

High-level round table on the role of the media before, during and after disasters

Five high-level journalists coming from China, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mexico, and the Seychelles will explain how they cover disasters in their country and what challenges they face when reporting on disasters. The debate will be open to journalists who are attending the first session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction and will serve as a discussion points for further advancing the ISDR Media Network on Disaster Risk Reduction set up last January in Geneva by the ISDR secretariat.

The ISDR secretariat launched this initiative to raise the profile of disaster risk reduction in the news and to work closer with media professionals and disaster risk reduction communicators.

The roundtable, which will be held at the International Conference Centre Geneva (ICCG) on Thursday 6 June from 11 am to 12.30 am, will identify the media's responsibilities before, during and after disaster. Discussions will focus on the following questions: Do media have only an information role? Can they help educating their audiences? Can they alert populations about the risks and vulnerabilities they are facing? Can they question their government's performances? Do they have a public service role to play?

The outcomes of the round table will serve as a basis for the next consultative meeting with executive directors from top international media organizations to take place in late 2007

Panel:

The following journalists will be part of the panel:

Ismartono Yuli from Tempo Magazine, Executive director, Indonesia

Yan Zhu, news editor of China Central Television (CCTV), China

Ralaivola Mirana, Televiziona Malagasy, Madagascar

Onezime Antoine Joseph, Editor-in-Chief of the Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation, the Seychelles

The round table will be open to any journalist interested in the topic and will be moderated by Ed Girardet from INFOSUD and Brigitte Leoni from ISDR Geneva.