risks.



### Papers and presentations from the 4th International i-Rec Conference

[www.resorgs.org.nz/  
irec2008/i-rec2008\\_papers.shtml](http://www.resorgs.org.nz/irec2008/i-rec2008_papers.shtml)

i-Rec, a web-based international network focused on the study of reconstruction after disasters, held its fourth international conference in May 2008. The focus was 'Building resilience: achieving effective post-disaster reconstruction.' Over 50 online conference papers and presentations cover a broad range of post-disaster reconstruction issues, such as stakeholder participation, policy frameworks, urban planning and education.



### National Child Traumatic Stress network

[www.nctsnet.org/ncts](http://www.nctsnet.org/ncts)

Disasters are stressful for all involved, but children are especially vulnerable to the psychological trauma of large-scale events. The National Child Traumatic Stress Network has compiled a wealth of information in various languages for disaster planning and preparedness that is focused on children who fall victim to natural hazards. The site includes a hurricane assessment tool and psychological field guides in English and Chinese.



### Clean up the World campaign

<http://activities.cleanuptheworld.org/>

Clean up the World is a global campaign that aims to inspire communities to clean up, fix up and conserve the environment. Held in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme, it mobilizes an estimated 35 million people across 120 countries. Participants are able to map and promote their organizations and clean up activities on the campaign website. Resources are also available to help participants plan and organize activities.



## **Education alliances for DRR growing in the Americas**

A workshop on "Building Alliances for the Strengthening of the Education Sector in Disaster Risk Reduction" was held in Lima, Peru, from 9 - 11 September. Participants included representatives from the regional Education Ministry, agencies and NGOs. The workshop identified a list of joint activities to be undertaken with the aim of building regional alliances for strengthening education sector capacity in disaster preparedness, risk reduction and response. The group supported the UNISDR proposal to set up a thematic platform on Education and Disaster Risk Reduction in the region. Work will be ongoing to formalize this commitment and define the platform structure. UNICEF, Prevention and Mitigation in the African Community (PREDECAN), USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, Save the Children, the Intermediate Technology Development Group and UNISDR co-organized the workshop.

For more information, please contact Julio Trelles, [jtrelles@eird.org](mailto:jtrelles@eird.org)

## **University of Capetown plans DRR training**

In collaboration with UNISDR Africa, the University of Cape Town plans to organize short practical training courses on Disasters and Development, and on Community Based Assessments. The courses will be targeted at national focal points for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and other DRR stakeholders. UNISDR Africa will be seeking support from Resident Coordinators and Humanitarian Coordinators. National focal points are encouraged to engage with the courses. USAID will be providing support to the University. The next course is planned for 13 November - 4 December.

For more information, please contact Martin Owor, [martin34@un.org](mailto:martin34@un.org)

## **Meteorological services conference on natural hazards impact mitigation**

The Regional Scientific and Technical Conference on the Role of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Hazards Impact will be held in Moldova from 9 - 10 October. The Conference, hosted by the Government of Moldova, is intended to be a multidisciplinary event at the European level and an important step towards concrete regional cooperative efforts for disaster risk reduction capacity building.

For more information, please contact Paola Albrito, [albrito@un.org](mailto:albrito@un.org)

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

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

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.org](http://www.unisdr-wana.org)

## **Sasakawa Award for DRR open for nominations**

Nominations are now open for the 2009 Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction. Nominees should be individuals and institutions from around the world who have contributed to building the resilience of nations and communities to natural hazards through innovative practices and outstanding initiatives. Nominations must be sent to [isdr-sasakawa@un.org](mailto:isdr-sasakawa@un.org) by 18 March 2009.

For more information, please visit [www.unisdr.org/sasakawa2009](http://www.unisdr.org/sasakawa2009)

## **International Day for Disaster Reduction events planned worldwide**

New York, USA: The global event will be a high level panel in New York featuring representatives of countries that have suffered major disasters, including China, and that have since focused closely on protecting critical infrastructure such as health facilities and schools.

Contact: Tze Ming Mok, [mokt@un.org](mailto:mokt@un.org)

Bangkok, Thailand: UNISDR with the ASEAN Secretariat will hold an Award Ceremony for a regional drawing competition called Safer Community - Hospital, School and House of My Dream, and organize a roundtable discussion on the issue. Contact: Christel Rose, [rosec@un.org](mailto:rosec@un.org)

Cairo, Egypt: UNISDR and WHO will hold a multi-stakeholder event and launch the Campaign's regional framework, a regional version of the Hospital Safety Index and a Public Service announcement.

Contact: Tine Ramstad, [tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org)

Dushanbe, Tajikistan: Coordinating with UN Country Teams, UNISDR West Asia North Africa will plant trees and encourage tree planting by other UN Country Teams across the region to fight desertification, drought and climate change.

