



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction



10 October

International Day for Disaster Reduction

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Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
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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

August 2007

Maldives, Thailand, Montenegro appoint focal points for Hyogo Framework

Two Asian countries - the Maldives and Thailand - have appointed national focal points for the follow-up and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). The national focal points, appointed in July, are the National Disaster Management in the Republic of Maldives and the Department of Prevention and Mitigation in the Thai Ministry of Interior. A national focal point was also appointed in Europe this month: the Emergency Situations and Civil Security Department in the Ministry of Interior and Public Administration of the Republic of Montenegro. The HFA requests States to "designate an appropriate national coordination mechanism for the implementation and follow up of this Framework for Action, and communicate the information to the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction". With the above three states, 119 countries have now notified officially the UN/ISDR secretariat of their HFA official focal points.

For any queries on the designation of HFA focal points, please contact the UN/ISDR secretariat at: isdr@un.org

Building partnership for gendering disaster risk reduction in Asia, Pacific

The UN/ISDR secretariat and the Centre of Asia Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP) are building a partnership to mainstream disaster risk reduction into CAPWIP's multi-stakeholder training on "Making Governance Gender-Responsive" (MGGR). For a start, disaster risk reduction was introduced in the 7th MGGR training and it was very well received. As a result, the two organizations agreed to develop a training module to integrate disaster risk reduction into the ongoing and future training. The next MGGR training will take place from 12 to 19 November 2007 in Manila, Philippines.

For more information, please contact Lea Joaquin (capwip.trainings@gmail.com)

Nigeria seeks to mainstream disaster risk reduction into school curricula

Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Disaster and Crisis Management Initiatives-Nigeria (DCMI) have embarked on a project to mainstream disaster risk reduction into school activities. Students and staff in six schools in the capital, Ibadan, are now learning about natural hazards, safety measures and basic practices in emergency response. The school students and staff are also encouraged to engage in humanitarian services at school level. In addition, over 2,000 students and staff from 300 schools in Nigeria can be counted amongst those informed of the importance of preparing for natural hazards. This was achieved during a sensitization campaign held in December 2006 at a school in Ibadan. These efforts are part of the ongoing World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2006-2008 under the theme "Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School".

For more information, please contact Amusat K. Kolawole (dcmigeria@yahoo.co.uk)

Over 257,000 school classes to be made safer in Iran

A budget of 4 billion US dollars has been secured, under Iran’s “School Safety Law”, for the reconstruction and strengthening of 257,945 school classes within five years. This constitutes 39 per cent of the total number of classes in the country. The same amount (4 billion US dollars) has also been allocated to the construction of new safe school buildings. These achievements are the culmination of tireless efforts made by the Iranian Ministry of Education and the Iran-based International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES). The Ministry of Education has increased its supervision of the construction of school buildings according to seismic resistance standards approved in the mid-1990s, while IIEES has implemented an initiative for the strengthening of vulnerable school buildings since 2002. The School Safety Law is being implemented under the supervision of the IIEES and the Ministry of Housing.

For more information, please contact: ashtiany@iiees.ac.ir

International Disaster Reduction Conference 2007 held in China

Sharing experiences and knowledge was at the centre of the recent International Disaster Reduction Conference (IDRC) held from 21 to 25 August in Harbin, China. One of the objectives was strengthening cooperation among Governments, international organizations, NGOs and international experts, and progressing towards a more holistic approach to risk reduction. A wide range of risks were presented and discussed. OXFAM expressed their interest in forging a focused movement amongst Asian NGOs interested in addressing disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and environmental management practices at a small scale and local community levels. The International Conference contributed significantly to ongoing international efforts to reduce disaster risk.

For more information, please visit the IDRC Harbin 2007 web site at: <http://www.harbin2007.cn/en/2.asp>

Training course on flood disaster risk management due in Bangkok, Thailand

Capacity building for disaster risk management is one of the core functions of the Bangkok-based Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC). Its training course on Flood Disaster Risk Management (FDRM-8) will be held from 8 to 19 October 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand. The course has been rescheduled at the request of some participants from monsoon flood-affected countries. FDRM-8 was designed to introduce techniques, such as Geographical Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS), for the management of flood disasters. The need to combat the perennial problem of floods and the resultant destruction has been a major concern of most Asian nations. The training course offers an integrated approach for dealing with this situation. The course will also expose the learners to globally acknowledged practices for handling flood disaster risk management. Experts from a number of countries and organizations will complement the ADPC faculty in conducting the course. The course has six modules for imparting information and skills in flood problem analysis, understanding and appreciating various approaches to flood risk reduction, and determining the adequacy of strategies and measures to achieve the desired goal of flood risk reduction. The training methodology includes interactive lectures, workshops, individual work, case studies, plenary sessions, panel discussions and field visit activities.

