



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Announcements

Call for contributions on good practices in poverty alleviation and disaster risk reduction:
 To be sent by 14 December 2007.
 Please contact Michele Cocchiglia for submission template.
cocchiglia@un.org

Panellists at the Roundtable Discussion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction, 10 October 2007



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

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Highlights

October 2007

Education work continues beyond the 2006-2007 Campaign

UNESCO and UNICEF, as key partners in the ISDR campaign, have committed to leading continued work on disaster risk reduction (DRR) education and school safety, as the two year campaign 'Disaster Risk Reduction begins at School' draws to a close. At the International Day for Disaster Reduction Roundtable in Geneva, the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) announced that the next session of the International Conference on Education, which will be held in Geneva in November 2008 would include discussions about education/school preparedness and disaster risk reduction. It was emphasized that the debate during the Conference would provide an excellent opportunity for high-level advocacy on risk reduction within the context of the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development. UNICEF has confirmed its continued support for disaster reduction initiatives with a special focus on education. In July 2007, UNICEF held a global consultation on education and DRR, to develop a disaster risk reduction strategy and a plan of action for the education sector addressing school curricula and school safety. A new unit will be created to help support global risk reduction efforts and staff capacities will be strengthened on risk reduction in education. UNICEF also indicated its interest in addressing DRR as part of its new cluster responsibilities in the humanitarian reform process.

For more information, please contact Constanza Farina (c.farina@unesco.org) or Heidi Peugeot (hpeugot@unicef.org)

Sasakawa Award honours two innovative pioneers

The work of the two joint Sasakawa Laureates announced on the International day for Disaster Reduction showcases the importance of the two year Campaign 'Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School', and the potential of the 2008-2009 Campaign to make 'Hospitals Safe from Disaster.' Professor Yoshiaki Kawata, a prominent professor in the field of disaster risk reduction at Kyoto University, was awarded for his work towards increasing awareness and deepening research about past disasters, particularly the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake (Kobe Earthquake). He founded the innovative Kobe Earthquake commemorative museum which educates school children, the public at large, and local governments in the latest practical knowledge and skills in disaster reduction.

Jointly receiving the Laureate Award was Tony Gibbs, a national of Grenada and Barbados who is advisor to the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) Disaster Mitigation Advisory Group on hospital safety. A pioneer in promoting safe architectural and engineering designs resistant to natural hazards, particularly for hospitals and health facilities, his innovative work has influenced building standards around the world.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/sasakawa/2007/sk-2007-description-eng.htm>

RiskCat lands on its feet

The need to develop sustainable local government policies that take account of natural hazards resulted in the launch of RiskCat on the International Day for Disaster Reduction, in Barcelona. RiskCat is a new Catalan collaborative research project on land use and planning. It will assess the institutional capacity of Catalonia's local government to cope with natural hazards, and will provide recommendations on how to develop sustainable land policy that deals with regional hazard risks better. RiskCat is a joint initiative of the University of Barcelona and the Advisory Body for Sustainable Development of the Catalan Government (CADS).

For more information, please contact Blanca Payas (blancapayas@gmail.com) or visit: <http://www.ub.es/risknat>

IDDR celebrated extensively in the Americas

Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, USA, and Venezuela observed the International Day for Disaster Reduction with a wide variety of activities including simulation exercises, awareness-raising events, capacity building activities with school children, and media events at local and national levels. Panama organized a regional drawing award (UNICEF, IFRC, Plan International, IFRC and DIPECHO and UN/ISDR), involving 20,000 children from the region.

For more information, please contact Margarita Villalobos (margarita.villalobos@eird.org) or visit: <http://www.eird.org/actividades/intro.html>

Regional Action Agenda adopted in Bangkok

The Bangkok Action Agenda adopted at the Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on School Education and Disaster Risk Reduction 8-10 October, urged priority actions by Governments and key stakeholders in integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into school education, making schools safer from disasters, strengthening DRR Education for community resilience and empowering children in DRR. 304 participants from 24 Asia-Pacific countries attended the Workshop, from government ministers to school children. The Workshop was jointly organized by the Education Task Force (UN/ISDR, UNESCO, UNICEF, IFRC and ADPC) and UN/ESCAP, UNCRD, UN/OCHA, ASEAN, ADRC and ASB.

