



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction



2007 International Day for Disaster Reduction

Wednesday 10 October

www.unisdr.org/iddr-2007

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Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
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In This Issue:

- International Day for Disaster Reduction on Wednesday 10 October 2007
- Hurricane Dean encounters resistance in southern Mexico
- Some five million Turkish children reached by “disaster awareness in school” project
- Swedish National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction set up
- Youths promote disaster risk reduction among grassroots communities in Burundi
- “Regional Centre for Risk Management of Natural Hazards” opens in Iran
- First High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster held in Tokyo, Japan
- Risk assessment of South Eastern European countries completed

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 inputs to: isdhighlights@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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Highlights

September 2007

International Day for Disaster Reduction

The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) will be marked on Wednesday 10 October this year. The IDDR has been, over the past 18 years, an occasion for raising awareness and reviewing the progress made worldwide. The impact of recent disaster events, such as the earthquake in Peru, Hurricanes Dean and Felix in the Americas and the wildfires in Greece, are a strong reminder that more needs to be done to reduce disaster impact. This year, the main focus of the IDDR will be on the theme of the ongoing World Disaster Reduction Campaign: “Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School”. The following are some events organized by ISDR System stakeholders around the IDDR:

- Barcelona, Spain – 4 October 2007: High level panel on the impact of natural hazards in Catalonia, organized by the Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development of Catalonia, Government of Catalonia, the Fundació Territori i Paisatge of Caixa Catalunya and the UN/ISDR secretariat.
- Bangkok, Thailand – 8-9 October 2007: Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on School Education and Disaster Risk Reduction, organized by UNESCO, the UN Center for Regional Development (UNCRD), UNICEF, UN/ISDR Asia and Pacific, with support of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
- Brussels, Belgium – 9 October 2007: “A Policy Change Dialogue: Making Your Constituencies Disaster Proof”, co-organized by the parliamentarians’ network known as “Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment” (GLOBE) and the UN/ISDR secretariat.
- Geneva, Switzerland – 10 October 2007: Roundtable Discussion on “Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School: Next Steps for the UN/ISDR Biennial World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2006-2007”, organized by the UN/ISDR secretariat with partners, followed by the attribution of the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction 2006-2007.
- Nsanje, Malawi - 10 October 2007: Awareness raising events on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change organized by the government department in charge of disasters, Action Aid, Christian Aid, Tearfund and local partners.
- Kobe, Japan – 14 October 2007: Opening ceremony of the new UN/ISDR Hyogo Office and a major awareness-raising event on Human Security and Disaster Risk Reduction, co-organized by UN/ISDR secretariat, OCHA, ADRC, and the Hyogo Prefecture Government with other partners.
- Tajikistan: Media and public awareness activities, including the screening of the UN/ISDR-produced film “Everybody’s Business” on national TV channels and another one broadcasting for Central Asia. Debates and talk shows among university students will be organized in cooperation with the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) and the SDC-supported Competence Centre for Disaster Reduction (CCDR).
- Ciudad de Panama, Panama: 10 October 2007: Art Contest and Awareness Campaign Awards Ceremony, organized by the UN/ISDR secretariat, with support of UNICEF, IFRC, Plan International and the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (DIPECHO).

For more information on the International Day for Disaster Reduction, please visit:

www.unisdr.org/iddr-2007, to inform us on your planned activities, please write to: dokhlik@un.org

Hurricane Dean encounters resistance in southern Mexico

The recent Hurricane Dean has caused no human death and only minor economic losses in the Mexican Caribbean Coast and Yucatan Peninsula, where it reached its peak destruction power (Category 5 as per Saffir-Simpson Scale). This may be seen as evidence that sound preparation practices can significantly reduce human and economic losses, even in highly exposed and vulnerable regions. The Mexican Government's Civil Defence Agency is highly decentralized and has managerial differences between every Federal State. Some of the good practices that have been adopted are: (a) preparation and emergency plans at state and municipal level, but also in small and very exposed villages, large cooperatives or rural schools; (b) a climate monitoring system that designates warning levels for each Federal State as well as micro-regions within the States; (c) an accurate Prompt Alert System in Spanish and indigenous languages that utilizes all mass media channels and combines a general call to safety with messages about specific measures to adopt in the event of a disaster; and (d) the combination of effective external logistics and local participatory organization in the hope of securing a 90-100 per cent response to evacuation calls from coastal and lowland villages.