Contact: Goulsara Pulatova, [goulsara.pulatova@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:goulsara.pulatova@unisdr-wana.org)

Islamabad, Pakistan: Pakistan will hold its National Conference on Disaster Management and a two-day expo on disaster risk reduction, organized by the National Disaster Management Authority with the support of the South Asian Resources Centre. Contact: Abdul Karim Nayani, [nayani@un.org](mailto:nayani@un.org)

Mpumalanga and West Cape, South Africa: The Government of South Africa will hold celebrations culminating on 16 October in Mpumalanga with a street parade and drama competitions. The Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa is holding a major conference near Cape Town on 8-9 October. Contact: Martin Owor, [martin34@un.org](mailto:martin34@un.org)

Panama City, Panama and Washington D.C., USA: UNISDR and the Pan American Health Organization will be launching a photography contest on safe hospitals, and planning outreach activities with regional hospitals and health facilities to commemorate the day.

Contact: Margarita Villalobos, [margarita.villalobos@eird.org](mailto:margarita.villalobos@eird.org)

Tehran, Iran: The 3rd Economic Cooperation Organization Conference on Disaster Risk Management will be held 7-8 October, supported by UNISDR. There will also be a knowledge fair and media training.

Contact: Seyed Mohammad Sadatinejad, [mohammad.sadatinejad@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:mohammad.sadatinejad@unisdr-wana.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Conferences, Trainings and Events

October 2008 - November 2008

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
<b>October</b>		
7 - 8	Tehran, Iran	3rd ECO international conference on disaster risk management Economic Cooperation Organization
8	Worldwide	<b>International Day for Disaster Reduction</b>
8 - 11	Kocaeli, Turkey	3rd international workshop on gender and disasters Kocaeli University
9 - 10	Chisinau, Moldova	Regional scientific and technical conference on the role of NMHSs in prevention and mitigation of natural hazards impact World Meteorological Organization
10 - 14		Distance learning program on natural disaster risk management World Bank Institute
12 - 17	Beijing, China	14th world conference on earthquake engineering International Association of Earthquake Engineering
14 - 15	London, UK	International disaster and emergency resilience conference 2008 International Disaster and Emergency Resilience
19-22	Manila, Philippines	3rd congress on women in politics and governance: focus on gender, climate change and disaster risk reduction, CAPWIP
21 - 23	San'a', Yemen	2nd Middle East and North Africa regional conference on disaster risk management and reduction Government of Yemen
<b>November</b>		
3 - 4	Cheltenham, UK	Floodfighters conference and workshops University of Gloucestershire
4 - 7	Mainla, Philippines	Asia Pacific conference on climate change adaptation Centre for Initiatives and Research on Climate Adaptation
5 - 9	St. John's, Canada	5th Canadian risk and hazards network symposium Canadian Risk and Hazards Network
12 - 14	Bali, Indonesia	International conference on tsunami warning: towards safer coastal communities Ministry of Research and Technology
12 - 13	Los Angeles, USA	Los Angeles international earthquake conference City of Los Angeles
18 - 21	Tokyo, Japan	1st world landslide forum International Consortium of Landslides

Source: PreventionWeb.net  
[www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events)

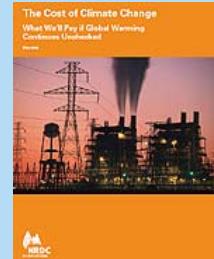
## Library Corner

**Cost of climate change: what we'll pay if global warming continues unchecked**

Natural Resources Defense Council

2008, 42 pages

<http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/cost/contents.asp>



This report focuses on a "business-as-usual" future in which the world continues to emit heat-trapping gases at an increasing rate. The effects of climate change will be felt in the form of more severe heat waves, hurricanes, droughts, and other erratic weather events - and on the economy's bottom line. A new model is used to provide a comprehensive picture of the cost of global warming to the US economy - including economic losses, noneconomic damages and increased disaster risks.

**From grassroots to global: people centered disaster risk reduction**

ProVention Consortium

2008, 28 pages

[http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/Forum\\_2008\\_report.pdf](http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/Forum_2008_report.pdf)

The ProVention Consortium forum was held in Panama City 8-10 April and brought together ProVention partners from governments, international organizations, private sector and civil society to share experiences and views on key challenges facing DRR work worldwide. This forum report presents a review and discussion of key themes, challenges and potential contributions to be made by ProVention in promoting DRR.

**Role of environmental management and eco-engineering in DRR and climate change adaptation**

ProAct Network

2008, 68 pages

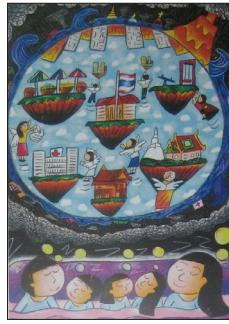
<http://proactnetwork.org/index.php/global-initiatives/climate-change/environmental-management>



Recognizing the potential benefits of intact or well-managed ecosystems as buffers against natural hazards is slowly gaining recognition. Forests of a certain age, for example, play a vital protective role on steep slopes, protecting against potential landslides. This report discusses several such examples where sound environmental management has a positive impact on reducing the scale and occurrence of certain hazards.