For more information, please contact Christel Rose (rosec@un.org)

Disaster risk reduction begins at preschool in Slovenia

Slovenia's philosophy is that disaster risk education should start as early as possible in a child's life. Disaster education authorities engage with nurseries as well as primary school, including children aged 3 and over in their mandate. Two of the Civil Protection and Disaster Relief Training Centre's most popular projects have been free children's books, and an engaging puppet show, both targeting children aged 4-10 and featuring a hedgehog who deals with earthquakes, fire, drought, and dangerous situations. The books contain activity sheets, and the style of the puppet show means children can learn safety and prevention through play. Free distribution of the books has been comprehensive, not only via schools, but as inclusions with two popular childrens' monthly magazines.

For more information, please contact Nataša Poje Jovicic (natasa.poje.jovicic@urszr.si)

WEB RESOURCES



Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative
www.unisdr.org/cadri/

The new website of the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) is an online database on disaster risk reduction academic courses worldwide. Currently the database contains more than 70 entries and will continue to expand. CADRI is a joint initiative of the UNDP, OCHA and the ISDR. Please contact cadri@un.org to add programmes to the database



Ready America
www.ready.gov/america/about/instructional.html

The 'Ready America' campaign of the US Department for Homeland Security has a comprehensive multimedia website of preparedness resources, including 5-minute online instructional videos which show people how to be prepared for emergencies, including special emphasis on people with disabilities and the elderly.



GEO-4 multimedia resources
www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media/

The media webpage for the fourth Global Environment Outlook: environment for development (GEO-4) report offers fact sheets, brochures, video clips for reporting, advocacy and education, pod-casts, extensive graph images, posters, a list of expert contacts, and a summary for decisionmakers, as well as the full report.

New tool for planning Disaster Resilient Communities

A significant new tool to help monitor and evaluate community-level disaster risk reduction projects has been made available by the consortium of UK NGOs that comprise the DFID Disaster Risk Reduction Interagency Coordination Group. The guidance note, 'Characteristics of a Disaster-resilient Community', gives a comprehensive picture of what a community would look like if all the actions of the Hyogo Framework for Action were carried out successfully at the grassroots. The guidance note can be used at nearly every stage of a project: For providing vision and direction, developing indicators, analysing community gaps, and even assessing development organizations' own skills and knowledge gaps. All interested organizations are invited to test and ratify the desk-based tool over the next 18 months. Feedback will be integrated into a second edition.

For more information, please contact John Twigg, (j.twigg@ucl.ac.uk) or visit: http://www.benfieldhrc.org/disaster_studies/projects/communitydrriindicators/community_drr_indicators_index.htm

Climate change and DRR are development priorities: Action plan adopted in Stockholm

Disaster, climate change and poverty experts at the International Climate Conference in Stockholm adopted the Stockholm Action Plan at the end of October, to make disaster risk reduction and climate change priorities on the development agenda. The conference, co-organized by SIDA, the World Bank and ISDR as part of the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction, highlighted the link between climate change and increased natural hazard risk, and between disaster and poverty. Highlights of the plan include: Closer coordination between national disaster risk prevention plans and poverty reduction, and between development and humanitarian actors; improved risk analyses in the disaster prone countries; and stronger emphasis on building national, regional and local capacities. The workshop coincided with the Global Facility for

REGIONAL NEWS

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

Africa:

www.unisdr.org/africa

Asia & the Pacific:

www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

Latin America & the Caribbean:

www.eird.org

Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning:

www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

Disaster Reduction and Recovery Consultative Group and Result Management Council meetings.

For more information, please contact John Harding (jharding@worldbank.org)

New partnership formed at Asia Megacities Forum

The Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI) and the Provincial Government of Jakarta signed a new declaration of cooperation at the Asia Megacities Forum, to work together towards reducing disaster risk to the city of Jakarta. The new partnership formally ushers in Jakarta's involvement in EMI's Cluster Cities Project (CCP), and includes capacity building, development of a framework for a Disaster Risk Management Master Plan, and enhancement of knowledge and practices. The Forum provided a platform for sharing regional knowledge and good practices, in order to facilitate the local implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The EMI, Provincial Government of Jakarta and their partners hosted the Forum in Jakarta, Indonesia on 24-26 October.

