



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction

Announcements



United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

Nominations are now open

Deadline: 29 June 2007

<http://www.unisdr.org>

[/sasakawa/2007/Sasakawa-Award-2007-](http://www.unisdr.org/sasakawa/2007/Sasakawa-Award-2007-English.pdf)

English.pdf



Call for contributions on good practices in disaster risk education and school safety

All contributions should be sent to

Laura Ngo-Fontaine by 29 June 2007

Contact: ngo-fontaine@un.org

International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
Tel. : (+41 22) 917 8908/8907/8849
Fax : (+41 22) 917 8964
isdhighlights@un.org
www.unisdr.org
International Environment House II
7-9 Chemin de Balexert
CH 1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland

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

"The information and opinions expressed in
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Highlights

May 2007

GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

First Session, 5-7 June 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland

Follow the discussions online at: www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/

ISDR Develops Global Online Library for Disaster Risk Disaster Risk Reduction

The Library for Disaster Risk Reduction Education is a new initiative of the ISDR Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education and PreventionWeb to facilitate global information sharing of educational materials for disaster risk reduction. The Library now houses hundreds of educational resources, brochures, handbooks, text books, posters, toys, games, models, DVDs, videos, CDs in many languages and collected from 47 countries. The educational resources are being catalogued with extensive "metadata" for full interactive, online access. This is a first step in providing countries and communities at risk with much needed reference materials on education and disaster risk reduction that can be used to develop school curricula and university coursework on the subject.

To submit reference materials in digital form (PDF files), please send to:
riskreduceducation@gmail.com

Hard copy submissions, including CD-Roms and DVDs, should be sent to:
Ms. Marie-Lou Darricau, Library Coordinator, UN/ISDR
International Environment House 2,
7-9 Chemin de Balexert, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland

For questions, suggestions, comments, and to contribute to the discussion of strategies guiding educational materials development and use, meta-data variables for cataloguing, evaluation processes and criteria, and voluntary assistance in cataloguing and reviewing documents, please contact: Ms. Marla Petal, mpetal@riskred.org

IPCC Releases its Fourth Assessment Report on Climate Change

Future climate change is expected to put close to 50 million people at risk of hunger by 2020, and temperatures could rise up to five degrees Celsius by 2080 unless emissions are decisively reduced, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its fourth assessment report on climate change. The report warned that Himalayan glaciers are receding faster than in any other part of the world and at current rates of global warming and could disappear by 2035. Coastal populations in Asia are also vulnerable to sea level rise, which is slightly higher than the global average. Projected sea level rise could flood millions of people living in the low lying areas of South, Southeast and East Asia such as Vietnam, Bangladesh, India and China. Also, extreme weather patterns are already taking their toll on crop yields. Challenges in tackling global warming concerns is mounting pressures on the developing countries. With the heavy rains resulting in flooding, landslides along Sri Lanka's coastal belt in early May, flash floods in northern Thailand are all evident climate turbulence in the region.

Visit: www.ipcc.ch

Sri Lanka Moves Forward in Establishing a National Platform

A stakeholder workshop on the Hyogo Framework for Action, organized by the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) on 25 May 2007 ended with a concrete proposal to initiate a National Platform for Sri Lanka. A number of key government ministries and departments, district administration, INGOs and UNDP representatives endorsed the proposal. Under the guidance of the DMC Director-General, Mr. Hettiarachchi, and UNDP's Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor, Mr. Man Thapa, the next steps towards the establishment of a Sri Lankan National Platform will be to:

- Develop a short list of and extend invitation to the key organizations for the core group of the National Platform from planning, finance, development, legal, administrative departments, NGOs, UNCT, key donor agencies (World Bank, ADB), media organizations, private sector and academic institutions.
- Identify organizations for the larger group of the National Platform.
- Include the organizations in the IO Early Warning Consortium in the shortlist
- Develop a draft terms of reference for the National Platform.
- Agree on an action plan and a periodic review for the National Platform.

