

2009

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

Wednesday 14 October



The International Day for Disaster Reduction was marked on 14 October 2009 in the Maldives.

The Indian Ocean Tsunami is considered a wake up call for many Maldivians. Several awareness programmes have been carried out since then on disasters and on disaster risk reduction.

With the support from International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR) and in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Education Development Centre (EDC) of the Ministry of Education is in the process of integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into the National Curriculum.

The teaching and learning materials have been developed and trailed in 5 pilot schools in the country. Through this process, the pilot schools took part in celebrating IDDR 2009.

The activities for the day were planned in consultation with EDC, UNDP, WHO, IFRC/Maldivian Red Crescent, Television Maldives, Education Supervision and Quality Improvement Division(ESQID) and carried out largely between two pilot schools; Ameeniya and Dharumavantha School.

Activities leading to IDDR

A trip by the debate team to;

- Kandholhudoo Island (a tsunami devastated island that has been deserted)
- Dhuvaafaru Island (planned resilient island where Kandholhudoo community have been relocated)
- Ungoofaaru Island (host island for some tsunami victims)

Interviews were carried out by the debate team with Dhuvaafaru residents. A presentation was given by Dhuvaafaru School students: on their lives, before the tsunami, during the tsunami and after the Tsunami. A presentation given by the debate team on disasters.

Interviews were carried out by the debate team with State Minister: National Disaster Management Centre, UNDP DRR Staff, IFRC/ Maldivian Red Crescent staff: IFRC/ Maldivian Red Crescent. Reports and other documents on disaster risk reduction and Climate Change on Maldives.

IDDR Activities consisted of

A debate between Ameeniya and Dharumavantha School: broadcast on national television on IDDR which served to create awareness among the public.

A documentary: on reducing the impact of disasters, using footage from trip made by the debate team as part of their research - broadcast on national television on IDDR

Special Assembly in Ameeniya/Dharumavantha School/ Fuh Mulak Atoll

Special Assembly held at Aminiya School:

- Secretary Generals Message read aloud by a student from the school
- Keynote Address made by UNDP Officer-in-Charge Mr. Arun Kashyap
- A prayer on protection and prevention of disasters (from the Disaster Risk Reduction Textbook for Maldivian Schools) recited by all students and teachers.
- Presentation of the plate for the debate team: by the UNDP Officer-in-Charge to the Principal.



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- Students of the debate team sharing their experiences with the school. (of the trip and their perspectives on disasters and the vulnerability of Maldives to climate change and disasters).
- A skit prepared by the school students on the tsunami and issue of Climate Change in the Maldives.
- A song sung by the students - lyrics, tune created by the students on climate change, vulnerability of Maldives and reducing the risk.
- Coverage by Television Maldives.

Special Assembly in Fuah Mulak Atoll: was held at Hafiz Ahmed School and Atoll Education Centre.

Art Competition: A drawing competition was held to mark the International Day on Disaster Reduction jointly organized by UNISDR and Ministry of Education on the theme "Safer Community - Hospital, School and House of My Dream" in accordance with the United Nations' World Campaigns on Disaster Risk Reduction dedicated to the issues of "Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School" and "Hospitals Safe from Disasters".

Children aged 8-15 were invited to describe, through drawings and paintings, how safe hospitals, schools and houses can contribute to the realization of a safer and disaster resilient community.

The objectives of this competition were

- To promote and increase awareness among the school children on disaster risk reduction initiatives, particularly the importance of building safe schools, hospitals and houses in realizing the vision of a safer and disaster resilient community;
- To increase the visibility of annual programs of the International Day for Disaster Reduction in South Asian countries.

A total of 45 students participated in this competition from a total of seven schools in Male'. The competition was judged by a team organized by the National Art Gallery.

The Award giving ceremony for the Drawing Competition was held at Thaajudheen School on the 14th of October 2009 from 14:30hrs 15:30hrs.

Prizes were awarded to participants by the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Education, Dr. Abdulla Nazeer:-

- **First Prize Winner - Aishath Sajiyah Abdul-sattar of Iskandar School** received a laptop computer and a Certificate of Merit.
- **1st Runner Up Winner - Aminath Shadha Islam of Jamaaludheen School** received a mini-laptop computer and a Certificate of Merit.
- **2nd Runner Up Winner - Aika Ahmed of Jamaaludheen School** received an art kit and a Certificate of Merit.

The first prize winner Aishath Sajiyah Abdul-sattar gave a short overview on how she came up with the winning drawing.

This is the first time that Maldives has celebrated IDDR. The IDDR celebrations have now been integrated into next years academic calendar.