For more information, please contact Kristoffer Berse (krisb@emi-megacities.org) or visit: <http://www.emi-megacities.org>

Increased presence for disaster risk reduction: ISDR secretariat

The ISDR secretariat opened a new office "ISDR Hyogo Office" in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, the birthplace of the Hyogo Framework for Action. The ISDR Hyogo Office will promote and develop collaborative disaster risk reduction activities with regional agencies, academics, scientists, civil society, and governmental institutions. In launching the new office, the ISDR secretariat and partners organized a public panel on "Human Security and Disaster Risk Reduction", featuring the Governor of the Hyogo Prefecture, representatives from the University of Osaka, UNIC Tokyo and the UN/ISDR secretariat, and well known local actress Norika Fujiwara.

For more information, please contact Yuki Matsuoka (matsuoka@un.org)

Iran: allocating funds for disaster risk reduction

For the first time, Iran is balancing funding between different phases of disaster planning. Iranian authorities announced to international agencies on International Disaster Reduction Day that it was now allocating 45% of disaster resources for prevention, preparedness and response.

For more information, please contact Seyed Mohammad Sadati Nejad (mohammad.sadatinejad@unisdr-wana.org)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Conferences, Trainings and Events November 2007 - December 2007

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	Library Corner
November			
5-8	Malta	32nd Conference on Pacem in Maribus (PIMXXXII) "Women, Youth and the Sea: Partnering for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Use of its Resources" Contact details: www.capemalta.net/pim2007	Enhancing urban safety and security: Global report on Human Settlements 2007, UN-HABITAT http://shop.earthscan.co.uk . The report addresses three major threats to the safety and security of cities, including natural and human-made disasters. The report shows that, between 1974 and 2003, 6367 natural disasters caused the death of 2 million people and affected 5.1 billion people. The report highlights the need to place people, poverty reduction and community participation at the centre of policy responses.
5-9	Rome, Italy	2007 International Geohazards Week in ESRIN Contact details: http://earth.esa.int/workshops/2007Geohazards/	
8-9	Verona, Italy	Consensus Conference on the Verona Charter Contact details: http://internazionali.ulsw20.verona.it	ECB Risk Reduction Pilot Project Overview Reports http://www.ecbproject.org/publications_3.htm The Emergency Capacity Building project (ECB) has released the reports from its three pilot risk reduction projects in Indonesia, Guatemala and Ethiopia, along with an overview report summarizing key learnings from the three pilots. The overview report sets the learning in the context of other sector initiatives, and suggests practical ways forward.
12-13	New Delhi, India	2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Organizer: Ministry of Home Affairs, India	
12-19	Philippines	The 8th Training on Making Governance Gender Responsive Contact details: http://www.capwip.org/training/mggr.htm	
12-30	Bangkok, Thailand	Disaster Management Course (DMC-36) Contact details: ADPC	
22-23	Brussels, Belgium	2nd Civil Protection Forum Contact details: Cecile.WENDLING@ec.europa.eu	Europe's environment. The fourth assessment Executive summary. Sixth Ministerial Conference, European Environment Agency (EEA) www.eea.europa.eu/
27	Bangkok, Thailand	The 4th UN-wide meeting on the use of space technologies for emergency response and humanitarian assistance Contact details: David STEVENS@unvienna.org	Ministers and high-level officials from 51 UNECE member States and the European Commission, international organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders discussed progress achieved in the implementation of environmental policies since the Kiev Conference in 2003, capacity building and partnerships as well as the future of the Environment for Europe process.
28-30	Bangkok, Thailand	8th UNGIWG meeting	
December			
3-5	Guangzhou, China	UN/China Regional UN-SPIDER Workshop Contact details: David STEVENS@unvienna.org	Global Environment Outlook: environment for development (GEO-4) UNEP http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/GEO-4_Report_Full_en.pdf
9-13	Khartoum, Sudan	UN/Sudan International UN SPIDER Workshop: Space-based solutions for disaster management and emergency response Contact details: David STEVENS@unvienna.org	On 25 October, at over 40 sites around the world, UNEP launched its fourth Global Environment Outlook (GEO4) – the result of five years work. The report links findings on the state of the environment with policy analyses, and highlights emerging environmental issues that require policy attention, 20 years after the Brundtland report was issued. Chapter 7 mainstreams natural hazard risks as part of a development and vulnerability assessment.
10-12	Hong Kong	International Forum on Landslide Disaster Management Contact details: kenho@cedd.gov.hk	
10-14	Bangkok, Thailand	Training on Trainers (ToTs) Contact details: ADPC	
18-21	New Delhi, India	International Conference on Water, Environment, Energy and Society (WEES-07)	