

ISDR *Highlights*

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NEWS FROM THE INTER-AGENCY SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION



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International Strategy
ISDR
for Disaster Reduction

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We welcome your input, ideas and suggestions for future issues, including contributions for the feature article. Please direct all correspondence (including subscription requests) to: isdr@un.org

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The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

Recognising that natural hazards can threaten any one of us, ISDR builds on partnerships and takes a global approach to disaster reduction, seeking to involve every individual and every community towards the goals of reducing the loss of lives, the socio-economic setbacks and the environmental damages caused by natural hazards. In order to achieve these goals, ISDR promotes four objectives as tools towards reaching disaster reduction for all:

- Increase public awareness to understand risk, vulnerability and disaster reduction globally
- Obtain commitment from public authorities to implement disaster reduction policies and actions
- Stimulate interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnerships, including the expansion of risk reduction networks
- Improve scientific knowledge about disaster reduction

Landslide Mitigation in Uganda

By the Department of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda

"After gardening, my family and I went home to prepare lunch. Some neighbours had joined us making us altogether 13 in the home. Just as I was starting to serve lunch it began raining and I asked one child to go out and untie the goats. No sooner was he out than we heard a loud bang. The boy shouted that the "monster" was coming; actually, the landslide had struck. We scrambled out of the house running in different directions. I ran to the kitchen, picked up my 3-month baby, pulled out some other children, and ran. After the landslide had settled, we went back to find that two of my children had been buried never to be seen again. Five cows, two donkeys, three goats, and one sheep had also been buried (She reminisces and cries). My two other children were dug out of the debris, these survived."

Nambi, landslide victim of the Nanderu village in Buluganya sub-county



Sironko community group

During the last few decades, farmers living on the slopes of Mount Elgon in the Sironko district of Uganda have moved higher and higher up the slopes in search of land for agriculture. In the process, they have cleared the slopes of their natural vegetation leading to environmental problems such as landslides soil erosion, flooding, deformation of the landscape, among others. Landslides in particular have become rampant, with disastrous impacts on communities in Sironko. Characterised by the movement of soil and rock down slope under gravitational influence, landslides result from slope instabilities caused by natural and man induced factors. In recent years, landslides have become a major problem in the mountainous parts of Uganda because of the damage and risk associated with them.

The approach aims at finding long-term solutions to the landslide problems and emphasises disaster prevention rather than responding to landslides as they occur.

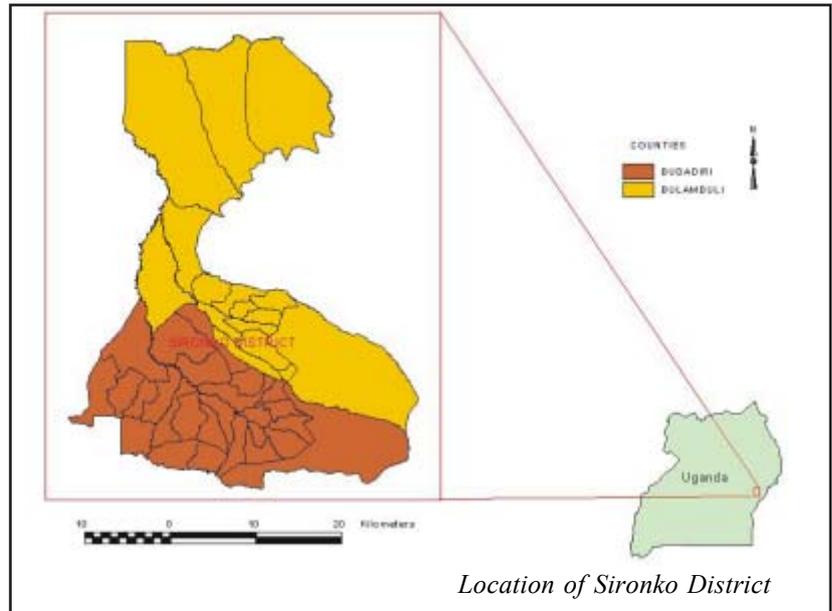
The frequency of landslides has been on the increase, and during the period 1991-2000 there were over 86 landslides. This high number can mainly be attributed to El Niño rains that occurred between 1997 and 1998. The most affected people are women and children who spend most of their time at home and in gardens. Many other people displaced by landslides in Bumasifwa, Buluganya and Zesui migrated into nearby Mt. Elgon National Park, and it is estimated that over 500 families encroached and settled in the park, where they acquired large tracts of free land.

