



International Strategy for  
Disaster Reduction

## Announcements

### Call for good practices & lessons learned 'Hospitals Safe from Disasters'

UNISDR and WHO are inviting submissions from all stakeholders on good practices and lessons learned on making 'Hospitals Safe from Disasters'.

For further information and guidelines for submission of contributions please check the links below:

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=7976&pid:50> or  
<http://www.safehospitals.info>

### Deadline for Sasakawa Award nominations approaching

The March 18 deadline for nominations for the Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction is fast approaching. The biennial prize, worth US\$ 50,000, is awarded in recognition of significant achievements in DRR that have made real change at the community and institutional levels.

To find out more, visit <http://unisdr.org/eng/sasakawa/sasakawa.html> or email [isdr-sasakawa@un.org](mailto:isdr-sasakawa@un.org)

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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.

*The information and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the policies of UNISDR*

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# Highlights

February 2009

## African parliamentarians committed to advance the agenda of climate change and disaster risk reduction

Fourteen African parliamentarians (from *Chad, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and the East African Legislative Assembly*) met at UNISDR consultative meeting on 19th and 20th February in Nairobi as a follow up to the Parliamentarian meetings in Paris and Manila. The interactive discussion was focused on how to use disaster risk reduction as a tool for climate change adaptation. Parliamentarians recognized that effective disaster risk reduction will enhance adaptive capacity towards climate change and therefore immediate action is needed to synergize disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. They also committed to promote an enabling environment to establish cooperative and mutually beneficial relationships between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at all levels.

In his closing remarks, Prime Minister Raila Amolo Odinga said, " Climate change will wipe out our efforts to tackle poverty in Africa unless we take urgent steps to address it." Furthermore, he said " We must identify underlying factors which contribute to the risk and vulnerability of our people and our countries to climate-related disasters,"

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## EU focuses on disaster prevention and risk reduction

The European Commission adopted two communications related to disaster risk reduction on 23rd February in Brussels: a community approach to reducing the impact of natural and man-made disasters within the EU, and a strategy for supporting disaster risk reduction in developing countries. The communications, adopted as a package, represent a first attempt to establish a more strategic approach. Proposed action at community level focuses on areas where a common approach is more effective than separate national approaches, such as developing knowledge, linking actors and policies, and improving the performance of existing community disaster prevention instruments. With regard to developing countries, the commission is setting out an EU strategy to help reduce the impact of natural disasters on countries considered to be at high-risk. Both communications contribute to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005.

Further details can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/development/policies/9interventionareas/environment\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/development/policies/9interventionareas/environment_en.cfm)

**European national platforms and HFA focal points meeting**

The German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV) in collaboration with UNISDR and the Council of Europe (EUR-OPA), organized the European national platform and HFA focal points meeting on 19th and 20th February 2009 in Bonn, Germany. The event was attended by 19 countries representing their National Platforms/HFA Focal Points. Also other International/Regional organizations such as UNFCCC, UNOOSA, and the European Commission were present at this event.

The outcomes of the meeting were:

- Strengthen collaboration between European national platforms/ HFA focal points and their regional and international partners.
- Capacity building of participants through live presentation of the web tools offered by PreventionWeb and knowledge sharing on state of the art issues concerning DRR and Climate Change in European countries and globally.
- Information sharing on key international events such as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2009 and other events concerning DRR and Climate Change Adaptation that will take place in 2009.
- Strategic vision of a co-participated way forward for European National Platforms and the role of International and Regional Organizations in this process.

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

**Tracking international investments in disaster risk reduction**

A workshop on tracking international investments in disaster risk reduction took place in Geneva on 28 & 29 January 2009. The workshop was convened by UNISDR to facilitate a process to consider options for putting in place an international system to track investments in disaster risk reduction. It is intended to support the effort by providing policy and decision-makers with critical data and information on disaster risk reduction efforts and gaps from a financial perspective. Participants included representatives of Germany (GTZ), Indonesia (Ministry of Planning), OCHA (Financial Tracking System), Peru (Ministry of Finance), Sweden (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Tearfund, UK (DFID), UNAIDS (Resource Tracking Division), UNDP (BCPR), UNISDR, World Bank (DREAMIS Project).

As a next step, efforts will focus on the development of two products: 1) a study on the scope of a resource tracking initiative and 2) a baseline assessment of the current status of resource tracking and resources available for disaster risk reduction.

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**WEB RESOURCES**

**Tracking Tool For Disaster Recovery and Mitigation Expenditures**

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



GFDRR and the World Bank's Poverty Reduction and Economic Management unit have unveiled a new global portal to track disaster recovery and mitigation expenditures. Dreamis is a state of the art Disaster Reconstruction and Mitigation Information System that provides financial data on the costs of disasters and mitigation efforts. Dreamis already offers 100 datasets based on damage and loss assessments and will provide additional financial data in the coming months. The information will help governments and aid agencies to design and implement more efficient disaster recovery and risk reduction programs.

