



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

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

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
7-9 Chemin de Balexert

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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.

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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

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

For Congress papers and other information, visit: 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

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

WEB RESOURCES

New map section on PreventionWeb
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/.



DRR and climate change Youtube docos
<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

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

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

Global: The World Disaster Reduction Campaign website 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/BSWA8ECOS0>

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.katsanakis@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 Trelles, 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

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 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

REGIONAL NEWS

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

- 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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Conferences, Trainings and Events
October 2008 - November 2008

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
November		
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
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 - 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

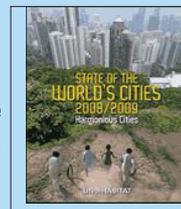
Library Corner

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.