Gazettment of Mt. Elgon as a national park was aimed at protecting the important water catchment and biodiversity found therein, and encroachment on this fragile ecosystem has led to a number of other environmental problems such as loss of biodiversity, exposure of the park to further degradation due to landslides, and interfering with an important water catchment. If measures are not taken to reverse the trend, the area – which covers 11,961 thousand hectares – is likely to be entirely devastated by landslides.

Over 90 per cent of the population on the slopes of Mt. Elgon is dependent on subsistence agriculture for a living. Any activity that damages their crop or hampers agricultural production affects their livelihood. Landslides are therefore a major socio-economic problem in the district and government as a whole. It has led to loss of lives, crops, land productivity, and other property.

Landslides have also led to the degradation of mountain ecosystems, which are important water catchments, and damaged roads, bridges, steel ladders schools, and water sources. For the Ugandan government to mitigate damage of public infrastructure due to landslides yearly, it requires millions of dollars. Consequently, the government has not been able to cope with this problem.

Landslides have caused conflicts among the local people, whose property such as crops and woodlots have slid from one plot to another. Due to small fragmented pieces of land, when landslides occur, there is a tendency for property to move from one plot to another, sometimes with crops intact. This



causes people to claim ownership of such crops, while those whose property is covered by debris also claim ownership of the same.

In the past, successive governments in Uganda have addressed natural disasters as they occur, mainly because disasters have been perceived as natural incidents that cannot be averted. This reactive approach to disaster management has been a major setback to development and has cost the country enormous financial losses. Realising that the landslide problem is increasing, the Government of Uganda with one-year financial and technical support from the German Technical Corporation (GTZ) initiated a new approach to disaster management. The approach aims at finding long-term solutions and emphasises disaster prevention rather than responding to landslides as they occur. An initial study on landslides in the Sironko district aimed at establishing the causes, impact, and possible mitigation measure to landslides, a multidisciplinary approach was used field surveys, including visits through consultation with district and local authorities, in addition to focus groups openly discussing communities' experiences and possible future solutions. Data analysis using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) identified the main causes of landslides in the area, including human activities.

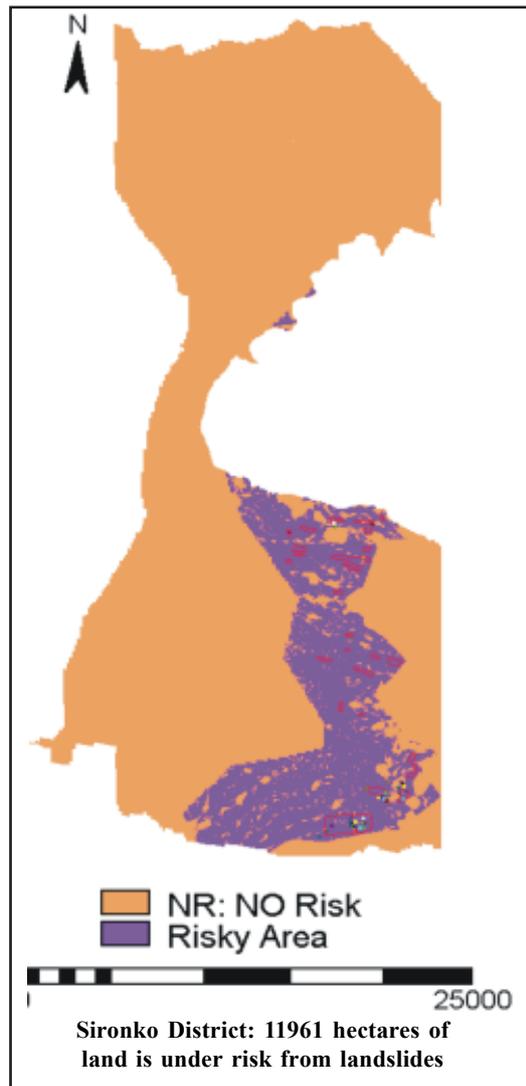
Disaster prevention is one of the most effective approaches to minimise the negative impacts of landslides and should be institutionalised to ensure its sustainability.

