



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) or visit 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), 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

International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
Tel. : (+41 22) 917 8908/8907/8849
Fax : (+41 22) 917 8964
isdrhighlights@un.org
www.unisdr.org
International Environment House II
8-9 Chemin de Balexert
CH 1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland

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

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

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Highlights

March 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, Tajikistan, 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 Trelles (jtrelles@eird.org).

For more information on Campaign activities in Central Asia, please contact Goulsara Pulatova (goulsara.pulatova@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. For more information, please contact Julio Trelles (jtrelles@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

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)

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 (goulsara.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)

WEB RESOURCES



[International Year of Sanitation](http://International Year of Sanitation 2008)
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
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
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)

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)

REGIONAL NEWS

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

Africa: www.unisdr.org/africa
 Asia & the Pacific: www.unisdr.org/asiapacific
 Europe: www.unisdr.org/europe
 Latin America & the Caribbean: www.eird.org
 West Asia and North Africa: 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, or contact Sarah Silliman (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)

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

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
April		
31 Mar-4 Apr	Bangkok, Thailand	UNFCCC climate change talks 2008, UNFCCC, UNESCAP, unfccc.int
13-16	Oahu, USA	Solutions to coastal disasters 2008, content.asce.org/conferences/cd2008
16-17	New Delhi, India	Operationalising public private partnerships for disaster management: towards resilient and sustainability goals, Aidmatrix Foundation & Response Net, www.responsenet.org
16-18	Darmstadt, Germany	Nature-oriented flood damage prevention (nofdp project), Technischen Universität Darmstadt (TUD) and European Commission, nofdp.bafg.de/servlet/is/14733/
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, www.bidnetwork.org/person-49712-en.html
21 Apr-20 Jun	Geneva, Switzerland	Post graduate certificate for the study and management of geological risk, University of Geneva, www.unige.ch/hazards
22-26	Seattle, USA	Understanding earthquakes: from research to resilience: 2008 national earthquake conference, FEMA, capps.wsu.edu/registration/earthquake
28	Turks & Caicos Is	10th Caribbean conference on sustainable tourism development (STC-10). Contact CTO Barbados, ctobar@caribsurf.com
May		
5-7	Cephalonia, Greece	6th International conference on computer simulation risk analysis and hazard mitigation, Wessex Institute of Technology, www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2008/
5-16	Bangkok, Thailand	Use of GIS and remote sensing in disaster risk management: second regional training course, ADPC, www.adpc.net
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, www.erce.unesco.lodz.pl
19-30	Klong Luang, Thailand	Capacity development for disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation: Asian Institute of Technology, www.ait.ac.th
24-26	Kobe, Japan	Pre-G8 Environment Ministers' Meeting: Ministry of Environment, Japan, www.env.go.jp/en/

 Source: PreventionWeb.net 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, tel +41229178859) UN/ISDR Library, IEH 2, 7-8 Chemin de Balaxert, Room 0-56, 1219 Chatelaine/Geneva, Switzerland