



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction

Announcement



WCC · 3

World Climate Conference - 3

Better climate information for
a better future

Registration deadline: 19 August 2009
www.wmo.int/wcc3/index_en.html



International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
Tel. : (+41 22) 917
8908/8907/8849
Fax: (+41 22) 917 8964
isdrhighlights@un.org
www.unisdr.org
International Environment
House II
7-9 Chemin de Balexert
CH 1219 Châtelaine
Geneva, Switzerland

In This Issue:

- G8 Summit in Aquila commits to risk reduction
- Beyond Climate Justice in Maldives: Innovation and pragmatism in the face of climate threats
- Global Platform updates
- UNISDR side event at ECOSOC 2009
- Regional Drought Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction Meeting in Addis Ababa
- Regional Forum Mitch + 10
- First Euro-Mediterranean forum on Civil Protection issues
- International Disaster and Risk Conference held in Chengdu, China
- Attracting communications professionals to the risk reduction topic – call for papers open

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 UNISDR

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

Highlights

July 2009

G8 Summit in Aquila commits to risk reduction

For the second time already, the G8 countries acknowledge the importance of disaster risk reduction and recognize the Hyogo Framework for Action as a tool to reduce disaster impacts, in particular in developing countries. The declaration on 'Responsible leadership for a sustainable future', issued at the G8 Summit in Aquila, Italy on 8 July, explicitly identifies UNISDR and WMO as organizations to collaborate with for 'defining common guidelines for disaster prevention and management to be used in developing national plans, building on the Hyogo Framework for Action and on national experiences'.

Preceding the summit, a joint statement was issued by the seven international agencies/ organizations which form the Management Oversight Board of the ISDR partnership, urging the G8 leaders and their governments to apply their 'considerable influence, resources and political will' to advance disaster risk reduction, especially as the G8 countries are 'uniquely placed to establish, support and implement nationally owned disaster risk reduction plans and help address the risks associated with climate change'.

*For more information on the statement of the Management Oversight Board, please go to www.unisdr.org/news/v.php?id=10354
The G8 declaration can be found at www.g8italia2009.it/G8/Home/G8-G8_Layout_locale-1199882116809_Atti.htm*

Beyond Climate Justice in Maldives: Innovation and pragmatism in the face of climate threats

A pragmatic and innovative approach to climate adaptation was heralded in an agreement drawn up between the Maldives Government and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) on 13 July. The agreement coincided with a visit to the country by a UNISDR delegation led by Senator Loren Legarda of the Philippines, the UN's Champion for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation for the Asia Pacific region.

Maldives is already leading by example on climate change mitigation having adopted a radical economy-wide carbon neutral plan for the next 10 years, the first and most comprehensive in the world. The agreement will significantly help the island nation to adapt better to the changing climate through the development of a comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategy and implementation plan.

Activities under this agreement commence immediately with UNISDR and partners assisting the government in the development of a Strategic National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (SNAP), organizing a partner and donor forum to implement the plan, and staging a leader forum to promote and publicize key issues ahead of

the climate negotiations in Copenhagen in December. These activities will complement the capacity building that will be provided for school teachers, masons, and government officials on practical ways to reduce disaster risks. For more information, please contact German Velasquez at velasquezg@un.org

Global Platform updates

Final Chair’s Summary released

The final version of the Chair’s Summary includes comments expressed in plenary during the closing ceremony. It also reflects written comments received following the Chair’s invitation to submit additional remarks by 8 July 2009.

For the final Chair’s Summary: www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2009/background/documents/GP09-Chair%27s-Summary.pdf

GP Dashboard

The Global Platform Dashboard provides information on the number of participants, the regional distribution, gender and the participation by organization type.

For more information: www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2009/background/documents/GP09-participants-report.pdf

UNISDR side event at ECOSOC 2009

Sponsored by the Belgian government and organized by UNISDR, this ECOSOC side event briefed on the outcomes of the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. It built on the Chair’s Summary of the Global Platform and highlighted the lessons, findings and recommendations from global and regional reports and the conclusions from the five high-level panels, each of which having been represented by panelists.

The side event was co-chaired by H.E. Alex van Meeuwen, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belgium and Margareta Wahlström, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction. The panelists were: Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha (GFDRR, World Bank), Dr. Jemilah Mahmood (President of MERCY Malaysia), Ms. Fatma Al-Mallah (Director of Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development, League of Arab States) and Mr. Jordan Ryan (BCPR/UNDP).