## International Strategy for Disaster Reduction



Winner of the ASEAN International Day for Disaster Reduction drawing competition: Safer community: hospital, school & house of my dream. For more information: [dechnarong@un.org](mailto:dechnarong@un.org)

### Now available

#### UNISDR Briefing Note: Climate change and disaster risk reduction

Concise background information on climate change and disaster risk reduction for policy makers and decisionmakers.

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/>

#### Report of the Secretary-General: Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

An overview of progress on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in response to General Assembly resolutions 62/192, 61/199 and 61/200.

[http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about\\_isdr/bd-sg-reports-eng.htm](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about_isdr/bd-sg-reports-eng.htm)

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### In This Issue:

- Parliamentarians call for Hyogo Framework to be legally binding
- Global Women's Congress makes DRR and Climate Change declaration
- The Americas start national dialogues on CCA and DRR
- ISDR System submits adaptation proposal to UNFCCC
- Turkmenistan reaches out to build urban risk knowledge
- IUCN holds workshop on environmental DRR
- Global, regional and national events mark International Day for Disaster Reduction

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# Highlights

October 2008

### Parliamentarians call for Hyogo Framework to be legally binding

A consultative group of parliamentarians from across Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe have called for the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: building the resilience of nations and communities* to become an internationally binding legal instrument, as part of the 'Manila Call for Action of Parliamentarians on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation'. They have requested the support of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in pushing for this, and emphasized the need for the international community to fund disaster risk reduction (DRR) more. The Manila Call for Action resulted from a parliamentarians' roundtable meeting on Making Disaster Risk Reduction a Tool for Adapting to Climate Change, and commits the parliamentarians to advocate for policy change, enact legislation, and promote close collaboration between DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) experts and institutions. The meeting was chaired by high-profile Philippines Senator Loren Legarda, attended by 10 key parliamentarians, and took place 17-18 October in Manila with the support of numerous further parliamentary members of the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) International and GLOBE Europe. The consultative meeting proposed that the GLOBE network be used to create national and regional platforms for cross-parliamentary campaigns on DRR and CCA. Senator Legarda presented the Manila Call to the Third Global Congress of Asia-Pacific Women in Politics and Leadership a few days later, where it received a positive response.

For more information, please contact Ana Cristina Thorlund, [thorlund@un.org](mailto:thorlund@un.org)

### Global Women's Congress makes DRR and Climate Change declaration

The Manila Declaration for Global Action on Gender, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction was the key outcome of the Third Global Congress of Women in Politics and Governance, which was held 19 -22 October in Manila. The Declaration highlighted "the close link between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction for which the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015 provides a guide to better protect our societies and economies from current and future hazards." The Congress was organized by the Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics, in partnership with organizations including UNISDR, UNDP, IUCN, UNEP, GGCA and UNIFEM. Its purpose was to provide a forum for legislators and decision-makers to discuss gender aspects of climate change and DRR. It was attended by 250 people, including 20 parliamentarians. The Manila Declaration denounced "the absence of a gender perspective in global agreements on climate change". There were 12 key

declarations, including that women and men must equally participate in climate change, DRR decision-making processes at community, national, regional and international levels; and that gender-responsive budgeting must be pursued by Governments and international organizations to ensure adequate allocation of resources to enhance women's capacity, especially the poorest and most disadvantaged, to enhance their resilience to climate change and disasters. Congress participants declared their full commitment to the goals outlined in the Declaration, along with their intent to carry the Declaration forward to all future meetings where climate change and DRR issues will be discussed, including the Climate Change meeting in Poznan.

For full text of final Manila Declaration, visit: [www.capwip.org/manila%20declarationfinal.pdf](http://www.capwip.org/manila%20declarationfinal.pdf)

For Congress papers and other information, visit: [www.capwip.org/3rdglobalcongress1.html](http://www.capwip.org/3rdglobalcongress1.html)

### The Americas start national dialogues on CCA and DRR

To identify potential joint actions towards climate change adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean, a dialogue between national offices for climate change and national platforms for disaster reduction was initiated at the first 'Regional Consultative Meeting of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction & Dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation'. The Meeting was held October 20-22 in Panama City, Panama. This meeting served as preparation for the first session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction scheduled for March 2009 in Panama and the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in June 2009 in Geneva. The aim of the meeting was to contribute to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action through supporting National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction and looking at common initiatives for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Representatives from national platforms from Latin America and the Caribbean attended and shared experiences, best practices and useful reference materials.

For more information, contact Mr Julio Trelles, [jtrelles@eird.org](mailto:jtrelles@eird.org)

### ISDR System submits adaptation proposal to UNFCCC

On 29 September, the ISDR System submitted a proposal to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat in response to the Bali Action Plan's call for enhanced action on adaptation through consideration of disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies, risk management and risk transfer mechanisms. The proposal was developed in consultation with a number of UN and international organizations concerned with DRR and humanitarian response. It included a set of suggested concrete actions related to the following four areas of focus: national planning for adaptation; enhancing knowledge sharing; streamlining and scaling up financial and technical support; and institutional frameworks for adaptation. The recommendations made are based on decades of experience in reducing, managing and transferring disaster risk at all levels, from international to community.

