In This Issue:

- Bali Roadmap on Climate Change recognizes importance of DRR
- Cape Verde launches multi-stakeholder National Platform for DRR
- Journalists link Climate Change Adaptation and DRR
- Venezuela consolidates multi-stakeholder National Platform for DRR
- Education Task Force Expands in Asia-Pacific
- Enhanced capacity for mainstreaming gender perspectives into DRR
- Raised profile for DRR and Development
- New disaster law guidelines endorsed
- Security studies institutes embrace DRR

Also:

- Web Resources
- Mark Your Calendar
- Library Corner

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

The information and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the policies of the UN/ISDR secretariat.

To subscribe to the ISDR Highlights: Send this one-line command in the body of your e-mail message (do not include <>): SUBSCRIBE ISDR HIGHLIGHTS <Your Name> to isdrhighlights@un.org

To unsubscribe: Send this one-line command in the body of your e-mail message (do not include <>): UNSUBSCRIBE ISDR HIGHLIGHTS <Your Name> to isdrhighlights@un.org

Bali Roadmap on Climate Change recognizes importance of DRR

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was included in the Bali Action Plan as a tool for climate change adaptation. The Bali Action Plan was adopted by UN member states on 15 December at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference. It called for enhanced action on adaptation, including DRR strategies to lessen the impact of disasters on developing countries; risk management and risk reduction strategies including risk transfer mechanisms such as insurance; and more international cooperation on implementation, such as through vulnerability assessments. At a side event, the Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction recommended that adaptation be a pillar of any eventual climate change agreement; that DRR and climate risk management be core elements of adaptation; that mechanisms for funding adaptation and disaster risk reduction be established; and that immediate action be taken to implement risk reduction measures from 2008-2012. Participants included representatives from UNEP, UNDP, UN/ISDR, WHO, WMO, WB, Red Cross, Oxfam, and CARE International.


Cape Verde launches multi-stakeholder National Platform for DRR

The West African country of Cape Verde launched its National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction at a major meeting from 27 to 28 November, attended by 120 representatives from Ministries, municipalities, technical services, academia, NGOs, the Red Cross society and the international community. At the meeting participants provided a comprehensive overview of hazards and risks of natural or man-made origin facing the country including droughts, landslides, volcanic eruptions, oil spills, traffic accidents, epidemics and drug trafficking. The meeting was organized by the National Service for Civil Protection with support from the “One UN” Country Team, UN-OCHA Dakar and the UN/ISDR secretariat. Attended by two Ministers and several Ambassadors.

For more information, please contact Tenente-Coronel Alberto Fernandes (acbfernandes@hotmail.com) or visit: http://www.snpc.cv/platNacRedCatastrofes.html
Journalists link Climate Change Adaptation and DRR
Journalists and broadcasters from 17 Asian broadcasting companies took part in a two day media training in during the Bali Climate Change Conference to explore the link between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Two speakers from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, explained to journalists the importance of adaptation and the relevance of the Hyogo Framework for Action to reduce the impacts of disasters linked to climate change. The participants engaged positively with the DRR message, and expressed interest in the upcoming World Campaign for Disaster Reduction 2008-2009. The workshop was held on 10-11 December, and was jointly organized by the Asian Pacific Broadcasting Union, UNEP and UN/ISDR secretariat. For more information, please contact Brigitte Leoni (leonib@un.org)

Venezuela consolidates work on multi-stakeholder National Platform for DRR
National Civil Protection authorities of Venezuela organized a capacity-building, training and political lobbying workshop from 22 to 24 November in Caracas, in which the country’s main priorities according to the Hyogo Framework for Action were analyzed, and the legal and administrative issues needed to set up a fully functional multi-sectoral National Platform were identified, along with the outline for a plan of action. The workshop gathered a variety of Venezuelan government institutions, and was organized with the support of UN/ISDR Americas. For more information, please contact Haris Sanahuja (hsanahuja@eird.org)

Education Task Force expands in Asia-Pacific
The Education Task Force (ETF) met on 21 November to build on the successful experiences shared during October’s Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on School Education and Disaster Risk Reduction. The ETF confirmed the importance of expanding its membership to new regional partners, and welcomed Save the Children as a new member. An Implementation Plan is currently being developed to map out existing activities being undertaken at the regional, national and local levels in DRR Education and to identify major gaps requiring joint action. This document will support the development of a regional strategy for the implementation of DRR Education in line with the Bangkok Action Agenda, which will be presented at the International Conference on Education that is being organized by UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) next 25-28 November 2008 in Geneva. For more information, please contact Christel Rose (isdr-bkk@un.org)
Enhanced capacity for mainstreaming gender perspectives into DRR
Developing capacity in South Asia on integrating gender into the development-disaster continuum was the subject of a five day Training of Trainers in Colombo, which concluded on 7 December. The programme had a specific emphasis on disaster risk reduction. Participating trainers committed to conducting training programmes incorporating the training’s messages within six months. ‘Gendering Disaster Risk Reduction’ was organised by UNDP, UN/ISDR, the Sri Lankan Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, and Oxfam GB Sri Lanka, and was attended by 34 participants from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan, the Sri Lankan government, UNDP, UNVs, and NGOs. Issues covered were key gender concepts, disaster-development dynamics, Applied Gendering of DRR practice aspects, and opportunities for gendering DRR throughout the disaster cycle.
For more information, please contact: Man B. Thapa (man.b.thapa@undp.org)

