



International Strategy for  
Disaster Reduction

## Announcement

### Online survey

ISDR World Campaign 2010-2011 on urban risk and more resilient cities

Interested in sharing your ideas, views and possible contributions with us to shape the Campaign? Please participate in our online survey at

[www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB229L96PMFA4](http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB229L96PMFA4)

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

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# Highlights

August 2009

## Asia's first urban risk reduction training and education facility opens in the Republic of Korea

UNISDR, the Government of the Republic of Korea and Incheon Metropolitan City opened Asia's first ISDR Education and Training Institute for Urban Risk Reduction in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

The new premises were inaugurated on 11 August 2009 by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, who has a special interest in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Seong Ryong Choi, the Administrator of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Ahn Sang-Soo, the Mayor of Incheon Metropolitan City. More than 200 participants attended the opening ceremony, among them many high level Korean government representatives.

The ISDR Education and Training Institute for Urban Risk Reduction is the first educational and research facility in Asia for disaster risk reduction professionals specializing in urban risk reduction issues. The Institute will act as a facilitator for building capacity on urban risk reduction issues including sharing science technologies and data on climate related hazards. It will also train regional government officials and NGO practitioners, thus increasing technical skills and cooperation across the urban development remit. Particular attention will be given to schools, hospitals and critical infrastructures central to making cities safer. A new UNISDR Office in Korea, also based in Incheon, will assist the Northeast Asia Region in the implementation of the work of the Institute.

## Maldives Strategic National Action Plan shaping up

Since the aftermath of Indian Ocean tsunami, reducing disaster risks has been an important cross-cutting development issue in the Maldives, increasingly drawing more attention and action from the government and its partner stakeholders. Moreover, under the new democratic leadership of President Mohamed Nasheed, policy action is further drawn towards mitigating and reducing climate change risks. Last July 2009, the Government of the Maldives and UNISDR agreed on a pragmatic and innovative approach, to help protect the island nation from increasing typhoons, drought, and rising sea levels caused by the changing climate.

With support from the European Union and the UN country team, UNISDR is assisting the island nation to reduce disaster risk and better adapt to the changing climate through the development of the Maldives Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP), a comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategy and implementation plan. In August, a first workshop was held to push forward the SNAP process, bringing together state ministers and atoll chiefs. Provincial workshops, facilitated by SEEDS India, will be held in September.

For more information, please contact Manny de Guzman at [manny\\_de\\_guzman@yahoo.com](mailto:manny_de_guzman@yahoo.com)

### International conference on 'Building a Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction'

Opened by the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the same day as the new UNISDR office in Korea and the ISDR training institute, the international conference on 'Building a Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction' brought together 200 participants in Incheon from 11-13 August. Co-organized by Incheon Metropolitan City and UNISDR, the gathering addressed common concerns and challenges faced by local governments in preventing disasters and minimizing their impacts. Moreover, it helped to frame the scope and objectives of ISDR's next World Disaster Reduction Campaign focusing on "Safer Cities".

Both plenaries and thematic sessions led to the formulation and endorsement of the so-called 'Incheon Declaration', which outlines the key challenges and the way forward of the Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction, an alliance open to all local governments committed to reducing risk.

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

### ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) meeting held in Incheon, Korea

Held back-to-back with the international conference 'Building a Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction', this second meeting of the ISDR Asia Partnership in 2009 took place on 13 and 14 August in Incheon, Korea. It focused on the follow-up action to the Second Session of the Global platform on DRR, the finalization of the Kuala Lumpur Action Plan on DRR, and the preparations for the Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which will be hosted by the Republic of Korea in October 2010.

The above agenda was framed for action in particular by the three IAP working groups (WG), namely: 1. the WG on regional mapping of DRR initiatives, 2. the WG on regional HFA reporting, 3. the WG on preparations for the next Asian Ministerial Meeting.

In addition, the meeting also provided an opportunity for IAP members to exchange some recent experiences and core developments in their DRR work in the region as a useful approach to keep each other informed in the spirit of true partnership building.

For further information, please contact Nicholas Ramos at [ramosn@un.org](mailto:ramosn@un.org)

### University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis (UNSA) and UNISDR to organize an international conference on major risks in the Mediterranean region

The Conference is envisaged for early 2010 and aims at developing a programme to cooperate with institutions of the region to strengthen capacities in the Mediterranean countries in order to reduce risk to major hazards. The programme will be part of the Trans European and Mediterranean Institute for Sustainable Development of UNSA. It will contribute to the initiative of the Mediterranean Union (Union pour la Méditerranée) and to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, reuniting in a common effort the European and African parts of the Mediterranean. The programme will also serve as a base to support capacity development in the region.

