



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/eng>

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

Aurélia Blin by 31 May 2007

Contact: blin@un.org

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Highlights

February 2007

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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.

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

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Partnership between the World Bank and UN/ISDR

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) of the World Bank in partnership with UN/ISDR aims at supporting global, regional and national level implementation of disaster risk reduction programs for achieving sustainable development. The partnership's impact has been strongly felt in Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Central America, South Eastern Europe, Pacific and the Middle East and North Africa. Country level risk reduction initiatives have also begun in Mozambique, Malawi, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Vietnam. From February 21-23, the GFDRR sponsored three major events, which were held at World Bank headquarters in Washington DC. On February 21, leading journalists from around the world gathered at a media workshop to discuss disaster risk reduction issues and devise plans for awareness-raising. This came under the Media

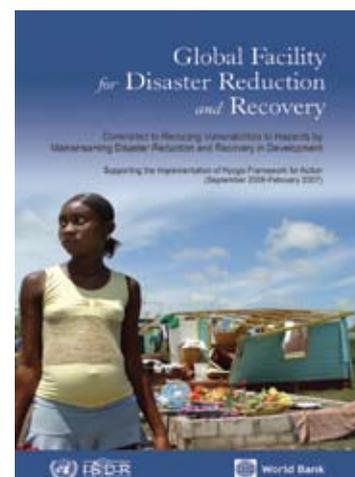
Networks initiative, aiming at promoting disaster risk reduction in news coverage and to help to build a culture of safety and resilience to disasters. On February 22, a one-day private public partnerships dialogue, with the participation of 70 representatives from private sector, governments and international agencies, was organized to learn from past experiences in private-public partnerships and to develop a common action plan in order to facilitate such partnerships for risk mitigation. The dialogue made it clear that there is a business case for private sector engagement but much needs to be done to build awareness and understanding of this case and to develop the modalities for effective private sector participation. The dialogue concluded with a consensus on next steps forward. On February 23, a Roundtable on Emerging and Operational Donor Policies for Disaster Risk Reduction took place, with the participation of donor community, IFIs, emerging economies and UN/ISDR. The Roundtable focused on successes, challenges and innovations in integrating and operationalizing disaster risk reduction policy in development strategies.

For more information, <http://www.worldbank.org/hazards/gfdr>

For Private-Public Partnerships, contact Mr. Andrei Iatsenia, iatsenia@un.org

Media Networks, contact Ms Brigitte Leoni, leoni@un.org

Donor relations, contact Mr Marc Gordon, gordon6@un.org



New Evidence about Climate Change

Climate change is no longer a fringe issue, as concludes the recent report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on 2 February 2007. Directed at policymakers, the report shows the evidence of an unequivocal climate warming through an explanation of the current science of climate change. It also finds that rates of both observed warming and sea level rise have accelerated over the past century, while other important changes being observed, including more intense precipitation in some regions, prolonged droughts in others, and intensification of hurricanes in some tropical regions. The analysis is based on six years of scientific literature reviewed by experts from around the world.

<http://www.ipcc.ch>

Making Disaster Risk Reduction Work

"Making Disaster Risk Reduction Work: Building safer communities in Africa and worldwide" was the central theme of the third Provention Annual Forum held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Forum brought together more than 110 participants, including experts and policy makers, representing a wide range global experience as well as a critical focus on challenges for risk reduction in Africa. It explored several key themes, including urban risk, climate adaptation, community and civil society perspectives, governance and disaster risk reduction. In terms of action, the participants highlighted the need to increasing investment by the international community in long-term capacity development of national and local governments, NGOs, and academic institutions to lead and support risk reduction initiatives; prioritising through responsive governance developmental initiatives which build on local knowledge and capacity and increase local resilience; and increasing attention in addressing the root causes of vulnerability across line ministries and sectors.

For more information visit www.proventionconsortium.org/

Emerging European Network for Disaster Reduction

The European National Platforms are searching, through an "European National Platforms Network" ways to formalize the link on a European scale of all existing National Platforms for disaster risk reduction, defined as a nationally-owned and led mechanism with the form of a forum or committee. The goal is to suggest ideas and plans for bringing together national and regional activities and to consolidate a network that will be capable to respond to the need for an enhanced cooperation. Besides of the fact that information exchange is needed between different National Platforms, consensus discussions with all relevant actors will contribute to advocating for disaster risk reduction at different levels and to both analysing and advising on action through a coordinated and participatory process. It will be also the gateway to other Regional National Platforms, as the primary ingredient for international cooperation to carry out disaster risk reduction policies and measures and to implement the objectives of the International Strategy for UN/ISDR.

