Raising Risk Awareness

Communicating climate science for disaster risk reduction decision-making

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Window of opportunity

- Chennai floods, November 2015

Using extreme event attribution to inform policy and practice that supports Disaster Risk Reduction
Raising Risk Awareness

Confusion

Chennai floods can't be directly attributed to climate change: Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar

EW DELHI: Amidst all talk on climate change, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday said the current situation in Tamil Nadu was natural calamity.

"What has happened in Chennai is a very serious situation, this can't be directly linked to climate change," Javadekar told the media here.

Chennai floods: Climate change footprints in freak weather

NEW DELHI: In 24 hours ending Wednesday, Chennai got almost twice the rain it normally receives in the entire month of December. This was just the sort of extreme weather event associated with global warming and the news of the deluge reverberated at the Paris climate summit. But can the record rainfall be linked to climate change?

The short answer appears to be 'yes' but the complex connections of the freak rain event with the changes being wrought by global warming need to be understood.

READ ALSO: Chennai floods echo in Paris

Chennai floods: Indian newspaper The Hindu not printed for first time in 137 years

Chennai floods: Decoding the city's worst rains in 100 years

With Chennai seeing its worst rainfall in 100 years, we take a look at what caused it, what the impact is, what's being done and what Chief Minister Jayalalithaa has to do.
How can attribution help?

- Real time analysis
- Accurate scientific data
- Raise awareness about the use of science
- Promotes a conversation around vulnerability and exposure
- Partnerships
Addressing heat-related health risks in urban India: Ahmedabad’s Heat Action Plan

- City-level disaster risk management, tackling health risks of extreme heat
- Informed by climate science and changing risks
- Resulted in Ahmedabad Heat Action Plan
- Interest in replicating and scaling up in other cities

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Key messages

1. Holistic assessment of risk is needed

2. Using the critical window of opportunity to inform policy and planning

3. Bridging the policy, science and communication gap
Thank you!

For more information visit:
www.cdkn.org/climaterisk

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