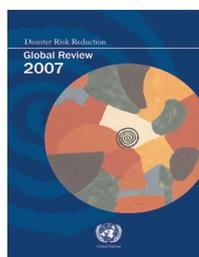




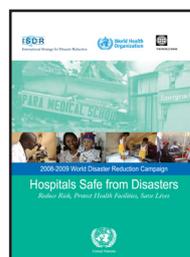
International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction

Announcements:



Available now:
Disaster Risk Reduction Global Review 2007

Download from:
www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/global-review/



Campaign brochure available now:
World Campaign for Disaster Reduction 2008-2009:
Hospitals Safe from Disasters

Download from: www.unisdr.org/eng/public_aware/world_camp/2008-2009/pdf/wdrc-2008-2009-brochure.pdf

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

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Highlights

November 2007

2007 Global Review: radical realignment needed in DRR

A radical realignment of priorities in addressing the Hyogo Framework for Action is required if the growing population living in high risk conditions is to be adequately protected, the recently released UN/ISDR 2007 Global Review has concluded. Current emphasis on saving lives has to be complemented by a vision of protecting and strengthening livelihoods and human development. While political momentum is building behind disaster risk reduction, the lack of dedicated resources and trained personnel may inhibit progress. The Review defines two main categories of disaster risk, both of which may be exacerbated by climate change, and which are closely related to development trends. Rural poor and marginal urban communities are increasingly subject to 'extensive disaster risks' – that is, highly localised, low intensity but cumulative impact from small-scale, mainly climatic hazards. This kind of risk is increasing rapidly due to climate change and environmental degradation. Despite causing lower apparent mortality and damage, it represents a significant challenge to sustainable livelihoods and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The impact of 'intensive disaster risks' – characteristic of large-scale hazards affecting densely populated areas, is also becoming more severe. Climate change and rapid urbanization may continue to increase mortality and economic losses from these kinds of hazards. The Review emphasizes the need for addressing underlying risk factors, through livelihood diversification, environmental management, climate change adaptation, better building practices and settlement planning.

For more information, please contact Shefali Juneja (junejas@un.org) or visit: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/global-review/>

Asian governments gear up for DRR: Delhi Declaration

Asian governments have agreed to a new declaration on regional disaster risk reduction (DRR) action, and have committed to leading a comprehensive Regional Platform. The Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted at the Indian Government-organised Second Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR in New Delhi, from 7-8 November. The Declaration committed governments to more concrete implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, urging them to formulate Action plans and put in place mechanisms for periodic review, monitoring and reporting, linking specifically to the Millennium Development Goals, and mainstreaming DRR into development, recovery and reconstruction. The Ministerial meeting also adopted the recommendations of the Expanded ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) to expand the conference into a comprehensive Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, led by the region's Ministers of Disaster Risk Reduction with support from the UN/ISDR secretariat, and including International Agencies, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society, experts, and the media.

For more information, please contact O. Ravi, Joint Secretary, Indian Ministry of Home Affairs (jsdm2-mha@nic.in)

Chinese Govt increases DRR capacity building

The Chinese Government has increased efforts in disaster risk reduction in and outside China since the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, working on information and knowledge exchange, and capacity building, through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. 'To build back better', a training course on post disaster recovery and rehabilitation management is being conducted on 19 November to 3 December 2007. Government officials from 11 Asian countries are participating. The course includes presentations, case studies, policy and measures on recovery as well as discussions of problems and solutions in post disaster recovery and reconstruction. The course benefited from UN agency input, including from UNICEF, WFP and the UN/ISDR secretariat.

For more information, please contact Guan Yan (guanyan@ndrcc.gov.cn)

African ministers promote HFA in climate change talks

Ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) urged CHOGM to prioritize the HFA as a part of the urgent action required on climate change. The HFA priority actions were one of the 8 recommendations to CHOGM of the Jinja Declaration adopted in Uganda on 17 November, which drew attention to the urgency of required action on climate change adaptation and mitigation. Strong support of the HFA priorities from the Vice President of Uganda was noted. Hosted by the Uganda Ministry of Water and Environment, the proceedings included a ministerial roundtable on "Bringing Climate Change from the Margins to the Stage of Policy Making in Africa". The proceedings were attended by representatives of UNEP, UN-Habitat, WMO, The Global Water Partnership, the African Development Bank, GTZ and UN/ISDR Africa. At CHOGM, Commonwealth Governments adopted the Lake Victoria Climate Change Action Plan, advocating greater financial support for climate change adaptation and better disaster management.