For more information, please contact: Xavier Moya García (xavier.moya@undp.org.mx)

Some five million Turkish children reached by "disaster awareness in school" project

Some five million primary school children in the most populated and earthquake-prone provinces in Turkey have been sensitized on disasters through the "Basic Disaster Awareness in Turkish Schools Project". More than half of the children participated directly in non-structural mitigation training, benefiting from newly developed disaster education material such as the "ABC Basic Disaster Awareness Handbook" and fun activities that do not require adult support. The rest of the children were reached through a Disaster Preparedness Education internet portal. This web site allows registered visitors to participate in training programmes, create their own family disaster plans, and follow a distance-learning curriculum. As a direct result of these activities, sharp increase was noted in the adoption of protective measures from hazards in schools and households. Initiated by the Bogaziçi University, the Kandilli Observatory and the Earthquake Research Institute, and implemented with the assistance of the Ministry of Education, further activities are planned to complement this project. A second project, called "Earthquake Sensibility Days", will mobilize a "training" truck (lorry) around Istanbul and other cities in Turkey. The truck's interior is designed and furnished to simulate an earthquake. Parallel activities such as painting and short film competitions will also be carried out in cooperation with primary schools and universities. This should help raise awareness and provide additional people with information and hands-on training in earthquake preparedness.

For more information about the "Basic Disaster Preparedness" project, please contact: Marla Petal (mpetal@riskred.org). Please also visit the Disaster Preparedness Education portal at: <http://www.ahep.org/ev/indexe.htm>.

For more information on the "Earthquake Sensibility Days" project, please contact: Süheyla Sezan (ssezan@boun.edu.tr)

Swedish National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction set up

At a meeting held on 13 September 2007, sixteen authorities and organisations joined the Swedish Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence to formally establish the country's National Platform for DRR. Under the supervision of both Ministries, the National Platform is hosted by the Swedish Rescue Services Agency. Director-General Göran Gunnarsson pointed out that the meeting marked the starting point for improved coordination and joint planning among partners, which makes it a

WEB RESOURCES



Emergency management for schools
Australian Government, Attorney-General's Department

<http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/ema/emaSchools.nsf>

A comprehensive resource on the topic of emergency management targeted at Australian students and teachers from late primary to late secondary. It contains many generic lesson plans, images, history, links, as well as other information for learning about all aspects of emergency management.



Teaching Major Risks
Prim.net

http://www.prim.net/education/espace_education.html

This is an education space for French-speaking teachers ready to promote a culture of prevention of disasters related to natural hazards or technology. It is a valuable aid for introducing this issue into almost all school topics, from the sciences to literature and art. It also contains information about existing school programs, pedagogical examples, and pedagogical material and resources.



Online Disaster Education Program
Canadian Red Cross

<http://www.croixrouge.ca/article.asp?id=009889&tid=025>

A valuable resource for teachers, but also parents, committed to preparing children and young people for emergencies. The website includes facilitator guides, activity booklets, a brochure to help parents teach their family about natural hazards and disasters and preparing for emergency situations. It features videos, posters, and participation certificates for young pupils.

priority for all participating organisations. Once the participating organisations have appointed their specialists, the National Platform will commence with identifying gaps, propose priority areas and objectives for DRR in Sweden. The Swedish National Platform will be run by this network of sixteen authorities. In order to maintain focus and exert overall coordination and control, annual Director-General meetings will be organised and participants will act as a steering committee. From 2008, the Director-General meetings will be held at the second Wednesday in October (International Day for Disaster Reduction).