**Frontline Knowledge Explorer**

*Wiki on disaster reduction and climate change adaptation*

<http://wikiadapt.org/>



The Frontline Knowledge Explorer is an exciting initiative to share valuable first hand experience of working on climate change adaptation with fellow practitioners, decision makers, and others around the world. It is a collaborative initiative by four leading climate change knowledge service providers committed to developing new ways of working together and with others to meet the challenges of climate change:

- Adaptation Learning Mechanism, UNDP: [www.adaptationlearning.net](http://www.adaptationlearning.net)
- Linking Climate Change Adaptation Network (ELDIS): [www.linkingclimateadaptation.org](http://www.linkingclimateadaptation.org)
- weADAPT: [www.weadapt.org](http://www.weadapt.org)
- AfricaAdapt: [www.africa-adapt.net](http://www.africa-adapt.net)

### Application of earth observation and remote sensing technologies in disaster management and vulnerability mapping

A workshop on "Application of Earth Observation and Remote Sensing Technologies in Disaster Management and Vulnerability Mapping" was held from 29th – 30th January 2009 in Windhoek, Namibia. It was targeted mainly at the ongoing work that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is doing in the area of flood management including that of early warning, it also involved other stakeholders and thereby created the platform for information dissemination and discussion on other important aspects as well.

The main issues discussed were related to future cooperation between Namibia and UNOOSA/UN – SPIDER (United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response), rapid flood mapping using optical and radar satellite images and remote sensing opportunities in disaster management

*For more information, please contact: Geraldine Boezio, [geraldine.boezio@unep.org](mailto:geraldine.boezio@unep.org), UNISDR Africa*

The main focus of this network will be on improving the accessibility, applicability and dissemination of existing knowledge. It will also play a key role in bringing together different kinds of expertise and capacities. The participants felt that the network would bridge the gap between traditional and indigenous knowledge in adaptation and modern science and technologies.

*For more information please contact: Geraldine Boezio, [geraldine.boezio@unep.org](mailto:geraldine.boezio@unep.org), UNISDR Africa*

### UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum concluded in Nairobi

The 25th session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-25/GMEF) took place from 16-20 February 2009, at the UN Office in Nairobi, Kenya. Over 1000 participants from 147 countries, including 110 ministers, representatives of UN agencies, international organizations, academia, NGOs, business and industry, and women and youth organizations, participated in the meeting.

The Governing council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum also discussed climate change adaptation among other issues and concluded its work by adopting 17 decisions on issues relating to, *inter alia*, chemicals management including mercury; the world environment situation; international environmental governance; environmental law; intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity; support to Africa in environmental management and protection; and the environmental situation in Gaza. Delegates also welcomed the decision on the establishment of a ministerial consultative process on international environmental governance.

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### Development of the Africa climate change adaptation network

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – in partnership with key UN and other international organizations and regional bodies organized a regional consultative meeting on the development of the Africa climate change adaptation network from 19th-20th January 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya.

## 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  
March 2009 - April 2009

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
<b>March</b>		
4 - 6	Mumbai, India	Asia megacities forum Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative
4 - 6	Washington, DC, USA	3rd national emergency management summit International Association of Emergency Managers
10 - 12	Copenhagen, Denmark	International scientific conference on climate change University of Copenhagen
16 - 22	Istanbul, Turkey	5th world water forum World Water Council
17 - 19	Panama City, Panama	1st session of the regional platform for disaster risk reduction in the Americas UNISDR - The Americas
23 - 26	Oslo, Norway	Scoping meeting on extreme events and disasters: Managing the risk Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
20 - 3 Apr	Geneva, Switzerland	Training course on earthquake disasters: From rapid response toward mitigation University of Geneva
31 - 2 Apr	Bonn, Germany	UNESCO world conference on education for sustainable development UNESCO & German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
<b>April</b>		
12 - 14	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	International symposium on disaster management
13 - 17	Cholula, Mexico	International conference on water, environment and health sciences: the challenges of the climate change (ICWEHS)
14 - 15	Tacoma, Washington DC	Partners in emergency preparedness Washington State University
16 - 17	Perth, Australia	Emergency management conference 2009 - learning from the past to prepare for the future
20 - 22	Beijing, China	International conference on gender and disaster risk reduction
26 - 30	Bonn, Germany	7th open meeting of the international human dimensions of global environmental change: Social challenges of global change
27 - 30	Phoenix, Arizona, USA	10th wildland fire safety summit International Association of Wildland Fire
30 - 02 May	Austin, USA	Structures congress '09 American Society of Civil Engineers
13- 01 May	Silang, Cavite, Philippines	International course on ecosystem-based integrated disaster risk reduction

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

**Library Corner**

**CDERA news: monthly bulletin of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, January, 2009**  
Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=7925>

CDERA has launched a new publication to share information on the progress of the Caribbean CDM Agenda and generally on events and activities in the area of disaster risk reduction. The CDERA News is a monthly online bulletin, to receive your free copy each month please subscribe at <http://www.cdera.org/subscribe.php>



**Urban governance for adaptation: assessing climate change resilience in ten Asian cities**

Institute of Development Studies (IDS)  
working paper number 315, 2009

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=7849>

This research, undertaken with a set of partner research institutes, examines how to manage climate-related impacts in an urban context by promoting planned and autonomous adaptation in order to improve resilience in a changing climate.



**Climate change vulnerability mapping for Southeast Asia**

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=7865>

This paper provides information on the sub-national areas (regions/districts/provinces) most vulnerable to climate change impacts in Southeast Asia.

This assessment was carried out by overlaying climate hazard maps, sensitivity maps, and adaptive capacity maps following the vulnerability assessment framework of the United Nations' Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

