



World Conference on Disaster Reduction

18-22 January 2005, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan

Workshops title	Reducing Risks of Weather, Climate and Water extremes through Advanced Detecting, Monitoring, Early warnings and Opportunities of Information Society
Lead organization	World Meteorological Organization Japan Meteorological Agency
Speakers, etc.	Mr. Michel Jarraud, WMO Secretary General, Mr. Koichi Nagasaka, Japan Meteorological Agency , Director-General Dr. Maryam Golnaraghi, Chief, Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office, WMO Fredrick Branski, Team Leader for Data Management, US National Weather Service
Outline of content	<p>During the last decade, about 90% of all natural disasters were due to weather, climate and water extreme events, such as tropical cyclone, floods, droughts and heat waves. Scientific analysis indicates that the threat of these hazards could increase as a result of climate change. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), through its programmes, its 187 Member countries' National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and global network of Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres (RSMCs), provides data, analysis, prediction and early warnings of extreme events. These are critical to all stages of natural disaster risk reduction, from hazard mapping, vulnerability analysis, and risk assessment, through to disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. While the disaster statistics of the recent decade are sobering, it is important to realize that loss of life and property would have been even much higher without pre-disaster services, particularly prediction and <i>early warnings</i> that are provided through the global network of WMO.</p> <p>Promoting a <i>culture of prevention</i> is a key element in WMO's work. WMO research programmes are further advancing operational capabilities for end-to-end systems for monitoring, detecting, forecasting and early warnings of extreme events. There is no doubt that a lot could be achieved by deploying resources to strengthen early warning systems, which have demonstrated to make clear economic sense. With the threat of climate change, more proactive steps of prevention need to be placed in many countries, and particularly the least developed counties. To this</p>

end, WMO has launched its Natural Disaster Mitigation and Prevention Programme (DPM) to work together with international, regional and national partners and natural disaster risk management community in both public and private sectors to develop and disseminate critical information and early warnings, to enable them to take preventive measures to reduce the risks of natural disaster.

In this workshop, the goals and directions of WMO DPM will be presented. Through case studies, WMO will demonstrate how it is working with the natural disaster risk management community at international, regional and national levels, to provide them with critical information and early warning systems that enable nations to save lives and property. Specifically, in a panel discussion heads of several National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, will discuss their national and regional activities in support of disaster risk management. Japan Meteorological Agency will present examples of their contributions and activities nationally, regionally and internationally. A session will be dedicated to demonstrating WMO's research activities (from weather to climate change timescales) for development of advanced early warning systems from next hour to longer timescales of value to decision making. Prediction and early warnings protect life and property, provided that they can reach the target communities in timely and suitable manner. A special session on Information Communication Technology Applications in Natural Disaster Reduction is organized as a contribution to the preparation of the second Phase of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS). This thematic session will consider how the Information Society should respond to the needs for the universal and equitable access to weather, climate and water information and warnings in order to minimize loss of life and property. The outcome of the WSIS thematic meeting will provide concrete suggestions, as an input to the second phase of WSIS and its follow-up.

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