Contact: Mr. Man Thapa, man.thapa@undp.org

China Launched an International Center for Drought Risk Reduction

Drought is one of the major and frequent threats to millions of people's livelihood, causes starvation and famine and slows down socio-economic development. To reduce the increased negative impacts of drought disasters, an International Centre for Drought Risk Reduction (ICDRR) was established in Beijing, China, another concrete result of the cooperation between the Chinese Government and UN/ISDR secretariat. The ICDRR aims to mitigate people's vulnerability to drought. The ICDRR will focus on international and inter-regional cooperation and collaboration in drought risk reduction, using space technology and other means to monitor and assess drought risks across Asia. The initiative will also concentrate on building databases and a knowledge pool, developing applied technology and enhancing capacity building and public awareness on drought risks and ways to reduce drought risks. The ICDRR has already developed a work plan and its website is currently under construction in order to make information on drought available in both Chinese and English.

Contact: Ms. Yan Guan, guanyan@ndrcc.gov.cn

Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI) and ICLEI Join Hands

EMI recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, a worldwide association of about 500 local government organizations. The MOU covers a period of five years, from 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2012. The partnership brings together ICLEI's local government network and EMI's technical expertise in areas of natural hazards assessment and mitigation. EMI and ICLEI agreed to work together in enhancing the capacity of local governments and in supporting local action for disaster risk reduction by: 1) Extending EMI's e-learning training packages to local managers and professionals in support of the efforts of local institutions in introducing sound disaster risk management practices; 2) Assisting ICLEI in the implementation of its Resilient and Safer Cities Program; and 3) Improving knowledge sharing mechanisms between cities. It would also reinforce the advocacy efforts of both organizations to get a stronger voice for local governments in the global arena of disaster risk reduction such as the UN/ISDR.

Contact: Kristoffer Berse, kris.berse@earthquakesandmegacities.org

Visit: www.earthquakesandmegacities.org

WEB RESOURCES

Designing for Earthquakes: A Manual for Architects

www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2418

This EERI-FEMA non-technical publication presents up-to-date information on natural hazard mitigation geared specifically towards architects. It explains principles of seismic design for those without an engineering and seismology background. EERI and FEMA will release a printed version of this publication soon.



Timeline: The Frightening Future of Earth

www.livescience.com/environment/070419_earth_timeline.html

This timeline, presented by LiveScience, shows the bleak future of environmental stability on earth due to climate change. Using several recent studies and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, this article attempts to put specific dates on the damaging events that scientists believe global warming may cause.



Earth Portal

www.earthportal.org/

National Council for Science and the Environment, April 2007)

The Earth Portal offers science-based, expert-reviewed information about the environment.

It seeks to bring the global scientific community together to produce "the first free, expert-driven, massively scaleable information resource on the environment, and to engage civil society in a public dialogue on the role of environmental issues in human affairs." It includes features such as the Encyclopedia of Earth, Earth News, Earth Forum and Environment in Focus.



Traditional Knowledge Bulletin

www.tkbulletin.wordpress.com

(UNU-IAS Traditional Knowledge Institute)

The Traditional Knowledge Bulletin provides a weekly review of traditional knowledge issues, particularly discussions going on at intergovernmental fora.



European National Platforms and HFA Focal Points Meet in Strasbourg

The Council of Europe (European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement) and the UN/ISDR organized a meeting for European National Platforms and HFA Focal Points on 07 May, 2007 in Strasbourg. The objectives of this meeting are to: 1) Present the outcomes of the collaborative initiative between the UN/ISDR secretariat and the German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV) draft proposal, in which both organizations have collected information, undertaken a survey and developed a strategic view on how the European Platforms can collaborate and strengthen their role and capacities, 2) Discuss and share information on progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and 3) Prepare for the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 5-7 June 2007, Geneva.