Contact Ms. Paola Albrito, albrito@un.org

Preparing for a Wider Caribbean Disaster Preparedness

Several world leaders with a good understanding of ocean security issues paved the way for improving response capability and for mitigating the threats by promoting regional stability and security objectives on the occasion of the International Conference on Ocean Security in the Wider Caribbean, in Texas, USA, from 10-12 February 2007. They also considered solutions to respond to the urgent need to work on a sustainable "downstream" hazard warning system, with people at the centre. Part of the disaster preparedness that should be based on the four recognized pillars of disaster management – prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response – they discussed ways to develop technical structures for an early warning system, which are needed just as much as dissemination, education, awareness and planning by and for communities and individuals.

For more information www.osi-int.org

Broadcasting 'Natural' Disasters: ABU Secretary-General explains

The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Secretary-General David Astley, on the occasion of the Broadcasting Engineering Society Conference, encouraged ABU members to integrate disaster risk reduction into their coverage. ABU with a potential audience of about 3 billion people highlighted broadcasters' important role in disseminating information, as information itself could constitute a vital form of aid. He also explained that disaster risk reduction is becoming an important issue that cannot no longer be ignored by journalists. While quoting Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General, David Astley emphasized that "Building a culture of prevention is not easy. While the costs of prevention have to be paid in the present, its benefits lie in a distant future. Moreover, the benefits are not tangible; there are the disasters that did not happen."

For more information www.abu.org.my

WEB RESOURCES



World Water Day

www.worldwaterday07.org

The electronic release of the official World Water Day 2007 brochure, as well as several posters in different languages on the Campaign Material is now available.



ProjectDisaster

<http://projectdisaster.com/>

ProjectDisaster describes itself as a place for the latest news, information and discussion regarding disasters, terrorism, emerging infectious diseases, disaster response, mitigation, and preparedness. Much of the content comes from mainstream news articles, with added expert commentary.



UN/ISDR Calendar for 2007

http://www.entico.com/unisdr_2007

The UN/ISDR calendar 2007, "Disaster risk reduction begins at School" illustrates, with concrete examples across the world, the essential role of education, and safety schools that serve as a community's central location for meetings and group activities, in normal times, and as makeshift hospitals, vaccination centres or places of refuge and shelter in times of crisis.



Worldmapper

http://www.worldmapper.org/textindex/text_disaster.html

Worldmapper is a collection of world maps, where territories are re-sized on each map according to the subject of interest, such as disaster maps with the number of people affected or killed by disasters, i.e. earthquakes, volcanoes, droughts, floods...

New Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation

The Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) was established to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. It will facilitate exchange of information and best practices in the region, and promote collaboration agreements among governments. Furthermore, INDM will be used as a tool to assist Member States of General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) in advancing the formulation and development of public policy related to disaster risk management. In line with the principles and objectives of UN/ISDR and the commitments made by the countries of the Americas, the Network will focus its efforts in exchanging and sharing best practices, and policy models that promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policy and planning.

Contact Ms. Margarita Villalobos, margarita.villalobos@eird.org

ECOWAS Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction

Adopted at the 31st Summit of ECOWAS Heads of States in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, the ECOWAS Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction provides an inter-governmental framework for collaboration and partnership among ECOWAS Members for the integration of disaster risk reduction into development policies, plans and programmes. It facilitates also the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities for building resilience to hazards. At the request of the ECOWAS Secretariat, UN/ISDR Africa supported ECOWAS in the development of this common framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The policy framework, finalized by experts from the region and presented to the Council of Ministers and the Heads of State, would focus on areas of importance to the West African situation under the guidance of the Africa Union Strategy for disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Contact Ms. Noroarisoa Rakotondrandria, noroarisoa@unep.org

rakotondrandria@unep.org

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 Platform:

www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

Engendering Disaster Risk Reduction

A group of Experts, men and women, on gender and disaster risk reduction, gathered at a meeting on 12-13 February in Geneva under UN/ISDR auspices, agreed on building a "Global Partnership for Mainstreaming Gender Concerns and Needs into Disaster Risk Reduction". This Partnership will contribute to the ongoing long-lasting global effort to promote gender equality in social, cultural and economic development with an emphasis on disaster risk reduction (DRR). It will also provide a platform for gender activists and different stakeholders for sharing information, knowledge and experience of gender needs and concerns. Beyond those dialogues, the Partnerships will develop policy guidelines, user-friendly tools and training material for mainstreaming gender into DRR and encourage an active role played by national authorities and NGOs in developing gender-sensitive and -balanced DRR policies and programmes. This initiative is part of a long effort to integrate gender issues into DRR policies and plans. As results of this meeting, the experts have reached a consensus on a set of priorities for promoting gender needs and concerns in DRR.