The Conference and the programme to follow are expected to have two components, a scientific one and an operational one for technical cooperation. The former component will bring together scientific experts of the region, build on already existing networks and connect groups. The latter will be developed based on findings at the conference and the main needs in the Mediterranean region. The decision to host the Conference was taken at a meeting in Nice in July 2009, where key scientific experts of the region presented a number of important research projects on the topic. Next to the participants from academia, a representative of the secretariat of the Union pour la Méditerranée took also part in the meeting.

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

## WEB RESOURCES

### National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC)

<http://drought.unl.edu/>



NDMC, based at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, helps people and institutions develop and implement measures to reduce societal vulnerability to drought. Its website provides in-depth information on drought, drought planning and monitoring, drought risks and impacts. NDMC also hosts useful tools for monitoring drought, such as the the US Drought Monitor, the Standardized Precipitation Index, and Drought Impact Reporter.

### Climate Funds Update

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



Climate Funds Update is an independent website that provides information on the growing number of international funding initiatives designed to help developing countries address the challenges of climate change. The funds are being tracked in the lead-up to the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting in Copenhagen. The site aims to detail where these climate change funds are being developed, what the funds support, the scale of the proposed funding, how the funds are expected to be disbursed, and what had been achieved so far.

## Presidential statement on humanitarian assistance from MERCOSUR

The Presidents of the MERCOSUR State Parties, met in Asuncion, on 24 July 2009, on the occasion of the XXXVII Meeting of the Common Market Council, emphasizing that their countries have strengthened internal capacities to reduce vulnerability to disasters that cause serious social and economic losses. They recognized the need to socialize, streamline and strengthen the efforts in the region for humanitarian assistance in disasters of natural or anthropic origin.

The member states of MERCOSUR agreed to promote the "Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015", allowing for a comprehensive approach to disasters, prevention, mitigation and recovery efforts. They decided to strengthen national systems for prevention, mitigation and disaster management, by promoting multisectoral, interdisciplinary, interagency risk management policies at local, national and regional levels through the establishment of an institutional mechanism for prevention coordination and cooperation.

For more information, please contact Ricardo Mena at [eird@eird.org](mailto:eird@eird.org)

## Disaster Prevention Workshop, 27-29 July 2009, Stockholm (Sweden)

From 27 to 29 July 2009, UNISDR Europe attended the Disaster Prevention Workshop organized by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agencies (MSB), Swedish National Platform Coordinator, in close cooperation with the Swedish Ministry of Defense, in the context of the EU Swedish Presidency.

The aim of this workshop was to discuss the development of an EU strategy for the prevention of natural and man-made disasters and to identify how Member States can contribute to an EU added value for disaster prevention activities.

For more information, please contact Géraldine Boezio at [isdr-europe@un.org](mailto:isdr-europe@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.org](http://www.unisdr-wana.org)

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## New regulation to promote better alignment of the Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Emergency Response with the Hyogo Framework for Action

The Andean Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, through Decision 713, approved the revision of the Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Emergency Response (EAPAD) to promote better alignment with the Hyogo Framework for Action. This decision is one of four new regulations aimed at strengthening political, social and environmental cooperation among the countries of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) approved during the XIV extraordinary meeting of the Andean Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in Lima, Peru with delegates from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

For more information: [www.comunidadandina.org/prensa/notas/np20-8-09.htm](http://www.comunidadandina.org/prensa/notas/np20-8-09.htm)

## UNISDR at World Climate Conference 3 (WCC3) 31 August - 4 September 2009, Geneva, Switzerland

WCC-3 will focus on how humankind can benefit from the advances in climate prediction and information services to manage climate-related risks as a way of developing resilience through adaptation and aims to create a Global Framework for Climate Services. Disaster Risk Reduction is a key component of the agenda and UNISDR will be directly involved in the following events:

Opening of the Conference

Opening Remarks by Mr Reid Basher, UNISDR Special Advisor Policy

Date: 31 August 2009, Time: 9.00-10.30

Plenary Session 4: Climate Extremes, Warning Systems and Disaster Risk Reduction

Chaired by Margareta Wahlström, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

Date: 02 September 2009

Time: 09:00 - 10:30, Location: Room 1

For more information: [www.wmo.int/wcc3/](http://www.wmo.int/wcc3/)

## Ricardo Mena appointed Regional Coordinator of UNISDR's Regional Unit for the Americas

UNISDR is pleased to announce the appointment of Ricardo Mena as Regional Coordinator for the Americas at the UNISDR regional office in Panama City, Panama.