Contact: Ms. Paola Albrito, albrito@un.org

Meeting in Belize Develops Adaptation Strategies for Arctic and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Coastal communities in the Arctic and Small Island Developing States are experiencing the effects of climate change first-hand. Because of their close ties to land and sea environments, economies and cultures in both regions are particularly vulnerable to climate change. Although the natural and human environments in the two regions differ markedly, the effects of rising temperatures, changing precipitation, shifts in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, and projected changes in sea level threaten the ecology, economies and social and cultural fabric of both regions. Strategic policy-relevant and community-driven initiatives need to be addressed through collaboration. From 27 to 30 May 2007, 40 stakeholders from the Arctic and Small Island Developing States gathered at a workshop in Belize. They are part of the Many Strong Voices Programme, coordinated by the UNEP/GRID-Arendal, based in Norway, the Center for International Climate and Environment Research – Oslo (CICERO), the Caricom Climate Change Centre and the Organization of American States' Department of Sustainable Development. The Many Strong Voices Programme brings together a consortium of researchers, policy-makers, and organizations to advance mutual learning and exchange of knowledge, research and expertise on

climate change adaptation within and between the Arctic and the SIDS. The four-day workshop focused not only on strategies to adapt to climate change but also on ways to deliver a strong message to the world. The people in the SIDS and Arctic are responsible for less than one per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. According to the IPCC report, however, they are feeling a disproportionate level of impact. At the workshop in Belize, participants developed a five-year programme and agreed on concrete and collaborative steps to address the issues of capacity building, targeted research, communications and outreach activities, and partnership and fundraising goals.

Contact: Petter Haugneland, petter.haugneland@cicero.uio.no

Visit: www.manystrongvoices.org

World Bank Institute (WBI) Hosts Expert Meeting on Gender in Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction

A meeting hosted by the World Bank Institute on 29 May 2007 brought together gender and disaster management experts from Turkey, India, Thailand, UNISDR, Gender and Disaster Network in Istanbul, Turkey to gather feedback on a draft analytic paper produced as part of WBI's project on mainstreaming gender in disaster recovery and reconstruction, and to facilitate a discussion on the next steps forward. A series of presentations and discussions from the participating experts, providing a rich set of insights on best practices, lessons learned and, importantly, on the institutionalization of gender concerns in disaster management. These will feed into the design of the next phase of the project, to take place in the field in India and Thailand, and to the development of a training module next year. The meeting concluded that this had been a valuable opportunity to explore the under-researched area of the institutionalization of gender mainstreaming and to establish links with UNISDR.

Contact: Ms. Maureen Fordham, maureen.fordham@unn.ac.uk

ProVention Consortium Launches the 2007-2008 Research & Action Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Research and Action Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction programme is designed to engage enthusiastic young students and professionals in developing countries in creating innovative links between research and action in disaster risk reduction. Applicants are invited to seek ways to cut across professional disciplines, to exchange knowledge and engage stakeholders from scientific, academic, civilian, public and private sectors. A Request for Proposals will be issued on June 1, 2007. Proposals are encouraged in the following thematic focus areas: 1) Identifying enabling factors and incentives for disaster risk reduction, 2) Developing mechanisms to strengthen community resistance and resilience, 3) Applying local risk analysis and risk management, 4) Improving education materials and curricula, 5) Promoting risk reduction in response and recovery activities, 6) Engaging the private sector in disaster risk reduction (especially micro-enterprises), and 7) Linking climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts.

Contact: provention@ifrc.org

Visit: www.proventionconsortium.org/research_and_action_grants

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Conferences, Trainings and Events June 2007 - September 2007