For more information, please contact: Mr. Claes Brask, Swedish Rescue Services Agency (claes-uno.brask@sv.se)

Youths promote disaster risk reduction among grassroots communities in Burundi

Burundi established a National Platform for DRR in April 2007 and developed a National Strategy for DRR in June 2007. Before these important milestones, some initiatives had already been underway at community level. An example is the work of a youth NGO known as "Youth Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (YSDR) which, despite the post-war context, has made some efforts in the last two years. In September 2005, YSDR initiated a project called "Youth Awareness of Disaster Reduction" with funding from ProVention Consortium. Under the project, meetings within grassroots communities were held in two provinces to raise people's awareness of the risks around them. Risk assessment and identification and developing early warning systems were the main activities; which instilled a sense of local ownership and leadership of disaster reduction activities among the targeted communities. The project also called for the development of a national policy for disaster risk "awareness" and suggested the establishment of a national platform for monitoring the implementation of the desired policy.

For more information, please contact: Cyprien Ntahomvukiye (bysrdr@yahoo.fr)

"Regional Centre for Risk Management of Natural Hazards" opens in Iran

A Regional Centre for Risk Management of Natural Hazards opened this month in Mashhad, Iran, as a specialized agency

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

of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), an Asian intergovernmental development and trade cooperation body involving 10 countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). Established following a resolution of the Third ECO Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture held in Iran earlier this year, the Centre was inaugurated during the "First Meeting of Heads of ECO Hydro-Meteorological Organizations" held from 3 to 5 September 2007. The objective of the Centre is to promote cooperation between ECO members for effective risk management, especially in the fields of meteorology, climatology and hydrology. Until the Centre's statute as an ECO specialized agency enters fully into force, the Iranian Meteorological Organization will be in charge of the Centre.

For more information, please contact: Seyed Mohammad Sadati Nejad (msadatinejad@tehran.un.org.ir); or visit the official ECO website at: www.ecosecretariat.org

First High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster held in Tokyo, Japan

The First High-Level Expert Panel to establish global priorities for reducing the scope of water-related disasters and improve access to safe water in disaster scenarios, was held in Tokyo, Japan, on 6 September 2007. The Korean Water Forum expressed its support to the two objectives as a member of a joint secretariat under the Chairman of the Panel, Dr Han Seung-soo, who is also the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Change. The pursuit of the two objectives will be coordinated by the Japan Water Forum, the World Water Council and the UN/ISDR secretariat. The Panel will report its progress to the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. The outcomes of the Panel are planned to be announced on the occasion of the Fifth World Water Forum to be held in Turkey in March 2009.

For more information, please contact: Yuichi Ono (ono@un.org)

Risk assessment of South Eastern European countries completed

The South Eastern Europe Disaster Risk Management Framework (SEEDRMF), developed by the World Bank and the UN/ISDR secretariat within the context of the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction, bringing together regional and international partners, has completed a desk review to assess risk and common vulnerabilities in South Eastern Europe. In close collaboration with national, regional and international partners the consultancy firm RMSI has reviewed existing and available studies with the aim of providing a comprehensive picture. The desk study will serve as a tool for all partners and will help to guide regional and country specific investment priorities in the area of early warning, disaster risk reduction and risk financing.

