

AMCDRR by the numbers...

2 Heads of State.

25 government ministers.

72 country delegations.

2,600 participants.

## ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL

The winning entries in UNISDR's first Asian film festival on disaster risk reduction were films from Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea chosen from a field of 47 entries. Kazol Rekha, the wheelchair-bound heroine of "Kazol on the Flood" which won the human interest category for Bangladesh, attended the event to espouse the rights of the disabled. In the category of the best Disaster Risk Reduction the winner was a film from Indonesia titled "The Voices of Earthquake". The best disaster risk reduction investigative story came from the Republic of Korea, "Memories of a Summer Day 2012."

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/b1JVva>



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# The 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Yogyakarta - Indonesia, 22-25 October 2012

## Strengthening Local Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction



### INDONESIA PRAISES HFA

The President of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, told the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), "Like the countries and organizations represented here today, we have benefited much from the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 -- 2015. This Framework has served as a main point of reference in devising our National Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), including its programs."

"I also recognize that the Hyogo Framework for Action will end in 2015. I am glad that consultative process towards post-2015 Hyogo is on the way. In this regard, I hope this Conference could also contribute to this process, and to the post-2015 DRR agenda."

The Conference was organized by UNISDR with the Indonesian National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB). **For more information, visit:** <http://goo.gl/eDULG>

### YOGYAKARTA DECLARATION AGREED

UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström, has welcomed the Yogyakarta Declaration of the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. "The world has always looked to Asia for leadership in disaster management and the Yogyakarta Declaration outlines clearly what the region's expectations are for a new international agreement on disaster risk reduction," she said.

Key elements of the Final Declaration include: identification of accountability measures for effective implementation of a post-2015 Disaster Risk Reduction Framework; political commitment to deliver at all levels; awareness, education and public access to information; improved governance; the promotion of resilient investments; and the allocation of resources to build local capacity. Conference participants also resolved to hold consultations which will contribute to the development of a post-2015 framework agreement on disaster risk reduction. **For more information, visit:** <http://goo.gl/TX6ky>



# EVIDENCE

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### IDDR 2012

An analysis of activity around last month's high-profile International Day for Disaster Reduction (Oct 13) shows that social media played a key role in disseminating news and messages with 27 million views of over 5,000 tweets on Twitter.

The focus on the role of women and girls as a force for resilience and reducing risk in their communities was actively celebrated in many of the 61 countries - from Afghanistan to Zambia - which provided UNISDR with details of how they joined in the "Step Up for Disaster Risk Reduction" Campaign on the day.

Over 250 events have been recorded so far.

#### Highlights of the 2012

International Day for Disaster Reduction can be seen at:

<http://www.unisdr.org/2012/iddr/highlights.html>



Plan Uganda organized various activities, including a children's march in Mbale, to join the world in commemorating the 2012 International Disaster Risk Reduction. (see sidebar - Photo / Plan International)

### SANDY AND THE EXTREME EVENTS THREAT

UNISDR Chief Margareta Wahlström has said that the economic losses inflicted on the US and Caribbean island states by Hurricane Sandy underlines the growing threat posed by extreme natural hazards to the world economy. Ms. Wahlström said: "We can say with a high degree of confidence that those parts of the US and the Caribbean which have borne the brunt of Hurricane Sandy will be vulnerable to repeat events of this magnitude due to rising sea levels and warmer coastal waters. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has pointed out that this poses a particular threat to tropical small island states.

"While it is too early to put a cost on Hurricane Sandy there is no doubt that it will contribute significantly to the upward trend in economic losses from disasters which requires political commitment if the trend is to be reversed. Economic losses from disasters have grown to at least \$1.3 trillion over the last twenty years including \$380 billion last year. **For more information, visit:** <http://goo.gl/vRu1W>

### EUROPE MEETS ON POST-HFA

Experts from 27 European countries held three days of discussions in Croatia on a successor to the world's first global agreement on reducing disaster risk, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities which expires in 2015. UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström, said: "Europe has a major role to play in shaping the post-2015 international framework agreement on disaster risk reduction and your experience to date of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action will be vital. The contribution of European countries which have established national disaster loss data bases will be important to increase understanding of how this can lead to more resilient investment and sustainable economic development." **For more information, visit:** <http://goo.gl/gFUuE>



The Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction takes place in Geneva, Switzerland from 19-23 May 2013. For more information, visit: <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2013/>

## ASIA EURO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström, told 300 participants at the 7th Asia European Parliamentarian Partnership (ASEP) meeting in Vientiane that, "The role of parliamentarians is critical to help executives developing policies and legislation that are making communities safer from disasters. Parliamentarians have been a driving force for progress in many countries and they will continue to do so in the Lao people's Democratic Republic, in countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and globally."

