

World Wetlands Day

Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction

High-level Roundtable Discussion on “Healthy Wetlands, Resilient Communities”

2 February 2017

11:00 – 12:40 hrs

followed by
light refreshments

VENUE:

**Centre International
de Conférences
Genève (CICG)**

17 Rue de Varembe
CH - 1211 Genève 20

The frequency of disasters worldwide has more than doubled in just 35 years. Disasters are a major setback to development, resulting in loss of lives, livelihoods, critical assets and disruption of services.

In celebration of World Wetlands Day 2017, this Roundtable Discussion will feature the role of wetlands in protecting people and enhancing their resilience to disasters. It will focus on how wetlands can be optimized for reducing the risk of **flooding**, including in urban areas, **drought** and **windstorms** and **storm surges**. Drawing from practical examples, the Roundtable will discuss how sustainable wetlands management can contribute towards more resilient development.

The Roundtable will represent different perspectives, including speakers from Governments, civil society, humanitarian and development agencies. It will be conducted as an interactive, free-flowing dialogue between speakers as well as with the public audience.

Outcomes of the discussion are expected to reflect on the following:

- Challenges and solutions in harnessing wetlands for disaster risk reduction;
- Opportunities for increasing/scaling-up investments in wetland management solutions for disaster risk reduction (including in post-disaster recovery and reconstruction).

The outcomes of the Roundtable will be shared as a contribution to the 2017 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, which will be held on 22-26 May in Cancun, Mexico.

PANELISTS

Ms. Maria Teresa Almojuela

Charge d’Affaires, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, Geneva

Ms. Inger Andersen,

Director General, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Mr. Garry Conille,

Under Secretary General of the International Federation of the Red Cross (IUCN)

Dr. Robert Glasser,

Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction

Ms. Jane Madgwick,

Chief Executive Officer, Wetlands International

Mr. Naohisa Okuda,

Director, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment (MOEJ), Government of Japan

Ms. Martha Rojas-Urrego,

Secretary General, Ramsar Convention On Wetlands

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**World
Wetlands Day**
2 February 2017



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