Contact Ms. Ana-Cristina Thorlund, thorlund@un.org



First Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
5-7 June 2007
Geneva, Switzerland

The first session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, convened by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs for the ISDR system, will take place 5-7 June 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland. This multi-stakeholder mechanism for the ISDR system foresees becoming the main global forum for disaster risk reduction. Its key objectives are raising awareness; sharing experience and good practices; assessing progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework; and strengthening cooperation among ISDR system partners. Details on the focus of the session and the specific issues to be tackled at the meeting are outlined in the Announcement which is available on the website www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform which also contains information on participation, organization of side events and displays and other practical information.

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

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
MARCH		
5-9	Lima, Peru	Second Alexander von Humboldt International Conference: The Role of Geophysics in Natural Disaster Prevention http://meetings.copernicus.org/avh2
5-12	Dhaka, Bangladesh	International Conference on Water and Flood Management icwfm@iwfm.buet.ac.bd ; www.buet.ac.bd/icwfm
5-16	Bangkok, Thailand	Flood Disaster Risk Management tedadpc@adpc.net ; www.adpc.net/trg06/trg_home.htm
7-22	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CRIC5) www.unccd.int
19-21	New Delhi, India	Exhibition on Disaster Management 2007 www.iiees.ac.ir/SEE5
19 -23	Geneva, Switzerland	Training module "from rapid response towards prevention in earthquake-prone countries" Univeristy of Geneva, www.unige.ch/formcont.piah
22-23		World Water Day - World Meteorological Day www.worldwaterday.org - www.wmo.ch/wmd
APRIL		
2-5	Brussels, Belgium	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change www.ipcc.ch
12-14	New Orleans, USA	Conference on Disaster and Migration www.tulane.edu/~sociol/DisasterandMigration.html
12-13	Kobe, Japan	Global forum for urban and megacities disaster risk reduction. Contact: hossein.kalali@undp.org
18-21	Cairo, Egypt	Middle East and North Africa Regional Workshop on " Building Partnerships for Disaster Risk Reduction and Hazard Risk Management" www.isdr.org
19-20	Miami, USA	Global Warming International Conference and Expo http://gw18.globalwarming.net
30-11/05	New York, USA	15th Commission on Sustainable Development www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm
MAY		
9-11	Bonn, Germany	First International Conference "Towards Sustainable Global Health" www.gemini.de/global-health
13-17	Sevilla, Spain	4th International Wildland Fire Conference www.wildfire07.es
14-16	Tehran, Iran	5th International Conference on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering www.iiees.ac.ir/SEE5
14-18	Trieste, Italy	Workshop on the Physics of Tsunami, Hazard Assessment Methods and Disaster Risk Management www.ictp.it
21-24	Ventnor, UK	International Conference on landslides and Climate Change www.coastalwight.gov.uk/conference.html
25-27	Toronto, Canada	3rd International Symposium on Geoinformation for Disaster Management (GiDM2007) junli@ryerson.ca
JUNE		
4-5	Istanbul, Turkey	International Conference Istanbul 2007: Earthquake Protection of Museums www.did-tasi.org
5-7	Geneva, Switzerland	First session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction www.unisdr.org/
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

Library corner

Real Risk

Real Risk offers perspectives, case studies and analysis on disaster risk reduction and mitigation in the light of major natural disasters that have occurred since the publication of *Know Risk* in early 2005. It brings together the knowledge and experiences of public and private organizations toward disaster preparedness and mitigation at local, national and international levels. *Real Risk* is the latest in a series of volumes addressing the risks faced by communities across the world.
<http://www.tudor-rose.co.uk/publishing/realrisk.html>

Disaster & Development

The Indian National Institute of Disaster Management started an Indian Journal on Disaster Management, named *Disaster and Development*, to provide a forum for the publication of original and innovative works on various facets of disaster management carried out by scientists, researchers and practitioners in the country and abroad.
<http://www.nidm.net>

Legislation for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction

This new Tearfund's report reviews current national experience of undertaking legislative reform for disaster risk reduction. It also examines the building blocks of successful legislative reform based on case study research; presents a detailed account of the reform process in South Africa from 1994 to 2006 and proposes recommendations for those undertaking legislative reform for disaster risk reduction.
<https://www.tearfund.org>

Vivir con el Riesgo

"Living With Risk: A Global Review of Disaster Reduction Initiatives," an UN/ISD publication, now available in Spanish, giving tips for reducing vulnerability to natural hazards. This 400-page book is seen as a guide to disaster management, and the Spanish translation will allow for a broader audience in a region plagued by natural disaster.
<http://www.eird.org>

Micro-Finance and Disaster Risk Reduction

This volume, which draws from the contributions made during an International Workshop in Delhi in 2005, is an important addition to the very limited literature available on micro-finance.
<http://www.nidm.net>