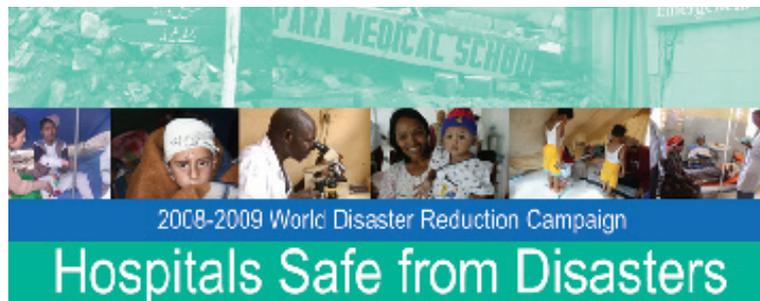




International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction



Season's greetings from UN/ISDR secretariat!

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December 2007

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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.
For a UN webcast of the Working Group side event please visit: <http://www.un.org/webcast/unfccc/2007/index.asp?go=06071207>

- Also:
- Web Resources
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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>

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

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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)*

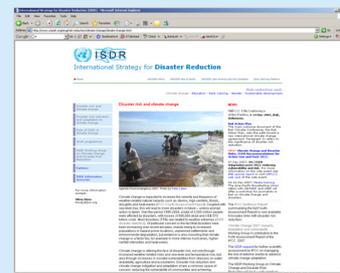
Education Task Force expands in Asia-Pacific

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)*

WEB RESOURCES



UNFCCC website
<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>
 Includes reports from the negotiations, decisions, meetings, webcasts and videos from the Bali Conference on Climate Change, and from previous conferences. For more full webcasts of the UNFCCC sessions, see also www.un.org/webcast/unfccc/



Climate Change and Disaster Risk
<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/risk-reduction/climate-change/climate-change.html>
 A new section of the UN/ISDR secretariat website with resources on how climate change affects disasters, and how disaster risk reduction is a key tool for climate change adaptation. Also includes links to key follow-up actions and meetings after the Bali Conference on Climate Change.



All India Disaster Mitigation Institute website
www.southasiadisasters.net
 Website features latest news, events and publications focusing on disaster mitigation issues in South Asia, and including learnings and reports on current programmes in water, habitat, food, and livelihood security.

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)

Response week", which recently won an Alfonso Bonilla Aragon Award for journalism.

For more information, please contact: Alice Vozza (a.vozza@itcilo.org) or visit: <http://learning.itcilo.org/delnet/>

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 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

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
January		
3-5	Tamil Nadu, India	Innovative and Smart Structural Systems for Sustainable Habitat Organizer: Coimbatore Institute of Technology. See www.citinshab2008.info .
16-18	Washington D.C	8th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment: Climate Change: Science and Solutions. Organizer: National Council for Science and the Environment. See www.ncseonline.org/2008conference/
25	Davos, Switzerland and regional WHO & UN/ISDR offices	Launch of World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009: Hospitals Safe from Disasters WHO, UN/ISDR secretariat. Contact: Tze Ming Mok, mokt@un.org
28-29	Orissa, India	Disability-Disaster Conference 2008 Contact: Asha Hans, smrc_bbsr@hotmail.com . See: www.smrcorissa.org
31	Cairo, Egypt	Regional launch of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009: Hospitals Safe from Disasters, WHO, UN/ISDR secretariat. Contact: Tine Ramstad, tine.ramstad@unisdr-wana.org
31- 3 Feb	Orlando, USA	29th Annual International Disaster Management Conference. Organizer: Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center. See www.emlrc.org/disaster2008.htm .
February		
TBA		Further regional launches of the World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009: Hospitals Safe from Disasters. Contact: Tze Ming Mok, mokt@un.org
6-9	New Orleans, USA	Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) Annual Meeting See: www.eeri.org/news/meetings.html
7-9	New Delhi, India	Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) 2008, 'Sustainable Development and Climate Change.' See: http://www.teriin.org/dsds/2008/
20-22	Strasbourg, France	12th Annual International Symposium 'Space Solutions to Earth's Global Challenges' See: http://www.isunet.edu
25-27	Richmond, BC, Canada	Emergency Preparedness for Industry and Commerce Council (EPICC) Forum 2008 'Business Continuity is Everybody's Business' See: www.epiccforum.org
28-29	Rome, Italy	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: http://www.fao.org/foodclimate/

Library Corner

Human Development Report 2007/2008
 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 one 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.

