**UNISDR Written Statement - FINAL  
  
FM Global Tackling Top Worldwide Natural Hazard Risk**

Flood is the most frequently occurring natural disaster globally. It also was the costliest natural hazard in 2016 for the fourth consecutive year in terms of global economic losses and seems to be only getting worse with globalization and urbanization. In the wake of the launch of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, [FM Global](http://www.fmglobal.com), one of the world’s largest commercial and industrial property insurers, has continued to make progress in addressing flood risk worldwide with its unique engineering-based approach.

Local flood maps are available in many countries primarily covering major urban communities. These maps focus on highlighting limited zones at greatest risk of flood from rivers.

To help businesses worldwide expand into areas where information on flood potential is lacking, or address existing exposures to their facilities, FM Global recently released its [Global Flood Map](http://www.fmglobal.com/research-and-resources/global-flood-map). Technological improvements in data acquisition have made it possible for global flood maps to be generated with more ease than ever.

Using an innovative flood mapping model that is based on physics and includes updated precipitation data, the [Global Flood Map](http://www.fmglobal.com/research-and-resources/global-flood-map) helps identify areas exposed to high-frequency (100-year) and moderate-frequency (500-year) flood events—which is especially critical in parts of the world where flood data is deficient or inconsistent. This includes parts of **Africa, Asia, Australia, Central America, Eastern Europe, Latin America** and even parts of **Western Europe** and **North America**.

While the [Global Flood Map](http://www.fmglobal.com/research-and-resources/global-flood-map) provides key information on hazards, when paired with scientifically based “[FM Global Property Loss Prevention Data Sheet 1-40, Flood](http://www.fmglobaldatasheets.com),” they deliver a valuable publically available resource to prevent and mitigate losses due to flooding and stormwater runoff.

Incorporating nearly 200 years of loss mitigation experience, research and engineering, as well as input from consensus standards committees, equipment manufacturers and others, Data Sheet 1-40 was recently amended with updated information and insight, such as Understanding Flood Sources and Their Characteristics, which explains how quickly floods can arrive and how to plan a mitigation strategy; Selecting Barriers to Protect Building Openings offers an expanded overview of typical flood-protection devices; and Flood Maps and Data has been expanded, along with many others.

The frequency of major flooding events worldwide also has resulted in an uptick in the number of manufacturers offering flood mitigation products, such as temporary perimeter barriers, opening barriers and backwater valves, to help prevent floodwater from entering a facility.

With so many products on the market, choosing a product to bring a validated, permanent solution is challenging.

Working in tandem with FM Global's research and engineering teams, FM Approvals (a product certification organization and business unit of FM Global) has partnered with product manufacturers around the world to rigorously test and certify flood abatement products. FM Approvals, [*Approval Standard FM/ANSI 2510, American National Standard for Flood Abatement Equipment*](http://www.fmapprovals.com/~/media/Standards/Flood%20Abatement%20Equipment.pdf?isGated=true&itemId=%7bFD1FF598-89E6-434B-85D9-60B0CE53EF24%7d), is the only standard in the world that evaluates the performance of the product in real flood conditions and the components and materials that comprise the product. The standard is recognized by the world's leading authorities, including the United States Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Today, more than fifty FM Approved flood products are listed in the [*Approval Guide*](https://approvalguide.com/CC_host/pages/public/custom/FM/login.cfm), a publically available, comprehensive web-based reference database and used by loss prevention industry specialists to identify loss prevention products that meet the highest standards.

Much of the impact from flooding is predictable and preventable. It’s imperative to approach flood mitigation differently in order to achieve the goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. There's no time like the present for property owners and government officials to better assess hazards and take action against flood vulnerability to make society more resilient. At FM Global, we will continue to be vigilant in addressing the hazard and working together with like-minded organizations.