For more information, please contact: Paola Albrito (albrito@un.org), Wael Zakout (Wzakout@worldbank.org)

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

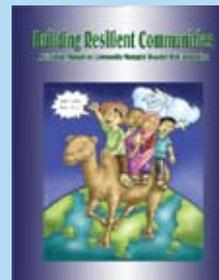
DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
October		
1-3	Geneva, Switzerland	FERMA Risk Management Forum - 2007
1-13	Trieste, Italy	Ninth Workshop on Non Linear Dynamics and Earthquake Prediction Contact details: http://www.ictp.it/
8-10	United Kingdom	IDER 2007 Conference Contact details: ider@andrich.com
10-14	Rhodes, Greece	Dialogue of Civilizations V Annual Session Contact details: www.dialogueofcivilizations.org
12-14	Paris, France	Colloque international du 4ème Forum International de la Météo Contact details : www.smf.asso.fr
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 Contact details: kerle@itc.nl
17-18	South Africa	Disaster Risk Reduction 2007-06-11 Contact details: www.disaster.co.za
18-19	United Kingdom	Flood-Fighters Conference Contact details: www.flood-fighters.com
22-26	Bangkok, Thailand	Disaster Risk Communication, ADPC
23-26	Lyon, France	7ème Edition du Forum Rhône-Alpes/Afrique Contact details : www.eurafic-partners.org
24-26	Jakarta, Indonesia	Asia Megacities Forum 2007-10-01 Contact details : http://www.emi-megacities.org
29-30	Paphos, Cyprus	Euro-Mediterranean Workshop on Disaster Reduction at School "Building safer school communities" Contact details: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/activities/Paphos2007_fr.asp
November		
5-8	Malta	32nd Conference on Pacem in Maribus (PIMXXXII) "Women, Youth and the Sea: Partnering for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Use of its Resources" Contac details: www.capemalta.net/pim2007
5-9	Rome, Italy	2007 International Geohazards Week in ESRIN Contact details: http://earth.esa.int/workshops/2007Geohazards/
8-9	Verona, Italy	Consensus Conference on the Verona Charter Contact details: http://internazionali.ulsu20.verona.it
12-13	New Delhi, India	2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction Organizer: Ministry of Home Affairs, India
12-19	Philippines	The 8th Training on Making Governance Gender Responsive Contact details: http://www.capwip.org/training/mggr.htm
12-30	Bangkok, Thailand	Disaster Management Course (DMC-36) Contact details: ADPC
22-23	Brussels, Belgium	2nd Civil Protection Forum Contact details: Cecile.WENDLING@ec.europa.eu
27	Bangkok, Thailand	The 4th UN-wide meeting on the use of space technologies for emergency response and humanitarian assistance Contact details: David.STEVENS@unvienna.org
28-30	Bangkok, Thailand	8th UNGIWG meeting

Library Corner

Building Resilient Communities

A Trainign Manual on Community- Managed Disaster Risk Reduction.

This training manual provide trainers and practitioners in Community-Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) with a comprehensive guide to conduct a basic two-week course on CMDRR. It will also help practitioners to guide communities in developing local capacity for establishing community-managed DRR programs.



What's Derolin?

A story of Earthquake and Tsunami Edited by Koji Ichii. Compiled under the supervision of Port and Airport Research Institute (PARI), Japan. 2005.

Yoshi meets Derolin, a strange creature, one midnight. An earthquake follows Derolin, and Yoshi need to survive by himself. "Danger of Earthquake reminds us that Our Life Is Naive."

This picture-book results from the suggestion of a researcher of PARI and the collaboration between many people.

Keeping schools safe in earthquakes

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). 2004. This report brings together expert knowledge, opinions and experiences, and provides valuable insight into the scope of problems involved in protecting schools and those inside them. Its recommendations are a call to action to all governments in OECD and partner countries to help facilitate their implementation.

Responding to the risks from climate change on the coast.

McInnes, Robin, Fairbank, Helen and Jakeways, Jenny
The Good Practice Guide provides advice and guidance on sustainable coastal risk management for local and regional authorities responsible for managing natural hazards at the coast.

The publication describes the physical processes of coastal change and considers the influence of human settlements and coastal defence structures. It includes an account of the nature and scale of coastal risks and current frameworks for monitoring, assessing and managing of coastal risks.



Source: Centre for Coastal Environment, United Kingdom, 2006

<http://www.coastalwight.gov.uk/response/index.htm>