The findings were presented to authorities and community members at a two-day workshop, incorporating their views and feedback into the long-term plan for landslide mitigation. The first step was to

raise public awareness and increasing government sensitivity at all levels to ensure that no lives are lost due to landslides during the El Niño period, predicted to occur from October 2002, as well as future rainy seasons. It was noted that many community members were unaware of the fact that landslides effects could be mitigated, believing that landslides were a result of fate. Increased community awareness was achieved through sensitisation meetings in sub-counties and via numerous radio spots and media articles, proving highly successful as during this period, no deaths were recorded due to landslides in Sironko. Some people in landslide-prone areas expressing willingness to relocate to safer areas. However, in many cases voluntary relocation presents a great challenge to communities, as they lack the means for acquiring land and initial settlement and there is no official program in place to support those willing to relocate. Land scarcity and insecurity in the low lying areas also prove relocation to be difficult and slow.

It was also noted that improved sensitization was deemed necessary to make people appreciate the need to plant trees in such areas and also take on tree planting as an income generating activity, just like agriculture. Although many people are eager to implement the mitigation measures, some people with land in the risky areas are not willing to plant trees because of lack of land for agriculture.

Other goals included building capacity in landslide management at all levels, training and equipment of the relevant offices, the integration of landslide issues in the district development plans to ensure that landslide issues are planned for and managed accordingly, promoting better farming methods at community level through the training of farmers in appropriate farming methods for hilly areas, training local leaders on bylaw and ordinance formulation to



enable them formulate appropriate laws for management of hilly and mountainous areas. The final component of the project was the development of a district disaster management plan to ensure planning for effective response to disasters that befell the district.

This project, which is continuing its mid-term and long-term activities with the financial help of the Ugandan government, has brought to light that the concept of disaster prevention is one of the most effective approaches to minimise the negative impacts of landslides and should be institutionalised to ensure its sustainability. This implies that institutions responsible for management of hilly and mountainous areas should plan for the careful use and management of these areas instead of simply responding in the event of a disaster. The long-term solution to the landslide prone areas is reforestation and afforestation but given the high population pressure

and land tenure system, it is important that this is preceded by a lot of sensitisation of the local community and their leaders. There is also a need to formulate enforceable ordinances and bylaws that are specific to a particular area, particularly relevant to district and lower local governments.

For further information on the Sironko project, please contact Ms. Gorretti Kitutu, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), gkitutu@nemaug.org

We would also like to thank Mr. Martin Ower for his permission to reproduce the information and photographs in this article. Article written by Nahid Bhadelia based on the Sironko Landslide Mitigation Report, by the Ugandan Department of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, 2003.



**Africa
update**

Gender mainstreaming in disaster reduction

Soroptimist International is a highly respected non-governmental organization holding consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. The women's global voice organization has actively promoted support and empowerment for women worldwide, comprising over 100,000 members in 122 countries.

At the Soroptimist International/Europe (SI/Europe) Pan-African Women's Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya (2 May 2003) 270 participants from 53 European and African countries came together to share experiences related to promoting gender equality in Africa. UN/ISDR Africa contributed to the event by highlighting the importance of gender within disaster reduction, noting that African women are often found to live in areas prone to disaster risks due to inadequate access to relevant information in addition to poor socio-economic conditions.

More information on SI can be found at www.sorop.org

African cooperation in disaster risk management

Since its inception in 2001, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has been actively involved in addressing issues related to its programme of action for the redevelopment of the African continent. On 23-24 April NEPAD organized a workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa, supported by UN/ISDR Africa promoting the development of a comprehensive programme on disaster management and food security. The World Bank provided funding for the workshop.

NEPAD committed to working with a group of experts to develop specific area projects for implementation by bringing stakeholders together for participatory decision-making, with outcomes evaluated from a national, sub-regional

and international perspective. Regional economic communities will work in conjunction with the NEPAD Secretariat to improve national capacities as part of the 'NEPADising' process.

For further information on NEPAD, please refer to www.nepad.org

Early warning to El Niño in Uganda

As part of the country's El Niño mitigation and preparedness action plan, the Ugandan Department of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees has set in place preparedness measures and early warning systems throughout various districts warning against imminent rains and storms related to the El Niño phenomenon. Warning messages are broadcasted on national and community radio stations alerting residents at risk, and have proved most successful in reducing the impacts of hazards throughout the country.

In demonstration of his commitment to integrating disaster reduction in public policies, Prime Minister Prof. Apolo Nsibambi took the initiative to establish an Inter-Ministerial El Niño Committee comprising representatives from a range of sectors – including the ministries of finance, defence, health, education, and works, transport and communications – to guide policies designed to mitigate and manage the likely effects of the hazards.