Mr. Mena is an international expert with more than 20 years of experience in risk, crisis and disaster management, and has served in the United Nations for the last 16 years in Latin America, Geneva and New York. Prior to his involvement with the UN, he worked with disaster preparedness and mitigation in Ecuador and neighbouring countries.

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Conferences and Events

August - September 2009

Date	Event	Location
September		
2-3	7th EARSeL Workshop on Advances in RS and GIS applications in Forest Fire Management, European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories	Matera, Italy
2-4	2nd Regional Meeting on Enhancing International Humanitarian Partnerships, Ministry of External Relations	Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil
3-4	Seminario Sobre Dispositivos de Atención ante Desastres Naturales: Experiencias de la Región Andina y Cono Sur, Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y del Caribe	Caracas, Venezuela
2-12	Provincial Sensitization Workshop, SEEDS India	Maldives
7-11	Vulnerability of Cultural Heritage to Climate Change, European University Centre for Cultural Heritage	Strasbourg, France
7-11	11th Plinius Conference on Mediterranean Storms, University of Barcelona	Barcelona, Spain
7-11	6th International Conference on Coastal Dynamics, International Steering Board of Coastal Dynamics Conference	Tokyo, Japan
9-10	H209 Water Forum, Henry Hudson 400 Foundation	New Jersey, USA
9-11	Fifth International Conference on Sustainable Water Resources Management, Wessex Institute of Technology	Malta
9-12	6th International Symposium on Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences	Beijing, China
10-11	Introduction to Community Based Disaster Risk Management, RedR UK	Colombo, Sri Lanka
14-18	Third THORPEX International Science Symposium TTISS, World Meteorological Organization	Monterey, California, USA
15-18	Mitigation of Natural Hazards in Mountain Areas, Endowment Fund Adygine	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
16	Coasts, Marine Structures and Breakwaters 2009, Institution of Civil Engineers	Edinburgh, United Kingdom
17	Berliner Katastrophenschutzforum, German Committee for Disaster Reduction	Berlin, Germany
14-25	End to End: Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center	Bangkok, Thailand
18-24	Regional association VI, World Meteorological Organization	Brussels, Belgium
21-2 Oct	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP 9, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	Buenos Aires, Argentina
22-23	DECRG Workshop: Climate Change and Agricultural Trade - Risks and Responses	Washington D.C., USA
23-25	Disaster Management 2009, Wessex Institute of Technology	New Forest, United Kingdom
23-25	International Conference on Ecosystems, Environment and Sustainable Development (EESD), World Academy of Science Engineering and Technology	Amsterdam, the Netherlands
27-2 October	International Snow Science Workshop Europe 2009, International Snow Science Workshop	Davos, Switzerland
29-30	National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction in South-Eastern Europe Workshop, National Protection and Rescue Directorate	Pula, Croatia

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

## Library Corner

### Building resilience to tsunami in the Indian Ocean: action research, IEC and practices

Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN); European Union (EU); Kyoto University; United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat - Asia and Pacific (UNISDR), 2009



This report on Project Selamat, aimed at building community level coping capacities towards long-term resilience as a direct implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), describes the activities of academic institutions working with NGOs and governments on a collaborative model of a locally appropriate process of institutionalizing risk reduction. It covers the period from September 2007 to March 2009.

[www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=10910](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=10910)

### Reducing risks, saving lives

International Save the Children Alliance, 2009

This booklet addresses disaster risk reduction (DRR) as any activity carried out by a village, community, aid agency or government that helps vulnerable communities, and especially children, to prepare for, reduce the impact of, or prevent disasters. It details preparedness, early warning, mitigation, and promotion of resilience activities and gives recommendations to move forward in DRR countries' programmes.



[www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=10902](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=10902)

### United Nations Development Programme annual report 2009

UNDP, 2009

The 2009 annual report presents UNDP's work within its Strategic Plan 2008-2011: focusing efforts on reducing poverty, promoting democratic governance, supporting crisis prevention and recovery efforts and achieving sustainable development results in energy and environment, efforts that are crucial to achieving the MDGs, both in times of economic crisis and prosperity.

A section is dedicated to UNDP's crisis prevention and recovery programming which is committed to strengthening UNDP's support to disaster-prone countries where capacity to manage and reduce disaster risks is currently insufficient.

[www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=10836](http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=10836)