For more information, please contact ADPC (tedadpc@adpc.net) or visit the ADPC web site at <http://www.adpc.net/2007/>

WEB RESOURCES



2006-2008 Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School Campaign

www.unisdr.org/wdrc-2006-2007

The 2006-2008 World Disaster Reduction Campaign under the theme “Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School” aims to promote safer school facilities and the integration of disaster risk reduction into school curricula.



International Disaster Reduction Conference 2007

www.harbin2007.cn/en/2.asp

The International Disaster Reduction Conference (IDRC) 2007 was an occasion for reviewing the progress made since IDRC Davos 2006 and in-depth strategic discussions. IDRC 2007 was held from 21 to 25 August 2007 in Harbin, China.



Online Earthquake Risk Calculator

www.quakeschool.org

The online Earthquake Risk Calculator is a private effort to promote earthquake safe schools in the world. The programme uses logical sequencing of scientifically established parameters and their correlations to help calculate whether a building needs to be relocated or strengthened.



ProVention Consortium Online Survey

www.proventionconsortium.org/survey

ProVention Consortium was founded by the World Bank in the year 2000 to help address disaster reduction. It offers an informal forum for actors from different sectors to share knowledge and ideas, dialogue and coordinate. ProVention Consortium is conducting a web survey to better understand user needs and expectations.

Small-scale hydro-meteorological disaster risk reduction projects in Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC), in collaboration with other stakeholders, has recently finalized six small-scale mitigation projects to: (1) install a pond filter to secure safe drinking water at disaster shelter; (2) excavate a canal to improve drainage system; (3) increase water and sanitation (WATSAN) facilities for school cum shelter; (4) provide WATSAN facilities for slum dwellers to reduce health risk; (5) build capacity and reduce disaster risk in schools; and (6) improve drainage system to address water logging problems. The projects are to be implemented under the Programme for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia (PROMISE) which was launched in 2005 with the goal of reducing the vulnerability of urban communities in South and South East Asia. The Programme focuses on conducting city-level hazard vulnerability risk assessment, mitigation and preparedness, training and public awareness, and advocacy for mainstreaming risk management into urban governance. The Programme is under way in 10 vulnerable wards under Chittagong City Corporation with financial support from USAID through the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC).

For more information, please contact Sultana Afsari (sultana@bdpc.org.bd) or visit the BDPC website at: www.bdpc.org.bd

World Water Week 2007: International conference held in Sweden

An international conference was held in the Swedish capital, Stockholm, from 12 to 18 August 2007, gathering more than 2,400 participants from 140 countries to chart water sustainability reports, studies and initiatives to improve lives and protect the environment. In his opening speech, Swedish Prime Minister Mr Fredrik Reinfeldt stressed the importance of linking the impacts of climate change with water-related issues, including increasing disasters. Among new initiatives presented was the new Resource Centre on Water, Climate, Risk and Adaptation of the Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate. The Government of Singapore and WHO signed an agreement

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:

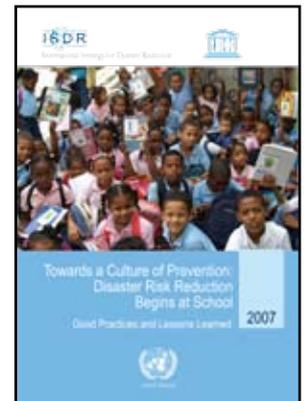
www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

to jointly promote safe management of drinking water worldwide. One of the spotlights was the awarding of the prestigious 2007 Stockholm Junior Water Prize to students from the Cultural Institute of Paideia, Mexico, for developing a low-cost and time-efficient solution to absorb lead in wastewater using eggshells. Speaking at the end of the conference, Mr Anders Berntell of the Stockholm International Water Institute said: "There is progress, but there is far too little action; and now, when climate change is upon us, we need to adapt even faster." Millions of people are without sustainable access to drinking water. Moreover, millions are suffering ill health due to poor sanitation. Water has become more and more a global issue, requiring a global solution through coordinated effort.

For more information, please contact David Trouba (dave.trouba@siwi.org) or visit the official World Water Week web site at: www.worldwaterweek.org

New publication highlights good practices from world campaign for disaster-safe schools

A new publication entitled Towards a Culture of Prevention: Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School - Good Practices and Lessons Learned is getting into print. The publication is part of ongoing efforts made under the theme "Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School"; a theme selected for the ongoing Biennial World Disaster Reduction



Campaign 2006-2008 coordinated by the UN/ISDR secretariat in cooperation with UNESCO. The World Campaign promotes two major initiatives: (1) making school buildings safer; and (2) mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into school curricula. The new publication reflects the major successes achieved so far in the World Campaign. The good practices, which were selected primarily for their potential for replication, are arranged under three sections: (1) raising awareness within school communities; (2) building a culture of prevention; and (3) making school building safer. They involve school children, teachers and non-academic staff and, in some cases, surrounding communities. In his message to readers, UN/ISDR secretariat Director Sálvano Briceño says children's involvement in disaster risk reduction is a change that conveys "a very strong signal: if children can do it, then every one can do it."