For further information on Uganda's action plan, please contact Mr. Martin Ower, Ugandan Department of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, opmdisaster@infocom.co.ug

Launch of new ISDR *Inform*s: Disaster Reduction in Africa magazine

UN/ISDR Africa is pleased to announce the launch of its new regional magazine, *ISDR Inform*s: Disaster Reduction in Africa.

To receive a copy of the magazine, please contact UN/ISDR Africa, ISDR-africa@unep.org



Latin America and the Caribbean *update*

Risk reduction commitment in Antofagasta

In May 2003, UNESCO in collaboration with UN/ISDR launched the “Safer Cities Initiative” building on the experiences of the 1998-1999 RADIUS project (during the IDNDR) implemented in Antofagasta.



Training on the application of risk estimation tools to urban planning and sustainable development

The launching workshop was held on 14th May, in Antofagasta, and included both a seminar, with active participation of both scientists and local authorities, as well as training sessions targeted for the city officers in charge of city planning on the application of the RADIUS risk assessment tools and methodologies for sound urban planning.

Antofagasta Mayor Mr. Pedro Araya expressed his complete support for this initiative, affirming his commitment for its continuation in local communities.

Building on national and regional developments already in place for risk assessment and contingency planning, local authorities proved to be extremely interested in participating in the Safer Cities CCT programme, and agreed to use complementary tools such as the UN/ISDR and UNICEF education game ‘Riskland’ and the University of Chile’s mobile laboratories on seismology and earthquake risk, to enhance an existing package offering a wealth of information related to disaster risk reduction, educating children and raising public awareness.

For further information, please contact Elina Palm, UN/ISDR LAC, elina.palm@eird.org

Community learning at Chile’s interactive mini-museum

In October 2002, the National Office for Emergency Management of Chile (ONEMI) opened the first mini-museum on hazards and the risks faced in Chile. The interactive museum, located at ONEMI headquarters in Santiago, includes a comprehensive review of the principal hazards of the past decade, in addition to interactive activities such as educative seismic and tsunami simulators that allow children and adults to learn the basic steps to take to reduce risk and vulnerabilities in Chile. Technologies related to disasters provide concrete examples of successful methodologies and tools to assist in reducing their impacts.

For further information on the museum please contact Carmen Fernandez Gibbs, ONEMI, pcivil@onemi.cl

Memorandum of Understanding signed be- tween UN/ISDR and CEPREDENAC

Ms. Elina Palm, UN/ISDR Latin America and the Caribbean (representing UN/ISDR Director Mr. Sálvano Briceño), Mr. Gerónimo Giusto-Robelo and Dr. Elizabeth Cubías, CEPREDENAC



In line with the declaration signed by Central American Presidents at the 1999 high-level meeting on the reduction of vulnerabilities and disaster impacts, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UN/ISDR and the Central American Centre for Coordination for Natural Disaster Prevention (CEPREDENAC) was signed on 22 May 2003, in El Salvador. The MoU represents the commitment of both organizations to work in partnership to promote disaster reduction at both the regional and national levels, especially targeting those groups and sectors most vulnerable in societies.

Further information on the UN/ISDR and CEPREDENAC MoU is available at www.cepredenac.org

Remembering Hurricane Mitch: 5 years later

Hurricane Mitch in 1998 was a disaster that no one in Central America will ever forget. The enormous loss of lives, livelihoods and property completely changed the region's attitude and perceptions towards natural hazards, and five years later various regional actors have taken the initiative to plan a forum entitled Mitch+5 that will take place in late 2003. Mitch+5 aims to provide the opportunity for a review and evaluation of what has occurred in the context of disaster reduction since the hurricane in Central America, assessing whether the vulnerabilities to natural disasters that existed five years ago have since increased or been reduced. The event will involve international organizations, regional institutions, non-governmental organizations and communities to reflect on the lessons learned from the Mitch experience and consider the direction that disaster reduction in the region is taking towards the future.

For further information on Mitch+5, please refer to www.cepredenac.org

Farewell to our respected colleague Paul Bell

It is with great sorrow that we received the news of the loss of Mr. Paul Bell, OFDA-USAID, one of the most generous and forward-looking experts in the field of disaster management. Mr. Bell's dedication to assist developing countries (mainly in Latin America and the Caribbean) to enhance their disaster management capacities has been one of the main features in the advancement of disaster management in the region. His visionary approach contributed greatly to move disaster risk reduction forward within the disaster management community and to identify the need to build bridges with other relevant sectors such as health, environment, development, among others. We had the privilege of working with him on several occasions and benefited greatly from his wise and timely advice. He was indeed a supporter of the ISDR, and we hope that his example, values and attitudes will be continued by his colleagues in San José and Washington.