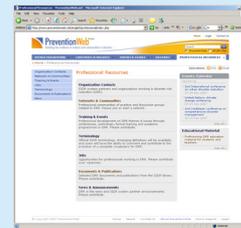
For more information, please visit: www.amcow.org

PreventionWeb: new web portal for the DRR community

PreventionWeb launched on 15 November, providing for the first time a comprehensive web portal for everyone working in, or simply interested in, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). PreventionWeb can be used to connect and share information at all levels of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, aiming to be a working tool for strengthening connections between DRR professionals, and promoting more understanding of the subject by non-specialists. PreventionWeb is a project of the UN/ISDR secretariat, and is expected to become a tool for DRR practitioners in the way that Relief Web has served the humanitarian response community. PreventionWeb's content is supplied from the DRR community and will be updated daily. The site will feature news, DRR initiatives, event calendars, online discussions, contact directories, policy documents, reference documents, training events, jobs, terminology, country profiles, fact sheets, as well as audio and video content. Full information will be available about the Hyogo Framework and the ISDR System, including guidance for the development of National Platforms for DRR and the UN General Assembly process. It will also contain a listing of all major disaster risk reduction initiatives.

For more information, please contact Craig Duncan (duncanc@un.org), or visit www.preventionweb.net. To submit news, initiatives, events or other information to PreventionWeb, please visit: www.preventionweb.net/english/submit/.

WEB RESOURCES



PreventionWeb Professional Resource Page
<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/index.php>

Preventionweb's professional resource page includes useful information for the DRR professional, such as a comprehensive and growing DRR contact list, publication archive, terminology list and vacancy section



The Himalayan School Earthquake Laboratory Programme (HIMSELP)
<http://himseip.net.in>

The Himalayan School Earthquake Laboratory Programme (HIMSELP) is part of the Mission Mode Project of Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India. This multimedia learning resource develops risk assessment skills among school children, and passes the knowledge through them to the community at large.



'Expect the Unexpected' (Canadian Red Cross)
<http://www.croixrouge.ca/article.asp?id=009889&tid=025>

'Expect the Unexpected' includes three guides for teachers and educators, each including some fifteen adaptable activities. It also includes a brochure for parents designed to help the whole family learn about natural disasters and emergency situations that could occur and how to prepare for them. The site also includes online videos, posters and certificates for students.

South Eastern Europe's DRR collaboration

A new MoU between South Eastern European countries is enhancing regional cooperation on disaster management, and facilitating technical and financial commitments to disaster preparedness, prevention and risk reduction. Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania and Slovenia have signed the Institutional Framework of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE). The remaining two members of the Stability Pact of South Eastern Europe, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, are also preparing to join the MoU. Under this collaborative framework, six SEE countries are already working together on new seismic hazard maps of the region. As well as producing an important tool for disaster preparedness and prevention, the NATO-funded project is spearheading closer regional scientific collaboration on disaster risk reduction. Involved in the project are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as experts from Turkey, Greece and Slovenia, NATO and the Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA).

For more information, please contact Miroslav Vujanic (miro.vujanic@dppi.info) or visit www.dppi.info

New office for UN-SPIDER

The UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), opened its first office in Bonn, Germany late last month, kicking off a three day workshop to discuss and shape its future work. UN-SPIDER is being implemented by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and is an open network of providers of space-based solutions to support disaster management. UN-SPIDER will be supporting universal access to satellite technology used in early warning systems, and other space-based information relevant to disaster management. During the workshop, 90 experts from 35 countries discussed how to define user requirements, horizontal coordination, the framework of a knowledge portal, and a capacity building framework. The workshop's recommendations to UNOOSA will be taken into consideration when carrying out UN-SPIDER activities in 2008 and 2009.

For more information please contact David Stevens (david.stevens@unvienna.org) or visit: www.unspider.org

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:

Caribbean puts HFA priorities into Plan of Action

The Association of Caribbean States (ACS) adopted a regional Plan of Action on disaster risk reduction (DRR) at its High Level Conference on Disaster Reduction in Saint-Marc, Haiti on 14 and 15 November. The Plan's comprehensive list of 27 actions includes commitments on strengthening the ACS role as the key regional DRR forum, evaluating regional progress on HFA priorities, promoting DRR national platforms and their links to the Global Platform, mainstreaming of DRR, gender and adaptation to climate change, and policy frameworks promoting synergies between the HFA and mechanisms that relate to Small Island Developing states, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The meeting emphasized the need for a common strategy on the region's sustainable development, particularly for the priority action areas for implementing the HFA regionally. It was marked by the highest ever turnout of Caribbean states on DRR issues. For more information, please contact Jennifer Guralnick (jguralnick@eird.org)

India establishes National Alliance for DRR

Preceding the Asian Ministerial Conference, over 150 Indian civil society leaders launched The National Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction (NADRR) on 4 November in New Delhi, at a two day event: 'People, Policy and Partnerships for Disaster Resilient Development'. The NADRR aims to be a common platform to scale up community-led disaster risk reduction initiatives, to enable communities to lead practice and influence policy. It presented three recommendations: focusing on enabling communities to access resources and critically engage policymakers; ensuring that development does not increase disaster risk; and to recognize, validate and build on local knowledge and capacities. Organizers included SEEDS India, Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), and ActionAid.

