



Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction
Associated with the Shanghai Expo 2010
“Better Cities, Better Life”

Shanghai, 28-30 July 2010

Pre-Announcement

Background

The theme of the Shanghai Expo 2010 is "Better City, Better Life," - the wish for a better living in present and future urban environments. This theme represents a central concern of the international community for future policy making relative to urban strategies and sustainable development.

A Forum focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction, will be held in Shanghai at the Everbright Convention & Exhibition Center from 28-30 July 2010. The Forum consists of an Exhibit and an international Conference. The Exhibit by private sector providers, consist of technologies applicable to reducing disaster risk, for prevention, early warning and recovery processes related to natural disasters in urban areas. The international Conference is a meeting of local authorities within the context of the “Making Cities Resilient” campaign and the Shanghai EXPO 2010. The Forum will contribute to all the objectives of the campaign, and is being convened by DEVNET in collaboration with UNISDR and ICLEI. The Conference opening plenary will be held at the DEVNET Pavilion within the Shanghai EXPO and the rest of the programme will take place at the Everbright Convention Center in Shanghai.

Objectives

The “*Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction*”, to be held in Shanghai at the Everbright Convention & Exhibition Center from 28-30 July 2010, couples an exhibit of technologies to help in the prevention, recovery and rehabilitation processes related to natural disasters in cities, with an international Conference of local authorities within the context of the “Making Cities Resilient” Campaign. The Forum is being convened by DEVNET in collaboration with UNISDR and ICLEI, within the framework of the UNISDR Campaign and the Shanghai EXPO 2010. The Conference opening plenary will be held at the DEVNET Pavilion within the Shanghai EXPO.

The Shanghai World Expo 2010 provides a timely opportunity for a dialogue of world-wide leaders, policy makers, visionaries and creative thinkers with their Chinese peers. The “*Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction*” will bring together representatives of local authorities from China and selected cities throughout the world, as well as international and other technical organizations and networks. It will serve to advance knowledge and information sharing based on innovative practices and experience in disaster risk reduction, with a view to foster partnership development, particularly between local and national governments, civil society and

community based organizations. It will also help to monitor progress in urban risk reduction, refine guidance documentation and good practice. The demonstrations and exhibits of sample technologies applicable to different aspects of disaster risk reduction will add a concrete context for those in charge of managing disaster prevention and response, allowing them to strengthen their knowledge base and identify potential opportunities for risk reduction.

The main objectives of the Forum will be to:

- a) Promote an exchange of practical knowledge related to disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, rehabilitation and reconstruction of urban areas.
- b) Facilitate knowledge and information exchange between cities and departments in China and their international homologues in the area of disaster risk reduction.
- c) Foster new multi-stakeholder partnerships - between community groups, local and national authorities, and public-private sectors - aimed to reduce disaster risk at sub-national levels.

Programme

The Forum will alternate between plenary sessions and working groups. It will also provide for demonstrations by the exhibitors of technology and relevant study tours. The Conference plenary session will focus on urban risk reduction application and making cities resilient through presentations by cities, national authorities, community practitioners and technology providers. Speakers will present their experience and perspectives on:

- The role and leadership of local governments in addressing the different aspects of risk reduction as part of their service provision and urban development plans.
- The national plans and instruments that support such initiatives and leadership, and
- The role of community-based and civil society organizations in this particular context.

Examples from recent recovery experiences in China, Haiti and other disasters will also be presented.

The working groups will focus on the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in specific areas, and on how these practices can inform existing guidance and tools for making cities resilient, as well as contribute to the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships. The results of the working group deliberations will be presented and discussed in a final plenary session, which will review and adopt the recommendations of the Conference.

The recommendations and case studies presented in the Conference will be used in assessment reports and awareness raising material produced by UNISDR, and will inform training programmes and guidance documents in the context of the “Making Cities Resilient” Campaign. Role models and participating cities in the campaign will get preference consideration for sponsorship and to present during the Conference.

For more information

For additional information on the Forum please contact Mr. Michele Cocchiglia, UNISDR secretariat (cocchiglia@un.org) or Mr. Arsenio Rodriguez DEVNET (arsenio.rodriquez@devnetnet.org).