Space applications for disaster management and prevention

Over 20 European countries and some five international organizations met near Brasov, Romania, for a four day regional workshop on space applications for disaster management and prevention. The event, hosted by Romania's space agency and organized by the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN/OOSA) and the European Space Agency (ESA) with support from other partners including UN/ISDR, was the fourth in a series of five regional workshops intended to pave the way to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.



The discussions reflected the wide array of space-related capacities and initiatives existing in Europe today, which range from prevention to response tools derived from space-supported tools. The presence of ESA and the European Commission to the event took on special significance in light of the forthcoming accession of several countries to the European Union. In this context the ISDR is regarded as a vital link to global policies and strategies for disaster reduction and a means of coordination among countries in the region, especially for the development of compatible initiatives.

The growing ISDR network in Europe is a tool for added synergy in this and other fields, and the ISDR Secretariat is working with national platforms and focal points throughout the region to include space application components in disaster reduction initiatives.

For further information, please refer to www.oosa.unvienna.org or contact Francesco Pisano, UN/ISDR, pisanof@un.org

Vulnerability in the Euro-Med area

A few days after the strong earthquake that shook Algeria in May 2003 the figures emerging from the media are all but reassuring: over 2,000 lives lost, some 1,000 people still missing and a huge 15,000 homeless. At a time when the international community is stepping up discussions on how to include disaster reduction in sustainable development criteria, and the ISDR community of the Euro-Mediterranean region is focusing on the forthcoming review of the 1994 Yokohama Strategy, the Algeria quake is all too similar to what already happened in Turkey and similar to other developing countries. Sub-standard construction methods – especially evident in public housing – is being pointed at as the main cause of the surge in urban vulnerability that led to the massive toll in both catastrophes.



The problem of urban vulnerability to natural hazards has been raised more and more often in the past years. Within the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, UN-HABITAT, UNU, ICLEI and UNESCO (among others) are working on specific initiatives to publicise the need to take serious action now to reduce urban risk. In the same vein, the ISDR Secretariat and its partners across the region are consolidating a Euro-

22 December 1999: 28 dead and 175 injured in north-west

18 August 1994: 172 dead and 288 injured in western region of Mascara

29 October 1989: 30 dead and 400 injured in Tipaza region

10 October 1980: About 3,000 dead and 8,000 injured and in al-Asnam

9 and 16 September 1954: 1,400 dead and 14,000 injured

Mediterranean network of national platforms and focal points for disaster reduction with higher visibility in the European context. This should lead to greater recognition of the importance of vulnerability assessment and risk prevention in all relevant areas, from land use planning to civil protection, and hopefully contribute to eliciting political commitment by public authorities.

Furthermore, the ISDR Secretariat jointly with UNDP and UNESCO are currently discussing possible support to disaster reduction policies and measures with Algerian institutions.

For further information on the Euro-Mediterranean network of national platforms, please contact Francesco Pisano, UN/ISDR, pisanof@un.org



Asian and the Pacific *update*

South Pacific contribution to the Yokohama review

Approximately 90 participants representing 20 countries attended the recent 11th Pacific Disaster Managers Meeting and Communities at Risk Conference held in Sigatoka, Fiji. Prime Minister The Hon. Laisenia Qarase officially opened the Conference, emphasizing the vital role risk management plays in good governance in the region. UN/ISDR Director Salvano Briceño presented the keynote address at the Conference providing an international perspective on the need for a global agenda to address the many complex issues related to disaster reduction, in particular in the context of achieving sustainable development goals. The event represents the Pacific region's contribution in the lead up to the 2nd World Conference on Disaster Reduction, to be held in Kobe, Japan in January 2005. The main recommendations from this meeting included: the development of a community risk management policy for the region; the development of a national disaster management planning and legislation framework; continued support for improvements to response communication and coordination; and continued high level advocacy to support the implementation of Comprehensive Hazard And Risk Management (CHARM).

For information on the results of the Communities at Risk Conference, please refer to www.sopac.org

Community Risk Programme appointment at SOPAC

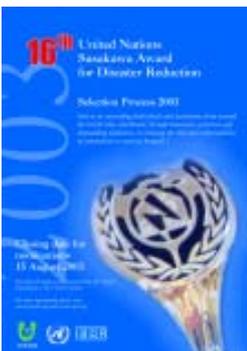
SOPAC has announced the appointment of Mr. Alan Mearns as Manager of their Community Risk Programme for the next three years. Mr. Mearns was previously the Project Manager for the SOPAC Disaster Management Project, which commenced in July 2000 and has actively promoted the use of risk management as a tool for reducing

community vulnerability within the Pacific region. In his new role Mr. Mearns will lead a small team of professional staff including a dedicated Risk Analyst, with the goal of the new programme being to improve hazard assessment and risk management practices to build safer communities. Mr. Mearns will also continue to represent SOPAC as a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction. We wish him all the best as he commences his new duties.