For more information, please visit: www.unisdr.org/education-good-practices

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

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
September		
3-5	Mashhad, Iran	The 1st Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) meeting of the Heads of Meteorological Organizations
5-6	United Kingdom	Dealing with Disasters 2007 "Resilience, Response and Investigation" www.tees.ac.uk/disasters
5-7	Manila, Philippines	4th Joint Project Team Meeting for "Sentinel Asia" – the Disaster Management Support System in the Asia-Pacific Region www.aprsaf.org/data/jptm4_pdf/JPTM4_1st-Announcement.pdf
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 http://www.univpm.it
17-21	Montreal, Canada	Nineteenth meeting of the parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer pcmcomm@congresmtl.com
17/9-5/10	Bangkok, Thailand	Use of GIS and RS in DRM (GIS-1), ADPC
19-21	Stressa, Italy	Seventh IIASA-DPRI Forum on Integrated Disaster Risk Management www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/RAV/conf/IDRIM07/index.html
19-21	Mexico City, Mexico	Americas Megacities Forum. www.emi-megacities.org
October		
1-3	Geneva, Switzerland	FERMA Risk Management Forum - 2007
5-7	Tyrol, Austria	3rd European Security Conference Innsbruck www.european-security.info
1-13	Trieste, Italy	Ninth Workshop on Non Linear Dynamics and Earthquake Prediction. http://www.ictp.it/
8-10	United Kingdom	IDER 2007 Conference ider@andrigh.com
10-14	Rhodes, Greece	Dialogue of Civilizations V Annual Session www.dialogueofcivilizations.org
15-16	Abuja, Nigeria	International Workshop on the Use of regionally owned space infrastructure for disaster management in West and North Africa – status quo and prospects. kerle@itc.nl
17-18	South Africa	Disaster Risk Reduction 2007-06-11. www.disaster.co.za
18-19	United Kingdom	Flood-Fighters Conference. www.flood-fighters.com
22-26	Bangkok, Thailand	Disaster Risk Communication. ADPC
23-26	Lyon, France	7ème Edition du Forum Rhône-Alpes/Afrique www.eurafric-partners.org
29-30	Paphos, Cyprus	Euro-Mediterranean Workshop on Disaster Reduction at School "Building safer school communities" www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/activities/Paphos2007_fr.asp
29-31	Bonn, Germany	UN International UN-Spider Workshop: Space-based information and solutions for disaster management and Emergency Response. David.STEVENS@unvienna.org

Library Corner

DRR10275

 Coping With Water Scarcity: A Strategic Issue and Priority for System-Wide Action
By UN-Water, 2006

UN-Water is the mechanism coordinating the actions of the UN System aimed at implementing the agenda set by the Millennium Declaration and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in all aspects related to freshwater. This note presents the UN-Water joint plan of action (PoA) for this thematic initiative and describes its elements.

DRR10263

 Human Development Report 2006: Beyond Scarcity, Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis
By the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2006

The 2006 Human Development Report focuses on water and human development. Water is central to the realization of human potential. It is a source of life for people and for the planet. Clean water and sanitation have a profound bearing on health and human dignity. Inequalities in access to clean water for drinking and to water as a productive input, reinforce wider inequalities in opportunity. With competition for water intensifying, there is a danger that poor and vulnerable communities will become increasingly marginalized. The twin challenge facing governments and donors is to accelerate progress towards universal access to water and sanitation; and to ensure that water management policies strengthen the rights of poor households to access water resources.



DRR9732

 Challenges of Water Scarcity: A Business Case for Financial Institutions
By the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and UNEP, 2005

This report, based on a review of close to 20 cases of projects and investments mainly in Africa and Latin America, and supplemented with interviews with practitioners from both development and commercial financial institutions, concludes that there is a business case for improving risk management tools which can specifically be related to risks borne by water scarcity. While each organization must relate to water in its own capacity, the business case for the financial sector comes from acknowledging the potential risks associated with water scarcity and seeking possible opportunities for mitigating these risks.

DRR10252

The Scarcity of Water: Emerging Legal Land Policy Responses

By Edward H.P. Brans, Esther J. de Haan, André Nookaemper, et al.

Kluwer Law International, 1997

Providing an overview of the various legal responses to conflicts involving the use of water resources, this text analyzes the continuous development of water law in the face of new threats of water shortages. The book is a result of the conference "Scarcity of Water: International, European and National Legal Aspects" held at the faculty of Law of the Erasmus University in Rotterdam.