For more information, please contact Elina Palm at palm@un.org

Regional Drought Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction Meeting in Addis Ababa

More than 35 participants took part in a meeting organized by FAO on Drought Preparedness and DRR in Eastern Africa in June 2009. Representatives from the governments of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda shared lessons learned and experiences from each government’s work on endorsing national DRR policies.

In Uganda, the national policy is expected to be official before the end of this year. In Ethiopia, the newly established Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) is structured to shift focus from solely response to disaster management and risk reduction. Like Uganda, Kenya has a Disaster Management policy in draft form, and already has a disaster strategy in place. The main goal of the Kenyan DRR strategy is to provide a legal and policy framework for Disaster Management and to mainstream DRR in the ministerial planning process.

For more information, please contact Maria Hauer, UNISDR office in Addis Ababa at hauerm@un.org

WEB RESOURCES



Knowledge Network on Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change
<http://ncsp.va-network.org/>

The NCSP was funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to provide country needs-driven technical and policy support for the preparation of Second, Initial or Third, as appropriate, National Communications (SNCs) from Parties not included in Annex I (NAI Parties) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



ELDIS – Linking climate change adaptation - disaster risk reduction section
www.eldis.org/go/topics/dossiers/climate-change-adaptation/themes/disaster-risk-reduction

ELDIS aim is to share the best in development policy, practice and research. More than 26,000 summarized documents from over 7,500 development organizations are all available free to download. Moreover, work with over 80,000 development practitioners can be shared.

Regional Forum Mitch + 10

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the disastrous Hurricane Mitch, the regional forum 'Mitch + 10' was held in Guatemala City from 21-23 July, aiming at drawing up a Central-American risk management policy. The President of Guatemala, Alvaro Colom, inaugurated the event and emphasized the country's achievements in recovery and strengthening the legal framework.

Representatives from Central American countries, NGOs, UNISDR, the Central American Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters (CEPREDENAC), academia, civil society, the World Bank and the government of Guatemala participated in the regional panel on risk management and seven round tables. The findings of the latter served as recommendations for CEPREDENAC's policy, and ranged from regional integration and the need for alignment via climate change and DRR to reducing vulnerabilities with regard to critical infrastructure.

An overview of outcomes of the Regional Platform of The Americas and the main results of the Global Platform was also given, and the Global Assessment Report was launched. Guatemala's National Platform launch was announced for September.

For more information and the final declaration of the forum:
www.unisdr.org/english/events/v.php?id=8963 or
www.sica.int/busqueda/busqueda_basica.aspx?IdCat=3&IdMod=2&IdEnt=22

First Euro-Mediterranean forum on Civil Protection issues

On 21 and 22 July 2009, the first meeting of the Programme National Correspondents was held for the Euro-Mediterranean Programme on Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disaster (PPRD South).

PPRD South is coordinated by a consortium lead by the Italian Civil Protection Department together with the National Civil Protection Authorities of Algeria, Egypt, France and

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit these links:

Africa: www.unisdr.org/africa

Asia & the Pacific: www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

Europe: www.unisdr.org/europe

Latin America & the Caribbean: www.eird.org

West Asia and North Africa: www.unisdr-wana.org

Keep up to date with PreventionWeb email subscription services
www.preventionweb.net/english/email

UNISDR. A day before the meeting, the signing of the PPRD South Governance Plan by the five members of the Consortium had taken place in Rome.

For more information, please contact Alessandro Candeloro at info@euromedcp.eu

International Disaster and Risk Conference held in Chengdu, China

The International Disaster and Risk Conference held in Chengdu, China, from 13-15 July 2009, contributed to an increased understanding of and interest in disaster risk reduction in the country. The conference was opened by Professor Shusheng Jiang, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China. Margareta Wahlström, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, delivered a keynote speech at the opening session.

Having received abstracts of 128 papers on the major aspects of disaster risk reduction, the conference brought together more than 300 participants - experts, government officials and practitioners. The presentations and discussions were substantive and included lessons learned from the Wenchuan earthquake and its recovery, disaster risk analysis, disaster risk management and improvement of the social service system in emergency relief. Furthermore, topics such as climate change adaptation strategies and disaster risk reduction as well as indigenous knowledge were covered.

For more details of the conference, please contact Professor Shaoyu Wang wsy@heut.edu.cn

Attracting communications professionals to the risk reduction topic – call for papers open

UNISDR and FELAFACS (Latin American Federation of Mass Media Communication Schools), a federation grouping almost all mass media schools in Latin America, launched a call for papers on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and communications with application to the local level. This call marks a significant effort to raise awareness about DRR among future media professionals. The award for this call is a grant to assist participation to the Local Sustainable Development & DRR course at the ILO/DELNET training center. The deadline for submissions is 2 October 2009.