For more information, visit: [www.unisdr.org/eng/risk-reduction/climate-change/docs/ISDR-System-Submission-Adaptation.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/risk-reduction/climate-change/docs/ISDR-System-Submission-Adaptation.pdf)

## WEB RESOURCES

### New map section on PreventionWeb

[www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/maps](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/maps)



The disaster risk reduction community site PreventionWeb has launched a new section dedicated to hazard, risk and vulnerability maps. 62 maps are already available, and site users are encouraged to submit more DRR maps and resources through [www.preventionweb.net/submit/](http://www.preventionweb.net/submit/).

### DRR and climate change Youtube docs

<http://go.worldbank.org/2DUKUA7IW0>

The World Bank has held a Youtube



documentary competition on the impact of climate change on social development. The index of video finalists include several documentaries directly addressing climate change adaptation, such as on mangrove forests as buffers against coastal hazards, and reforestation to prevent landslides during intensifying rainfall.

### Disaster Management in the Information Age

<http://go.worldbank.org/BSWA8ECOS0>

The full proceedings of the World Bank International Day for Disaster Reduction 2-day workshop on Information and Communication



Technologies and disaster management are available online. The archives includes full webcasts and slide presentations on the use of technology in disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, ranging from GIS to text messaging to online social networking.

### Asian media and development blog

<http://movingimages.wordpress.com/category/communicating-disasters/>

Nalaka Gunawardene, Director of Television for Education - Asia Pacific, works with filmmakers, TV journalists as well as educational and civil society users of video. His blog addresses the use of media and moving images for development, including disaster reporting.



## Turkmenistan reaches out to build urban risk knowledge

A regional seismic conference on urban risk was held 2–4 October in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, organized by Turkmenistan's Institute of Seismology and Ministry of Defense and supported by UNISDR West Asia/North Africa regional office. After years of self-isolation, this conference was the first open event of this kind in many years in Turkmenistan, providing national authorities and experts an exceptional opportunity to learn how other countries in the region to reduce and manage risk. The conference raised awareness of Central Asian governments of the problems posed by, and associated with urban risk, and to share regional experiences. Presenters included three experts from the neighbouring countries of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The conference was held in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the 1948 Ashgabat earthquake that claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people.

For more information, please contact Ms Goulsara Pulatova, [goulsara.pulatova@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:goulsara.pulatova@unisdr-wana.org)

## IUCN holds workshop in environmental DRR

Members of the ISDR Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction, including UNISDR, UNEP, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), held a workshop on 6 October at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona. During the 'Ecosystem Services, Disaster Risk Reduction and Coastal Community Resilience' workshop, participants practiced communicating the principles of disaster risk reduction (DRR) for poverty alleviation, climate change adaptation and environmental sustainability; Identifying and applying common DRR measures in early warning, spatial planning, preparedness planning, safe construction practices and public awareness; Identifying and understanding ecosystem-based measures for DRR; and analyzing post-disaster recovery plans.

For more information, please contact Reid Basher, [basher@un.org](mailto:basher@un.org)

## Global, regional and national events mark the International Day for Disaster Reduction

**Global:** The World Disaster Reduction Campaign website [www.safehospitals.info](http://www.safehospitals.info) was launched, and a panel discussion in New York, USA, was attended by over 80 participants from international agencies, diplomatic missions and the health sector. Lessons from the Wenchuan Earthquake, the Gujarat Earthquake, and the Atlantic Hurricane seasons were shared by speakers from China, India and the Caribbean. The event was chaired by the Permanent Mission of Pakistan, and organized by UNISDR with support from WHO, PAHO and the World Bank. For more information, visit <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events/v.php?id=3552>

The World Bank marked IDDR with a two-day conference entitled 'Disaster risk management in the information age.' Archives of the webcasts and conference details are available here: <http://go.worldbank.org/BSWA8ECOSO>

**Africa:** Special events to mark IDDR took place in Swaziland, Cape Verde, Madagascar, Tanzania, Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya and South Africa with government support and participation. Events included preparedness drills, Public Service Announcements, donations to health facilities, and street parades. For more information, contact: Rhea Khatsanakis, [rhea.khatsanakis@unep.org](mailto:rhea.khatsanakis@unep.org)

**The Americas:** In Panama City, Panama, UNISDR and PAHO co-organized a regional meeting with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Plan International and Panama's Ministry of Health. Speakers included PAHO's representative in Panama, Panama's Ministry of Health Director, the Chief of Panama's Institutional System for Emergencies and Disasters, and the UNISDR Regional Coordinator for the Americas. A regional photography and essay contest for the Hospitals Safe from Disasters campaign was launched. For more information, contact Julio Trellas, [trelles@eird.org](mailto:trelles@eird.org)