SOPAC is the leading ISDR partner in the South Pacific region, through which UN/ISDR has been maintaining contact with Pacific Islands' National Disaster Management Offices. In collaboration with SOPAC, the ISDR Secretariat is working on developing a regional outreach programme that should include a dedicated ISDR presence in the region.

 **Other activities
in disaster reduction**

**Nominations for 2003 UN Sasakawa
Award for Disaster Reduction**



A reminder that nominations for the 2003 UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction must be received by the ISDR Secretariat by 15 August 2003. Kindly note that nominations

forms must be duly completed and accompanied by the relevant supporting documentation in order to be considered. Join us in recognising the efforts of disaster reduction practitioners around the worldwide!

To download a copy of the 2003 UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction nomination form, please refer to www.unisdr.org or www.eird.org or contact Christel Rose, UN/ISDR, rosec@un.org

Appointment of new WMO Secretary-General



During the 14th World Meteorological Congress it was announced that Mr. Michel Jarraud was appointed as Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) for a four-year mandate commencing 1 January 2004. In his statement of acceptance, Mr. Jarraud affirmed his

commitment to addressing challenges for the future including disaster prevention and mitigation, climate change and its impacts, sustainable development and enhanced cohesion among international programmes and organizations, among others. Mr. Jarraud succeeds Prof. G.O.P Obasi as the top official of WMO. We warmly congratulate Mr. Jarraud on his appointment and look forward to continue working closely with him in both his capacities as an active member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction, as well as WMO Secretary-General on future disaster reduction initiatives.

**4th International Conference on Seismology and
Earthquake Engineering (SEE-4)**

On 12-14 May the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES) held a conference on risk reduction in relation to seismology and earthquakes in Tehran, Iran. Numerous parallel sessions enabled a comprehensive coverage of issues, such as earthquake awareness and preparedness, vulnerability analysis, and seismicity studies. The panel discussion 'Seismic strengthening of structure and lifelines' in particular provoked fruitful discussions among conference participants, with panelists sharing experiences in and views on seismic rehabilitation of structures and lifelines, seismic strengthening and the role of public, private and scientific sectors.

For further information on SEE-4, please refer to the IIEES website, www.iiees.ac.ir

**Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster
Reduction 7th meeting**

As one of the two principal mechanisms of the ISDR, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR) is increasingly recognized as providing much added-value and increasingly tangible results, in particular as a productive platform for coordination and policy advice and synergies. On

10-11 April IATF/DR met for the seventh time to review and discuss the progress of its four working groups (on climate and disasters, early warning, risk, vulnerability and impact assessment and wildland fires) and ad-hoc discussion group on drought. The meeting proved most fruitful, with significant outputs of the groups being presented. Among these were the continuing support to the International Centre on the El Niño Phenomenon (CIIFEN) and the provision of regular El Niño Outlooks; the further advancement of a global inventory of early warning systems as well as active preparations for the 2nd International Conference on Early Warning (EWCII); the ongoing review of existing disaster databases and efforts to consolidate and standardise disaster data and information, including vulnerability indexing; the formulation of a global fire network built on regional and sub-regional contacts in addition to the preparations for the International Wildland Fire Summit to be held in September in Sydney, Australia; and the production of a comprehensive report on drought, including recommendations and steps to take towards the development of a global drought risk reduction network (see *Resources Update* for a review of the report).

IATF/DR members affirmed their commitment to the development of a programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005 based on a review of achievements to date and reassessment of its goals, including urban risk issues. IATF/DR members also recognised and appreciated the work of the ISDR Secretariat, who is receiving ever-increasing demands and expectations from the international community in addition to requests from the UN General Assembly.

For further information on the results of the IATF/DR meeting, please contact Helena Molin Valdes, UN/ISDR, molINVALDES@un.org

Climate change adaptation and disaster reduction

Dealing with our changing climate constitutes an exceptionally complex challenge for humanity at large, and countries that are vulnerable to current climate-related events will probably see their vulnerability exacerbated in the future. Poorer countries are often less able to cope due to related socio-economic factors that in turn increase their vulnerability, and it is clear that for progress on adaptation to climate change to take place, integration of risk reduction strategies into other sectoral policy initiatives in sustainable development planning is required.

