

## **Progress at the International level in the Area of Early Warning Systems**

The second Priority for Action in the Hyogo Framework for Action, “Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warnings,” stresses the importance of early warning systems as a critical component of disaster risk reduction. Indeed, early warning systems have received international attention in the past few years, including three International Early Warning Conferences sponsored and hosted by Government of Germany, establishment of the International Early Warning Programme, the recognition within 2005 G8 summit and UN General Assembly resolutions, the report of the Global Survey on Early Warning Systems requested by former UNSG, and the first multi-agency International Symposium on “Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems”, convened by World Meteorological Organizations (WMO) in May 2006, participated by 20 implementing agencies<sup>1</sup>, to foster partnerships for strengthening of operational early warning systems. And finally, discussions during the side event on Early Warning Systems, organized by WMO and Platform for the Promotion of Early warning System (PPEW), and comments during the various workshops and plenary of this First session of the Global Platform, indeed have further stressed the need for continued attention to better coordination for the strengthening of early warning systems.

While progress has been made in the area of early warnings, many challenges remain that need to be addressed to ensure that early warning systems are developed and/or strengthened, in all countries, particularly those with highest risks, and with least resources.

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems can be obtained at:  
[http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dpm/ews\\_symposium\\_2006](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dpm/ews_symposium_2006)

**Intervention on the Progress with Early Warning Systems**  
**Progress Report as well as Actions and Recommendations of the First Global Platform on Disaster**  
**Risk Reduction**  
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**Following the third International Early Warning Conference (March 2006, Bonn, Germany) several developments have been made in the international community. During the First Symposium on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in May 2006, convened by WMO:**

- 1) A number of good practices in early warning systems were identified and efforts are underway to document and share these experiences.**
- 2) The concept of “multi-hazard approach”, building on the existing capacities in early warning systems and cooperation among agencies, was explored with the goal to explore synergies and benefits of such approach and develop clear guidance for actions at national, regional and international levels.**

**Two major conclusions of the First session of the Multi-Hazard Symposium on EWS were that,**

- 1) Development and strengthening of effective early warnings systems would require cooperation and coordination among implementing agencies involved in different components of EWS including monitoring, detecting and forecasting of hazards, risk identification, communication and dissemination and emergency response at international to community levels to realize synergies among agencies for development of effective warning systems.**
- 2) And that at the international level there is need for establishment of a thematic early warning cluster which would engage both operational aspects, involving agencies that work in different components of early warning systems, as well as promotional aspects being supported by Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW), to coordinate activities towards a more coherent approach to early warning systems.**

**Furthermore in 2005, PPEW convened an informal advisory group to develop a work plan for the International Early Warning Programme, and progress has been made in this area.**

## **Actions and Recommendations for Incorporation in the Report** **of First Session of GPDRR**

**In moving ahead, the following actions and recommendations have emerged for reflection in the report of the First Sessions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction:**

- 1) Significant efforts of agencies and PPEW Secretariat will be combined through a Thematic Cluster on Early Warning Systems, with the goal to foster inter-agency partnerships towards a more coherent and comprehensive approach among agencies to supporting the development of operational early warning systems and ensuring effective utilization of this information for reducing impacts of disasters. These will be complemented with key international activities for sharing knowledge, reporting on the status of EWS, advocacy and ensuring that investments and efforts are directed towards this area.**
  
- 2) The Thematic Cluster on Early Warning Systems would be co-chaired by two agencies with complementary expertise and initiatives, and chairing will be rotated every two years, with the cycle of the Global Platform Sessions, to ensure buy-in and involvement of different agencies in this process.**
  
- 3) I am also very pleased to inform you that during WMO Congress in May 2007, France kindly offered to host the Second Symposium on Multi-hazard Early Warning System, during the first quarter of 2009.**
  
- 4) Finally, it is recommended that the next Sessions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction pay more significant attention to early warnings with specific workshops and events dedicated to this topic to facilitate sharing of experiences and identification of evolving needs and priorities that needs to be addressed.**