**Asia:** In Bangkok, Thailand, UNISDR and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) organized two events to raise awareness of the need to make communities in the Asia-Pacific region safer. A panel discussion on hospital and school safety featuring UNISDR, WHO and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center representatives, and an award ceremony and exhibition to mark the conclusion of the regional drawing competition 'Safer Community: Hospital, School and House of My Dream'. Pakistan held its National Disaster Management Conference. For more information, contact Angelika Planitz, [planitz@un.org](mailto:planitz@un.org)

**West Asian/North Africa:** In Cairo, Egypt a debate, media briefing and a series of presentations was attended by more than 100 representatives from diplomatic missions, the Government of Egypt, UN agencies, NGOs, health facilities, and media. It was organized by WHO's Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and UNISDR's regional office for West Africa and North Africa. A public service announcement was also launched. For more information, contact Tine Ramstad, [tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org](mailto:tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org) In Tehran, Iran: Seven Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) countries attended their International Conference on Disaster Risk Management 7 – 8 October in Tehran, Iran. The conference was organized by ECO, UNISDR and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center. A draft paper containing steps for further strengthening regional cooperation was produced. For more information, visit [www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events/v.php?id=3554](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events/v.php?id=3554)

## 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.org](http://www.unisdr-wana.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Conferences, Trainings and Events

October 2008 - November 2008

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
<b>November</b>		
3 - 4	Cheltenham, UK	Floodfighters conference and workshops University of Gloucestershire
5 - 9	St. John's, Canada	5th Canadian risk and hazards network symposium Canadian Risk and Hazards Network
12 - 14	Bali, Indonesia	International conference on tsunami warning: towards safer coastal communities Ministry of Research and Technology
12 - 13	Los Angeles, USA	Los Angeles International earthquake conference City of Los Angeles
12 - 13	Copenhagen, Denmark	Climate related natural disasters: new operational and political challenges
18 - 21	Tokyo, Japan	1st world landslide forum International Consortium of Landslides
<b>December</b>		
1 - 12	Poznan, Poland	United Nations climate change conference UNFCCC
2 - 4	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	3rd Asian ministerial conference on disaster risk reduction
2 - 5	Entebbe, Uganda	Civil society disaster preparedness and management conference Uganda Coalition for Crisis Prevention
2 - 6	Guangzhou, China	Biennial pan ocean remote sensing conference South China Sea Institute of Oceanology
8 - 9	Monteray, USA	Interdisciplinary conference: addressing the scientific, economic, environmental, cultural and security implications of climate change in the Arctic region The Center for Stabilization and Reconstruction Studies
8 - 12	St. Michael, Barbados	3rd annual Caribbean conference on comprehensive disaster management Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency
9 - 10	Geneva, Switzerland	Common alerting protocol implementers' workshop
9 - 10	Pointe-au-Pitre, Guadeloupe	1st international Caribbean waves workshop Université des Antilles et de la Guyane
9 - 12	Quebec City, Canada	Arctic change international conference ArcticNet
15 - 17	Sirte, Libya	High-level conference on water for agriculture and energy on Africa: the challenges of climate change Food and Agricultural Organization

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

## Library Corner

### State of the world's cities 2008/2009

UN-HABITAT 2008, 224 p.

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=4290>

From disaster risk reduction and urban risk management, this report sheds light on the cities and urban centers mostly at risk from sea level rise. Several disaster risk reduction related case studies are available online and include: Dhaka's extreme vulnerability to climate change; African cities at risk; Cuba: a culture of safety; Drowned and dangerous: Cities and climate change.



### Compendium of adaptation models for climate change: first edition

Environment Canada 2008, 41 p.

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=2287>

This document presents and summarizes 35 selected adaptation models for climate change. The Compendium is a contribution to the Nairobi Work Programme and provides scientific and technical information on adaptation models for climate change.

### Environmental management: multiple disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation benefits for vulnerable communities

ProAct Network 2008, 16 p.

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=4149>

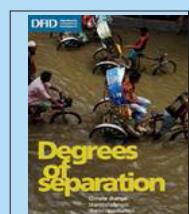
Environmental management has an important role to play in reducing many of the risks posed by natural disasters. Ecosystems act as natural, dynamic barriers that can help protect vulnerable communities from at least some of the impacts of climate change.

### Degrees of separation: climate change, shared challenges, shared opportunities

DFID 2008, 24 p.

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=4147>

This brochure explains how DFID and others are working to ensure that development becomes a big part of the solution to these major global problems. It also highlights the role that individuals can play in making a difference. Adaptation is a part of these solutions.





## International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

### Announcements

#### Huge DRR catalogue of educational materials online

Find and share educational materials on disaster risk reduction, including children's books, textbooks, lesson plans, activities, games, and resources on disaster prevention and school safety for students and communities.

[www.preventionweb.net/go.php/edu-materials/](http://www.preventionweb.net/go.php/edu-materials/)

#### Put DRR events straight into your computer's e-calendar

The disaster risk reduction calendar on PreventionWeb now allows you to save events to your computer with one click.

The universally compatible event files can then be dragged straight into any calendar you have, such as Outlook or LotusNotes.

