



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/

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/

Tools

[Email This Page](#)

[Export to your calendar](#)

[Submit training or events](#)

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

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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.

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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.

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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

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

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/

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

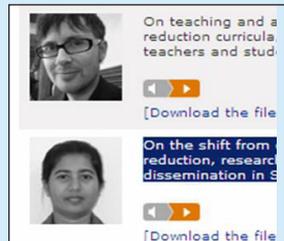


The site includes animations, film, technical resources, Spanish language site, weblog, Youtube channel, Myspace page and Facebook group.

New PreventionWeb Podcasts: Interviews with education and research specialists

www.preventionweb.net/english/podcast/

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



Ms Nanditha

Hettitanti, 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

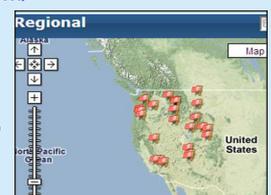
The ProVention Youtube channel features three playlists: One for community-based DRR with 58 videos, an education playlist featuring DRR puppets, and an interagency playlist. The ProVention Consortium was established by the World Bank in 2000.



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

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.

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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

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.

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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

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, Guadelupe	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

Library Corner

Viet Nam: Climate change, adaptation and poor people

Oxfam 2008, 52 p.
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

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

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

"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.