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/rriiUY>

## UK'S HFA PEER REVIEW

Details of the first-ever peer review of a country implementing the world's first comprehensive agreement on disaster risk reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), were presented at the European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction in Croatia.

The UK volunteered to participate in the HFA Peer Review a year ago and the seven member review team from Sweden, Finland, Italy, UNISDR, the European Commission and OECD carried out the peer review mission from September 16 to 26, interviewing some 90 people including representatives from 45 entities including government departments, NGOs and businesses across the UK. Steven Barnes, representing the UK Civil Contingencies Secretariat, said: "There is no doubt that the peer review has considerably raised the profile of the Hyogo Framework for Action at Ministerial level and among senior civil servants. Everyone was impressed with the quality of the team, their professionalism and commitment." The review was financed by the European Commission and the final report will be available early in 2013. **For more information, visit:** <http://goo.gl/gBRZQ>

## NATIONAL PLATFORM REVIEW

UNISDR is implementing a key recommendation on National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction from the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, "to further review how they can best support domestic decision-making and international cooperation." There are seven Working Group Members - Germany, Sweden, Senegal, Indonesia, Philippines, Ecuador and Mexico - supporting the review with a view to preparing a report on the issue for next year's Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction. Currently there are 81 National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction. **For more information, visit:** <http://goo.gl/Ylt46>



From left: Margareta Wahlström presents the Mayor of Sendai, Erniko Okuyama, with a certificate of recognition. (see p.3)

## THAI PM HONOURED

UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström, has honored the Prime Minister of Thailand, H.E. Yingluck Shinawatra, as a leading woman figure in disaster management with a commemorative plaque.

"Last year, the Prime Minister of Thailand became a very visible figure for women around the world when she took on the responsibility for managing the response to the worst flooding Thailand has ever experienced just a few short weeks after taking office. She rose to the challenge with dignity and courage. Since then she has set up a new Women's Fund to promote gender equality in Thailand and to empower women in many areas of life," said Ms. Wahlström. **For more information, visit:** <http://goo.gl/vc6qR>

## CROATIA'S CHAMPION

UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström, has urged other countries to follow the example of Croatia in recognizing individual efforts to raise awareness of disaster risk in their own communities. Ms. Wahlström and the Croatian Minister of Interior, Ranko Ostojić, presented Croatian educator, Sunčana Jokić, with the country's first "Champion of Change" award established by the Croatian National Protection and Rescue Directorate (NPRD).

During a four-year period working with special needs children attending a small elementary school, Ms. Jokić observed one day how frightened they became when a storm knocked slates off the roof. She made contact with the NPRD which now includes children with special needs in their outreach activities at community level. **For more information, visit:** <http://goo.gl/XT1Mw>

## SENDAI – A ROLE MODEL

UNISDR recognized Sendai, the largest city in Japan's tsunami-struck region of Tohoku, as a role model for the Making Cities Resilient Campaign for "promoting community-based disaster risk reduction." Following the Great Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in March 2011, Sendai stood out for its quick restoration of vital functions such as utilities, damaged roads, homes and also the clearance of debris. This was done in 18 months and always via open communication with citizens.

**For more information, visit:** <http://goo.gl/GPJQ7>

"This Conference has been a major breakthrough in ensuring that building disaster resilience and reducing risk are embedded into the post-2015 development agenda."

Margareta Wahlström on the 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. (see p.4)

#post2015  
FRAMEWORK FOR DRR

UNISDR is facilitating the consultation process for a post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. For more information, visit: <http://www.preventionweb.net/posthfa>