[www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events/](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events/)

### Tools

[Email This Page](#)

[Export to your calendar](#)

[Submit training or events](#)

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International Environment House II  
7-9 Chemin de Balexert

### In This Issue:

- New UN Assistant Secretary-General for DRR appointed
- World parliamentarians increase engagement in DRR advocacy
- Progress on local government alliance for DRR
- Media training produces new partnerships and more coverage
- Partnership development workshop for DRR held in India
- Scientific and Technical Committee makes plans
- French DRR educators meet in Paris
- Asian conference calls for more action on HFA
- New workshop relates DRR to everyday work

#### 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: [isdrhighlights@un.org](mailto: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 UNISDR*

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# Highlights

November 2008

### New UN Assistant Secretary-General for DRR appointed

On 17 November, Margareta Wahlström was appointed to the newly created position of Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Secretary-General's Special Representative for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The new Geneva-based post is designed to focus international attention on disaster risk reduction at a time when climate change is steadily increasing the frequency and intensity of natural hazards worldwide. The ASG will advance high level DRR advocacy and provide strategic oversight for UNISDR. Ms. Wahlström, a Swedish national, has 25 years of domestic and international experience in disaster management and institution-building for strengthening disaster preparedness and risk reduction capacity. Most recently, she served as Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the UN's Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Contact: Rika Hakozaki, [hakozaki@un.org](mailto:hakozaki@un.org)

### World parliamentarians increase engagement in DRR advocacy

A World Bank meeting of parliamentarians from around the world resulted in more parliamentarians becoming engaged in the mission of advocating for disaster risk reduction (DRR). At the 8th Annual Conference of the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) organized a session that encouraged more parliamentarians to shape and influence the international disaster risk reduction agenda. Participants new to the issue were receptive, discussing their responsibility to advocate disaster risk reduction to protect socio-economic gains and link DRR to development priorities. Philippines Senator Loren Legarda was a panelist for the session and reported on the Manila Call for Action, which was the outcome of a parliamentarians' consultative meeting supported by UNISDR last month. Senator Legarda urged parliamentarians to create more political space for DRR, to call on governments to comply with the Hyogo Framework for Action, and to secure financial resources in national budgets to effectively mainstream disaster risk reduction. The meeting was held in Paris 20-22 November and was attended by 150 legislators and development leaders from 110 countries.

Contact: Ana-Cristina Thorlund, [thorlund@un.org](mailto:thorlund@un.org)

## Progress on local government alliance for DRR

The Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction held its second consultative meeting on 12-14 November, gaining more commitment from local and regional authorities in developing the Alliance. Attended by a small number of local government officials from Africa, Asia and Europe, the group agreed on the way forward for 2009 events, agreed on the Terms of Reference of the Alliance, and established an Advisory Group that will guide the Alliance's development in the coming months. The meeting was hosted by the 'Global Dialogue on Wenchuan Earthquake Response', organised by the Beijing Normal University and the University of Hong Kong, which allowed local and regional authorities to learn from China's response and recovery experience. A specific session on 'DRR Training for Local Sustainable Development' was also facilitated by ILO on 14th November 2008, which reviewed the potential content, structure and target audience of a training course on DRR to be delivered to local government officials as of 2009. The meeting was organised by UNISDR in collaboration with the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and the International Training Center of the ILO.

Contact: Mr Michele Cocchiglia, [cocchiglia@un.org](mailto:cocchiglia@un.org)

## Media training produces new partnership and more coverage

UNISDR, UNDP, UNIC and local partners held media workshops for journalists on disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Tehran on 18 November and Cairo 20-21 November. The workshops highlighted the critical contribution that media can make in educating the public and raising awareness of DRR, provided tools for reporting, and helped journalists establish partnerships with UN agencies active in DRR. In Iran, the workshop established a media partnership and network between Iranian media and the UN on DRR. In Egypt, the workshop was also supported by the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), and resulted in several DRR related journalistic pieces being published in Egyptian and regional media.

Contact: Brigitte Leoni, [leonib@un.org](mailto:leonib@un.org)

## Partnership Development Workshop in DRR held in India

The Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction's South-South Cooperation Program held a workshop in New Delhi, 29 – 31 October, to promote collaboration among low-and middle-income countries to mainstream disaster risk reduction and recovery into development. The workshop helped selected partnerships to sharpen the focus of their collaboration, to identify areas of cooperation and agree on the business model and key milestones for implementation. Design indicators for measuring success and the roles and responsibilities of individual partners were also discussed. Seven partnerships were invited to the workshop and ranged from climate change adaptation to collaboration in setting up national disaster management systems. Three out of seven plan to submit their final proposals by mid-December 2008, while the remaining four plan to finalize their proposals by February 2009. Some 57 decision makers and technical experts from 17 countries and

## WEB RESOURCES

### The Great Southern California Shakeout site

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

Comprehensive information on the USA's largest ever earthquake preparedness exercise that took place 13 November.



The site includes animations, film, technical resources, Spanish language site, weblog, Youtube channel, Myspace page and Facebook group.