In an attempt to strengthen its capacity and support the continuation of various existing disparate and ad-hoc events, meetings and dialogues linking disaster reduction and climate change, the ISDR Secretariat in close collaboration with the Netherlands Red Cross Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness Centre, involving other stakeholders, has taken the initiative to move the process forward by involving an expanding array of partners already addressing the issue.

Recent activities include ISDR representation at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Expert Consultative meeting convened in Colombo on 5-7 March, whereby experts from a broad range of disciplines associated with the IPCC provided specific guidance in identifying the linkages between adaptation and mitigation as well as sustainable development. UN/ISDR is also facilitating the participation of disaster risk management experts in four regional training workshops organized by the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Expert Group to develop countries' capacities to prepare and plan for the implementation of National Adaptation Plans of Action.

For further information please contact John Harding, UN/ISDR, harding@un.org



Preparations are currently underway for activities in line with the 2003 World Disaster Reduction Campaign theme 'Living with Risk – Turning the tide on disasters towards sustainable development'. You are invited to share with the international disaster reduction community your plans for participation in the Campaign focused on water-related disasters, by contributing to the Campaign's information kit and/or organizing related events highlighting the subject such as round-tables, festivals, community contests and others to raise awareness on disaster reduction.

The Campaign announcement (in English, French and Spanish) is available on-line at www.unisdr.org or to receive a hard copy, please contact Nicole Rencoret, UN/ISDR, on rencoret@un.org

The following publications are available *for consultation only* in the UN/ISDR Library. Please contact Ms. Marie Lou Darricau, darricau@un.org for more information on the UN/ISDR Library and its resources.

To order publications, please contact the publisher/sources indicated.

Hard copies of all documents for inclusion in the UN/ISDR Library should be forwarded to UN/ISDR, Palais des Nations, CH 1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland.



Ad-hoc discussion group on drought, 2003. *Drought*. UN/ISDR, Geneva, English, 41 pages.

A comprehensive report resulting from the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction's ad-hoc discussion group on drought. Included in the report is an extensive list of websites and contacts related to drought.

To receive a copy of this publication, please contact UN/ISDR, isdr@un.org



Andersen, T.J.. 2002. *Innovative Financial Instruments for Natural Disaster Risk Management*. Inter-American Bank, Technical Papers Series, English, 36 pages.

Assessing the potential for catastrophe risk transfer, this publication analyses both conventional and contemporary financial instruments for risk transfer, for example through reinsurance contracts or risk-linked securities.

To receive a copy of this publication, please contact mariak@adb.org



Bhatti, A. and Malalgoda Ariyabandu, M. 2002. *Disaster Communication: A Resource Kit for the Media*. A Duryog Nivaran Publication, ITDG South Asia, Colombo and the Journalists Resource Centre, Islamabad, English, 260 pages.

The media has an important role to play in protecting people from disasters, by educating the public about risks and hazards, transmitting forecasts and warnings as well as challenging policy makers and disaster managers to improve their performance. This publication aims to improve the South Asian's media's coverage of disasters, by providing the media with a clear understanding of disasters and their causes and by promoting a more progressive approach to gathering and presenting news that could stimulate more effective action by policy makers and the public.

To purchase a copy of this publication, please contact ITDG South Asia, general@itdg.sli.lk

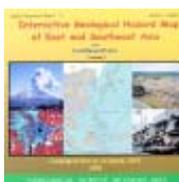


Dialogue on Water and Climate (DWC). 2003. *Climate changes the water rules: How water managers can cope with today's climate variability and tomorrow's climate change*.

English, 106 pages.

This report draws on experiences of coping with climatic phenomena in the water sector, and is accompanied by a booklet specifically targeted at water policymakers as well as a CD-ROM comprising a water and climate biography.

For more information about this publication, please refer to www.waterandclimate.org



Geological Survey of Japan (GSJ), 2003. *Interactive Geological Hazard Map of East and Southeast Asia with GeoHazard View*. Version 1, English, CD-ROM.

This CD-ROM contains the interactive version of the Eastern Asia Geological Hazards Map which was first published in 2002. The programme is also used in the management and update of geological hazard information databases in the region, allowing for user-friendly access and manipulation as required.