New disaster law guidelines endorsed
The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) adopted the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance on 28 November, at its 30th International Conference in Geneva. Early warning and DRR were dealt with in Part II of the Guidelines which state that an as essential element of a larger disaster risk reduction programme, “the guidelines recommend that States adopt comprehensive legal, policy, and institutional frameworks and planning for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, relief and recovery.”
For more information, please contact David Fisher (david.fisher@ifrc.org)

Raised profile for DRR and Development
Students of ILO/DELNET’S first-ever year-long course on “Disaster Risk Reduction within the Framework of Sustainable Local Development” marked their graduation last month with a workshop on GIS and local DRR planning. The class met November 19-24 in Managua, Nicaragua to participate in “The Use of GIS Based on Satellite Imagery Applied to Strategic Planning for Disaster Risk Reduction at the Local Level.” This marked the beginning of an inter-agency partnership between ITC-ILO/DELNET, UNOSAT and UN/ISDR secretariat to support the continuation of the course, and the creation of a disaster risk reduction and sustainable local development network. Participants in DELNET training also took part this year in an episode of the Colombian television show “Antemeridiano”, on “Disaster Prevention and

Security studies institutes embrace DRR
1. The UN University for Peace in Costa Rica is launching a course in 2008 on ‘Encompassing Disaster Risk Reduction and Human Health Resilience in Environmental Security and Peace Studies’, as part of its Masters programme on Environmental Security and Peace. The programme launches in February 2008, and has five scholarships available for practitioners from the Central American or Caribbean regions. The course was developed by the Pan American Health Organization and the UN/ISDR secretariat. For more information, please contact: Rolain Borel (rborel@upeace.org) or visit: http://drr.upeace.org/english/how.cfm
2. The International Institute for Crisis and Security Studies (IICSS) as been established in Florence, Italy, as an offshoot of CESPRO, the Centre for Civil Protection and Risk Studies (IICSS) as been established in Florence, Italy, as an offshoot of CESPRO, the Centre for Civil Protection and Risk Studies at the University of Florence. IICSS plans to develop collaborative programmes in disaster risk reduction and emergency management, with emphasis on research, teaching, training and international co-operation. For more information, please contact David Alexander (david.alexander@unifi.it)

REGIONAL NEWS
For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit these weblinks:
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
January 2008 - February 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu, India</td>
<td>Innovative and Smart Structural Systems for Sustainable Habitat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Davos, Switzerland and regional WHO &amp; UN/ISDR offices</td>
<td>Launch of World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009: Hospitals Safe from Disasters WHO, UN/ISDR secretariat. Contact: Tze Ming Mok, <a href="mailto:mokt@un.org">mokt@un.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-29</td>
<td>Orissa, India</td>
<td>Disability-Disaster Conference 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Contact: Asha Hans, <a href="mailto:smrc_bbsr@hotmail.com">smrc_bbsr@hotmail.com</a>. See: <a href="http://www.smrcorissa.org">www.smrcorissa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Cairo, Egypt</td>
<td>Regional launch of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009: Hospitals Safe from Disasters WHO, UN/ISDR secretariat. Contact: Tine Ramstad, <a href="mailto:tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org">tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Further regional launches of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009: Hospitals Safe from Disasters. Contact: Tze Ming Mok, <a href="mailto:mokt@un.org">mokt@un.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>New Orleans, USA</td>
<td>Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See: <a href="http://www.eeri.org/news/meetings.html">www.eeri.org/news/meetings.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>New Delhi, India</td>
<td>Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) 2008, 'Sustainable Development and Climate Change.' See: <a href="http://www.teriin.org/dsds/2008/">http://www.teriin.org/dsds/2008/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-22</td>
<td>Strasbourg, France</td>
<td>12th Annual International Symposium 'Space Solutions to Earth’s Global Challenges' See: <a href="http://www.isunet.edu">http://www.isunet.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-29</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
<td>Preparatory Expert Meeting on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, for the High Level Conference on World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy. Organizers: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), see: <a href="http://www.fao.org/foodclimate/">http://www.fao.org/foodclimate/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Library Corner**

Fighting climate change, UNDP
http://hdr.undp.org

The Human Development Report 2007/2008 argues that climate change is not just a future scenario, and that increased exposure to droughts, floods and storms is already destroying opportunities and reinforcing inequalities. It also states that there is overwhelming scientific evidence that the world is moving towards the point at which irreversible ecological catastrophe becomes unavoidable. The report argues that climate change poses challenges at many levels, and its 4th chapter addresses Climate Change Adaptation, including disaster risk reduction.

Disaster Management
Harsh K. Gupta (Editor), Universities Press (India), 2007 edition

The issue of disaster management for the Himalayan region needs to be viewed in the context of the rapid land use and land cover changes. From the disaster management perspective of this book, issues involved include coping with the ecological fragility of the mountains on the one hand, and dealing with the general apathy of the mountain societies towards the pathways adopted for development on the other. This book contains articles on natural disaster management in the Himalayas, the spatio-temporal aspects of monsoon floods in India, flood hazard management, monitoring and forecasting of tropical cyclones, and a new seismic hazard map for the region.

Why Advocate for Disaster Risk Reduction
Tearfund and World Vision International in English and French
http://tilz.tearfund.org/

A booklet for Tearfund and World Vision partners dealing with advocacy and DRR, aimed at organisations which are already involved in DRR, but have not yet considered an advocacy approach. It sets out why advocacy on DRR is important, why governments should be held accountable, and how civil society can influence them.