### New PreventionWeb Podcasts: Interviews with education and research specialists

[www.preventionweb.net/english/podcast/](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/podcast/)

Justin Sharpe, UK school teacher talks on how to engage teachers and students in DRR through online media.  
Ms Nanditha



Hettitantri, Research Specialist for Oxfam Sri Lanka discusses the shift from disaster relief to disaster reduction, research and information dissemination in Sri Lanka

### ProVention Youtube Channel

[www.youtube.com/user/ProVention](http://www.youtube.com/user/ProVention)

The ProVention Youtube channel features three playlists: One for community-based DRR with 58 videos, an education playlist featuring DRR puppets, and an interagency playlist. The ProVention Consortium was established by the World Bank in 2000.



### New NASA Wildfire site

<http://wildfire.fetch.com/>

This beta site will become a place to aggregate wildfire information in the US from NASA wildfire reports, the InciWeb wildfire incident information site, Geospatial Multi-Agency Coordination (GeoMac) wildfire support, as well as social networking sites such as YouTube and Flickr.



representing more than 39 organizations working in the area of disaster risk management attended. The Government of India's Ministry of Home Affairs and the World Bank co-hosted the workshop. It was facilitated by the World Bank, UNDP South-South Special Unit and UNISDR.

More: <http://gfdrr.org/index.cfm?Page=Program%20Activities&ItemID=43>

### **Scientific and Technical Committee makes plans**

The ISDR Scientific and Technical Committee made progress on several initiatives at its second meeting, held at the end of October in Geneva. The Committee will establish a sub-committee convened by Professor Gordon McBean to steer the preparation of a high-level report on scientific and technical issues to be presented at the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in June 2009. The Committee will also begin developing an international programme on early warning systems, which will be overseen by a sub-committee led by Dr Geoff Love from the World Meteorological Organization. A workshop on disaster-related data and data trends is also being planned for early next year. The Committee's role is to advise the Global Platform and guides policy and actions related to scientific and technical issues within the ISDR System. Members stress the need for systems to ensure high quality of ISDR products in respect to scientific and technical aspects.

Contact: Reid Basher, [reid.basher@un.org](mailto:reid.basher@un.org)

### **French DRR educators meet in Paris**

Approximately 100 French disaster risk reduction educators gathered in Paris at the end of October for the annual conference for Major Risk Trainers (Formateurs Risk Majeurs). European and international initiatives in creating disaster risk educational material was discussed, and the unique disaster risk experience of France was highlighted. In particular, France's experience with slow flooding became a central

theme of the conference, with reference to the 1910 flooding of the Seine River and Paris. Participants explored the cultural dimensions of flooding, the importance of history and memory, land management and development issues. During workshops, participants had the chance to exchange and develop ideas about training tools and materials that can be used to teach youth about risk.

Contact: Paola Albrito, [albrito@un.org](mailto:albrito@un.org)

### **Asian conference calls for more action on HFA**

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Bali, Indonesia 12-14 November emphasized the urgent need for concerted effort to link disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation and to integrate them into sustainable development. The conference also addressed critical gaps and challenges to Governments and other key stakeholders at the national and regional levels in implementing the Hyogo Framework, identifying the need for legal frameworks, legislation, and policy changes; resource mobilization and allocation; institutional capacity building; enhanced public awareness and education; and gender perspectives and considerations in DRR. The conference also promoted a more enabling policy environment for public-private partnership for DRR, and highlighted the need to make effective DRR tools available and accessible, using advanced science and technology and knowledge management resources

Contact: Asian Disaster Reduction Centre, [rep@adrc.or.jp](mailto:rep@adrc.or.jp)

### **New workshop makes DRR relatable**

The Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) successfully piloted a one day workshop package on disaster risk reduction (DRR) at ACT (Action by Churches Together) International in Geneva at the end of October. The workshop familiarized participants with DRR concepts, including the Hyogo Framework for Action, and made the link between disasters and development. The workshop methodology built upon participants' existing knowledge base so they could relate DRR issues to their day to day work. CADRI also produced a facilitator's package which provides guidance on holding and adapting the workshop for different audiences, such as government ministries and institutions, international organizations, civil society, NGOs, the media, the scientific community and the private sector. The participants in the pilot included UN staff members from UNDP, OCHA, and UNISDR, ACT staff members and representatives from other international NGOs.