To order a copy of the CD-ROM, please contact Hirokazu Kato, h.katou@aist.go.jp



Munich Reinsurance Group. 2003. *Topics Annual Review: Natural Catastrophes 2002*. English, 48 pages.

The annual comprehensive report reviewing natural catastrophes of the previous year, including a discussion on risk management for natural hazards.

id21 at the Institute of Development Studies Society and Economy website www.id21.org

A valuable resource comprising databases of contacts, publications and initiatives related to development.

Various authors. 2003. *Poverty and Climate Change: Reducing the Vulnerability of the Poor through Adaptation*. English, 43 pages.

The object of this document is to contribute to a global dialogue on how to mainstream and integrate adaptation to climate change into poverty reduction efforts. Authors include development banks (Africa and Asia), international organizations (OECD, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank) and governments (UK, EC, Germany, Netherlands).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Venue	For Further Information
3-5 June	Hemispheric Consultation on Early Warning	Antigua, Guatemala	www.eird.org
5 June	World Environment Day	Worldwide	www.unep.org/wed
5 June	'Living with risk in a changing climate' Side event at the eighteenth session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	Bonn, Germany	harding@un.org
11-13 June	Conference of the European Telecommunications Recovery and Resilience Association	Newcastle, UK	www.etr2a.org
17 June	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	Worldwide	www.unccd.int/publicinfo/june17/menu.php
22-25 June	13 th World Conference on Disaster Management	Toronto, Canada	www.wcdm.org
23-24 June	African Regional Consultation in preparation for the 2 nd International Early Warning Conference	Nairobi, Africa	www.unisdr africa.org
24 June-4 July	22 nd Session of the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)	Paris, France	http://ioc.unesco.org/iocweb/
25 June	Regional consultation on disaster risk management	Nairobi, Kenya	isdr-africa@unep.org
2-8 July	European Regional Consultation on Early Warning	Potsdam, Germany	harding@un.org
13-16 July	Third International Conference on Continental Earthquakes (III ICCE)	Beijing, China	www.icce.ac.cn
13-18 July	Cities on Volcanoes	Hilo, Hawaii	http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/~cov3/
16-18 July	International Conference on the Impact of Global Environmental Problems on Continental and Coastal Marine Waters	Geneva, Switzerland	www.unige.ch/sciences/near
21-26 July	Application of Remote Sensing, Geographic Information System and Hydrodynamic Modelling for Flood Management	Hanoi, Vietnam	hmh@netnam.vn
23-25 July	Emergency Situations: Prevention and Elimination	Minsk, Belarus	http://niipb.by.ru/news_e.htm

Please email news (providing dates, venues, organizer contact information) concerning upcoming events to be included in future issues of ISDR Highlights to isdr@un.org

NATURAL DISASTERS REVIEW

For detailed up-to-date information on recent natural disasters, please refer to www.reliefweb.int

The number appearing alongside each disaster refers to the GLobal IDentifier Number (GLIDE), used by disaster databases worldwide. For more information about GLIDE, see www.cred.be or www.reliefweb.int/help/glide.html

Tajikistan: Floods - Jun 2003

India: Heat Wave - Jun 2003 ET-2003-0250-IND

Philippines: Tropical Storm Linfa - May 2003 ST-2003-0258-PHL

Kazakhstan: Earthquake - May 2003

Algeria: Earthquake - May 2003 EQ-2003-0245-DZA

China: Floods - May 2003 FL-2003-0227-CHN

Sri Lanka: Floods - May 2003 FL-2003-0229-LKA

Namibia: Floods - May 2003 FL-2003-0220-NAM

Madagascar: Tropical Cyclone Manou - May 2003 ST-2003-0218-MDG

Horn of Africa: Floods - May 2003 FL-2003-0204-KEN

Bangladesh: Tropical Storm - May 2003 ST-2003-0211-BGD

Azerbaijan: Floods/Landslides - May 2003 FL-2003-0212-AZE

Papua New Guinea: Landslide - May 2003 SL-2003-0208-PNG

Turkey: Earthquake - May 2003 EQ-2003-0197-TUR

Argentina: Floods - Apr 2003 FL-2003-0196-ARG

Guatemala: Landslide - Apr 2003 SL-2003-0191-GTM

India: Cyclonic Storm - Apr 2003 ST-2003-0182-IND

Kyrgyzstan: Landslide - Apr 2003 SL-2003-0177-KGZ

Indonesia: Landslides - Apr 2003 SL-2003-0155-IDN

Bolivia: Landslide - Apr 2003 SL-2003-0153-BOL