For more information, please contact P. Chandran (SSP) or Amit Tuteja (SEEDS), (nadrrinfo@gmail.com) or visit: www.disasterwatch.net/nadrr.htm

Council of Europe, education and DRR knowledge

In preparation for the Conference on Education and Disaster Risk Reduction, scheduled for November 2008 in Geneva within the IBE/UNESCO International Meeting of Ministries of Education, the Council of Europe (EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement) in co-operation with the Government of Cyprus organized a European and Mediterranean workshop on Disaster Reduction at School in Cyprus this October. The workshop compiled a rich array of experience and practices from the region and discussed recommendations for the 2008 Conference.

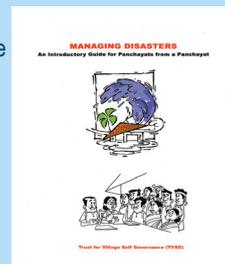
For more information, please visit: www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/activities/Paphos2007_en.asp

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
Conferences, Trainings and Events
December 2007 - January 2008

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
December		
3-14	Bali, Indonesia	United Nations Climate Change Conference see: http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_13/items/4049.php
3-5	Guangzhou, China	UN/China Regional UN-SPIDER Workshop Contact: David.STEVENS@unvienna.org
3-6	Cusco, Peru	Geosciences, Planning and Communities: Opportunities and Challenges in Development—Multinational Andean Project: Geosciences for Andean Communities (MAP:GAC). Contact: mulmi@nrca.gc.ca
6-7	Beijing, China	UN Disaster Management Team China Strategic Planning Workshop Contact: anthea.webb@wfp.org
10-14	Needham's Point Barbados	Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management, See: http://cdm.cdera.org/cccdm/2007/about.htm
9-13	Khartoum, Sudan	UN/Sudan International UN SPIDER Workshop Contact: David.STEVENS@unvienna.org
10-12	Hong Kong, China	International Forum on Landslide Disaster Management Contact: kenho@cedd.gov.hk
10-14	Bangkok, Thailand	Training on Trainers (ToTs), Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre Contact: tedadpc@adpc.net
January		
3-5	Tamil Nadu, India	Innovative and Smart Structural Systems for Sustainable Habitat Organizer: Coimbatore Institute of Technology. See www.citnshab2008.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	Launch of World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2008-2009: Hospitals Safe from Disaster 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- 3 Feb	Orlando, USA	29th Annual International Disaster Management Conference. Organizer: Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center. Visit www.emlrc.org/disaster2008.htm .

Library Corner

Managing Disasters: An Introductory Guide for Panchayats from a Panchayat, Trust for Village Self Governance (TVSG)



A step by step guide to setting up a village Disaster Management Plan and a Disaster Mitigation Plan, in a reader-friendly booklet.
For more information, please contact: panchayat@yahoo.com

Flood hazards and health. Responding to present and future risks

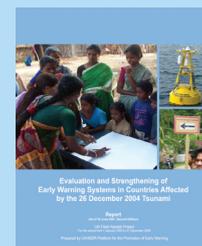
Roger Few and Franziska Matthies
Earthscan, 2006
www.earthscan.co.uk

This book combines an analysis of the human health impacts of flooding with analysis of individual and societal response to those risks, in light of potential future increases in flood hazard as a result of climate change.

Floods in Bangladesh. History, dynamics and rethinking the role of the Himalayas
Thomas Hofer and Bruno Messerli
United Nations University Press, 2006
www.unu.edu

Are deforestation and land use practices of the Himalayan farmers to blame for the recurring and devastating monsoon floods in the plains of the Ganga and Brahmaputra? This book presents new evidence to challenge the assumption that deforestation and mountain dwellers are to blame for flood catastrophes. The book notes that politicians and engineers often cite monsoon floods as the main problem for Bangladesh but that flood-affected people are more concerned with lateral river erosion, landlessness and economic survival problems.

Evaluation and strengthening of early warning systems in countries affected by the 26 December 2004 Tsunami. Report UN/ISDR Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning, 2007



The objective of this initiative was to provide an overall integrated framework for strengthening early warning systems in the Indian Ocean region, by building on the existing systems and to facilitate coordination among various specialized and technical institutions.