Contact: Geraldine Becchi, [becchi@un.org](mailto:becchi@un.org)

## **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

December 2008 - January 2009

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
December		
1 - 12	Poznan, Poland	United Nations climate change conference UNFCCC
2 - 4	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	3rd Asian ministerial conference on disaster risk reduction
2 - 4	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Media training in disaster risk reduction UNISDR
2 - 4	Kampala, Uganda	Conference on housing, urban poverty and environment International Development Research Center
2 - 5	Entebbe, Uganda	Civil society disaster preparedness and management conference Uganda Coalition for Crisis Prevention
2 - 6	Guangzhou, China	Biennial pan ocean remote sensing conference South China Sea Institute of Oceanology
5	Ibadan, Nigeria	Annual disaster risk reduction lecture and national disaster risk reduction awards 2008 Center for disaster and crisis management
8 - 9	Monteray, USA	Interdisciplinary conference: addressing the scientific, economic, environmental, cultural and security implications of climate change in the Arctic region The Center for Stabilization and Reconstruction Studies
8 - 12	St. Michael, Barbados	3rd annual Caribbean conference on comprehensive disaster management Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency
9 - 10	Geneva, Switzerland	Common alerting protocol implementers' workshop
9 - 10	Pointe-au-Pitre, Guadalupe	1st international Caribbean waves workshop Université des Antilles et de la Guyane
9-12	Quebec City, Canada	Arctic change international conference ArcticNet
10-11	Poznan, Poland	Local government climate sessions Local Governments for Sustainability
15-17	Montego Bay, Jamaica	2008 Caribbean all-hazards conference Caribbean All-Hazards Association
15 - 17	Sirte, Libya	High-level conference on water for agriculture and energy on Africa: the challenges of climate change Food and Agricultural Organization
January		
21 - 23	Santiago, Chile	Conferencia internacional WAFLA: Herramientas mejoradas para combatir la desertificación y la sequía
26 -13 Feb	Silang, Philippines	International course on ecosystem-based integrated disaster risk reduction International Institute of Rural Reconstruction

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

## Library Corner

### Viet Nam: Climate change, adaptation and poor people

Oxfam 2008, 52 p.

[www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=7377](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=7377)



Viet Nam is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change. The government's achievements so far in pulling millions of people out of poverty are seriously jeopardised by the likely increase in extreme rainfall and drought, and by slow changes like rising sea level rise and warming temperatures.

### Disaster risk management systems analysis

FAO 2008, 74 p.

[www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=3769](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=3769)

This guide book provides a set of tools to assess existing structures and capacities of national, district and local institutions with responsibilities for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in order to improve the effectiveness of DRM systems and the integration of DRM concerns into development planning.

### Disaster Management Policy 2008

Nepal Red Cross 2008

[www.nrcc.org/documents/Disaster%20management%20policy-2008.pdf](http://www.nrcc.org/documents/Disaster%20management%20policy-2008.pdf)

The Nepal Red Cross new disaster management policy incorporates more disaster risk reduction policy than previously, acknowledging the progress since the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction and the Nepalese government's commitment to risk reduction.

### From Risk to Resilience - Benefits and Costs of Disaster Risk Reduction

ProVention Consortium, working papers

[www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=37&publicationid=158#158](http://www.proventionconsortium.org/?pageid=37&publicationid=158#158)

"Risk to Resilience" is to evaluate the benefits and costs of disaster risk reduction across a series of case areas in India, Nepal and Pakistan. It focuses on water related disasters and potential impacts of climate change. Five out of nine planned working papers are now available.





International Strategy for  
Disaster Reduction

*Season's Greetings*  
*Meilleurs Voeux*  
*Felices Fiestas*

أطيب التمنيات  
С Новым Годом!  
恭賀新禧

*The United Nations International Strategy for  
Disaster Reduction Secretariat (UNISDR)  
wishes you a joyous holiday season and a rewarding 2009*



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## In This Issue:

- Mixed results but good DRR progress at Poznan talks
- Loren Legarda named Asian regional DRR champion
- Asian Ministers call for action plan and more DRR investment
- Global Platform to push for more DRR investment
- Private sector action in DRR highlighted
- Europe conference takes on climate change and DRR
- Landslide forum inaugurated in Japan
- DRR covered in Asian development forum
- Pre-holiday reminders: Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Call for Good Practices in making Hospitals Safe from disaster

### Also:

- Web Resources
- Mark Your Calendar
- Library Corner

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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.

Contact: Silvia Llosa, [llosa@un.org](mailto:llosa@un.org)

## 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.

Contact: Ana-Cristina Thorlund, [thorlund@un.org](mailto:thorlund@un.org)

## 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/>

Contact: Sharon Rusu, [rusu@un.org](mailto:rusu@un.org)

## 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



on Saturday 13 December with a clear commitment from  
order to shape an ambitious and effective international response to  
2009. Parties agreed that the first draft of a concrete negotiating text  
of 2009.

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.

*Contact:* [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-UE 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.

*Contact:* <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.

*Contact:* [wlf@ichq.org](mailto:wlf@ichq.org)

*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.

*Contact:* Ana-Cristina Thorlund, [thorlund@un.org](mailto:thorlund@un.org)

## 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

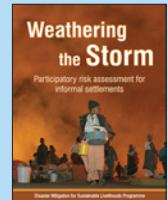
DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
<b>January</b>		
18 - 20	Kobe, Japan	Forum on Disaster-Resilient Regional Development Strategies in the World UNCRD
21 - 23	Santiago, Chile	Conferencia internacional WAFLA: Herramientas mejoradas para combatir la desertificación y la sequía Accion por la Tierra - Chile
22-23	Nairobi, 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	Steyning, 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 Communiqué 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.