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
June		
4-5	Istanbul, Turkey	International Conference Istanbul 2007: Earthquake Protection of Museums www.eqprotection-museums.org
5-7	Geneva, Switzerland	First session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/
6-8	Minsk, Belarus	IV International Scientific and Research Conference "Emergencies: Prevention and Elimination" oic_mcs@mcs.infonet.by
7-9	Debrecen, Hungary	International Network of Basin Organizations 7th World General Assembly inbo_2007_ga@oieau.fr
18-28	Geneva, Switzerland	59th session of the WMO Executive Council www.wmo.ch
21-22	Jakarta, Indonesia	APCU/AEARU Research Symposium on Earthquake Hazards around the Pacific Rim http://dir.u-tokyo.ac.jp
24-30	Manila, Philippines	Training "Making Governance Gender Responsive" www.capwip.org ; www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org
25-27	Astana, Kazakhstan	Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2007 www.adrc.or.jp
July		
2-27	Geneva, Switzerland	ECOSOC www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2007
8-11	Colorado, USA	32nd Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop www.colorado.edu/hazards
8-11	Toronto, Canada	17th World Conference on Disaster Management www.wcdm.org/wcdm_home.html
22-28	Germany	The second annual Summer Academy on Social Vulnerability Munich Re Foundation and UNU-EHS www.munichre-foundation.org
26-27	Shanghai, China	International Symposium on the Civil Development Strategy gyjth@mfb.sh.cn
August		
6-9	Brunei	Disaster Management Workshop www.apcss.org/core/Conference/Conference%20Future%20Summary.htm
12-18	Stockholm	World Water Week www.worldwaterweek.org
22-25	Pune India	Settlement Planning and Shelter in Emergencies www.redr.org/india/training/index.htm
September		
5-6	Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK	Dealing with Disasters 2007 "Resilience, Response and Investigation" www.tees.ac.uk/disasters
17-19	Freising, Germany	14th German Dam Symposium and the 7th ICOLD Club Dam Symposium www.conventus.de/talsperre
17-20	Ancona, Italy	International Conference of the Italian Ecological Society and the Italian Association of Limnology and Oceanography www.univpm.it
17- 05 Oct.	Bangkok, Thailand	Use of GIS and RS in DRM (GIS-1) Organizer: ADPC
19-21	Stressa, Italy	Seventh IIASA-DPRI Forum on Integrated Disaster Risk Management www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/RAV/conf/IDRIM07/index.html

Library Corner

Annual Disaster Statistical Review: The Trends and Numbers 2006

Hoyois Ph., Scheuren J-M., Below R., Guha-Sapir D. Brussels: CRED: 2007.

Every year, the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) reports on the effects of disasters on human populations. This Annual Disaster Statistical Review, sponsored by the ISDR, is a compilation of CRED data for 2006. However, the data in this publication is presented over various time spans because trends take time to develop. Available: www.cred.be

Gender Perspective: Working Together for Disaster Risk Reduction, Good Practices & Lessons Learned

As part of its ongoing efforts facilitated to build a global partnership for mainstreaming gender issues into the disaster risk reduction process, the UN/ISDR secretariat, in cooperation with GROOTS International, have compiled good practices and lessons learned "Gender Perspective: Working Together for Disaster Risk Reduction." This publication aims to increase the knowledge and understanding of the vulnerabilities and risks associated with gender, as it presents a collection of 15 practices that showcase the valuable contributions of women to the ongoing efforts for building resilience against disasters at the community level. Available: www.unisdr.org



Building Disaster Resilient Communities: Good Practices & Lessons Learned

This publication is a joint effort of the "Global Network of NGOs for Disaster Risk Reduction," the emerging network of national and international NGOs aiming to reduce disaster risk worldwide. The publication showcases the essential roles played by NGOs in addressing disaster risks at the local community level. It makes the case for increased community-oriented DRR action, and is aimed to stimulate more interest in the subject from donors, policy makers, as well as other stakeholders. Available: www.unisdr.org



Little Green Data Book 2007

This pocket-sized quick reference book on key environment and development data for over 200 countries, based on the World Development Indicators 2007. Country, regional, and income group profiles provide a baseline for comparison on the state of the environment and its linkages with the economy and people. This year's publication affirms that carbon dioxide emissions continue to rise, with the world producing today 16 percent more carbon dioxide than in 1990. Available: www.worldbank.org