For more information:
www.felafacs.org/novedades1.php?v_codigo_novedades=28

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Conferences and Events

August - September 2009

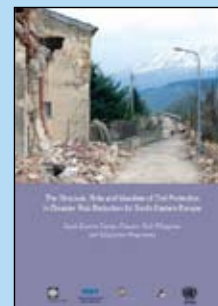
Date	Event	Location
August		
2-15	2009 Summer Institute for Advanced Study of Disaster and Risk (SIASDR), University of Beijing	Beijing, China
4-6	7 th Asia Pacific Structural Engineering and Construction Conference (APSEC 2009) & 2 nd European Asian Civil Engineering Forum (EACEF 2009), Malaysian University of Technology	Langkawi, Kedah Darul Aman, Malaysia
5-7	3 rd Australasian Hazards Management Workshop Series: From warnings to effective response and recovery, University of Canterbury	Melbourne, Australia
9-12	2009 National Conference on Community Preparedness: 'The power of citizen corps', International Association of Emergency Managers	Arlington, VA, USA
10-16	Regional Training Course on Incident Command System for Disaster Management, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center	Phuket, Thailand
11-13	International conference 'Building a Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction', Incheon Metropolitan City/UNISDR	Incheon, Republic of Korea
12-15	SEEP 2009: International Conference on Sustainable Energy & Environmental Protection, Dublin City University	Dublin, Ireland
16-22	World Water Week 2009, Stockholm International Water Institute	Stockholm, Sweden
17-19	International Earthquake symposium - Kocaeli 2009 Kocaeli Universitesi	Kocaeli, Turkey
17-28	Advanced Workshop on Evaluating, Monitoring and Communicating Volcanic and Seismic Hazards in East Africa, International Centre for Theoretical Physics	Trieste, Italy
17-4 Sept.	German-Chinese training course 2009 'Seismology and Seismic Hazard Assessment', China Earthquake Administration	Yunnan, China
19-23	International Workshop on Geodynamical Phenomena Russian Academy of Sciences	Suzdal, Russian Federation
16-20	Risk Assessment and Management Excellence in Business Continuity and Crisis Management	Amman, Jordan
23-30	11th IAGA Scientific Assembly International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics	Sopron, Hungary
24-28	11th International Congress of the Brazilian Geophysical Society (SBGf) Brazilian Geophysical Society	Salvador, Brazil
24-28	Séminaire régional d'information et de formation sur le processus de mise en œuvre de l'assurance climatique pour la gestion des risques liés au climat et à ses changements dans le secteur de l'agriculture en Afrique de l'Ouest, Institut d'Applications et de Vulgarisation en Sciences	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
27-28	Third Central Asia GIS Conference, GISCA'09 Austria-Central Asia Centre for GIScience	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
September		
30 Aug. 5 Sept.	World Climate Conference (WCC-3) World Meteorological Organization	Geneva, Switzerland
30-12 Sept.	International Training Course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage, UNESCO	Kyoto, Japan; Kathmandu, Nepal
31-5	Course on Risk and Crisis Management in the Event of Hurricanes Pan American Development Foundation	San Andrés, Colombia
31-11	18th Regional Training Course on Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center	Bangkok, Thailand

For more details, please see www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/events

Library Corner

The structure, role and mandate of civil protection in disaster risk reduction for South Eastern Europe UNISDR, 2009

This report aims to review the capabilities and needs of the Civil Protection sectors of SEE countries and of three EU case studies, namely Italy, Slovenia and Sweden. It assesses the Civil Protection structures of each country, including the level of preparedness and ability to effectively monitor hazards and evaluate potential vulnerabilities. This review was developed in close partnership with the Italian Civil Protection, Slovenia, the European Commission and OCHA. www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=9346



Regional synthesis report on HFA implementation in Asia and Pacific - an overview of reports by countries up to 2007 ADPC, ADRC, UNISDR, 2009

Based on the National Reports to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) Progress Report on the First Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR), this report is an overview of reports by countries up to 2007. It provides a regional synthesis within two timeframes: as of January 2005 and during 2005 and 2006. In both cases, the synthesis is presented under the core indicators developed by UNISDR for each of the HFA Priorities for Action. <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=10503>



Natural and conflict-related hazards in Asia-Pacific OCHA-ROAP, NGII, 2009

This report presents the results of a study that aimed to quantify the risk posed by earthquake, flood (and storm surge), landslide, cyclone and tropical storm, tsunami, drought, and social unrest in form of intra-state armed conflict in the Asia-Pacific countries. The study was commissioned by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok; and financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=10455

