

## UNISDR ENGAGES CHINESE PRIVATE SECTOR

Margareta Wahlström visited China on November 8 for a first round of consultations on disaster risk reduction with entrepreneurs and business people. Some of the biggest names in Chinese industry were represented at the meeting including the Bank of China, the China Railway Construction Corporation Ltd, China Petroleum Equipment Co. Ltd, the China Association of Women Entrepreneurs, the World Cities Scientific Development Alliance and a number of major investment companies. She said: "China can play a leading role in UNISDR's global initiative to promote public/private sector partnerships in reducing the impact of natural hazards and building the resilience of business to disasters."

For more information, visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/23404>



United Nations  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

UNISDR  
9-11 Rue de Varembe  
CH1202, Geneva  
Switzerland  
ph +41 229178907-8  
fax +41 229178964  
isdr@un.org

<http://www.unisdr.org>  
<http://www.twitter.com/unisdr>  
<http://www.facebook.com/disaster.reduction>

## ARMY AND CIVIL SERVICE IN LEBANON TAKE ON DRR

Following a series of meetings in Beirut with Prime Minister Najib Mikati, the Army Chief of Staff General Walid Salman, Lebanese government ministers and senior officials, UNISDR Chief Margareta Wahlström, welcomed the news that both the Lebanese Army and the National Institute of Administration, the country's civil service, are to make disaster risk reduction a core element of staff training.

She said: "This is a welcome signal from the new government of the importance it attaches to putting in place a culture of risk reduction in a country which has experienced much conflict and is also very vulnerable to earthquakes and other natural hazards. Soldiers and civil servants who understand the principles and practice of disaster risk reduction will be a very valuable resource to the country. UNISDR will be very happy to support these initiatives."

"The new government understands the importance of putting in place the mechanisms for dealing with a high degree of risk from earthquakes and other hazards. Lebanon is one of the most heavily urbanized countries in the world and disaster risk reduction should be at the top of the government's list of priorities."

For more information, visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/23010>

## ASEAN SEEKS RISK FINANCING ROAD MAP

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), The World Bank, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), and UNISDR convened the "ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Forum" to help ASEAN Member States build greater financial resilience to natural disasters in November.

This joint initiative aims to step up the inter-sectoral discussion on DRFI and initiate the development of a risk financing road map for ASEAN as an effective means to manage the worsening financial impacts of natural disasters on Member States.

Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan said that against a background devastating floods across the region, "It is a matter of urgency that risk financing solutions, as a disaster risk reduction measure, now be pursued more aggressively. Governments must understand the benefits of disaster risk financing as part of their comprehensive disaster risk management strategy."

For more information, visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/23405>



United Nations  
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

# EVIDENCE

ISSUE 02 / NOVEMBER 2011 - MONTHLY UNISDR NEWSLETTER

## SOUTHERN AFRICA FORMS REGIONAL DRR PLATFORM

When unexpectedly heavy floods displaced more than a million people in southern Africa in 2007, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) began to meet annually to prepare for future occurrences, culminating in the creation of the SADC Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction last month. For more information, visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/23244>

## CAPE TOWN LAUNCHES DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT CENTRE

Cape Town launched its Disaster Risk Management Centre (DRMC) last month as it marked International Disaster Reduction Day and celebrated its new status as a UNISDR Role Model City as part of the global "Making Cities Resilient" Campaign. Cape Town faces risks from fires, floods and more recently from drought. For more information, visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/22943>



Margareta Wahlström meets with Prime Minister of Lebanon, Najib Mikati (See p.4)

## UNISDR AND PARTNERS PLAN NEW GLOBAL RISK MODEL

UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström, has announced that the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR, is to work with its partners over the next four years on developing a global disaster risk model which will provide the best information available on likely economic losses as climate change kicks in. Wahlström said: "There is no doubt that UNISDR's global risk model first published in the 2009 Global Assessment Report has broken new ground in persuading the public and private sector of the economic and political imperative for investing in disaster risk reduction. It models average annual mortality and economic loss risk for tropical cyclones, floods, landslides, earthquakes and exposure for tsunamis and drought. The model was updated this year to explore risk trends over time for geographic and economic regions. New versions will now be developed and published progressively over the next four years. All the hazard models will be improved and other hazards such as volcanoes, wildfires and agricultural droughts will be progressively included."

For more information, visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/23507>

## MYANMAR COMMITS TO HFA

The new Government of Myanmar intends to adopt the disaster risk reduction plan that was drawn up after Cyclone Nargis two years ago following a series of meetings with UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström. Myanmar Vice-President, Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, said Myanmar was also committed to implementing the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* which is a blue print for measures which will reduce mortality and economic losses from disasters. In April this year Myanmar re-organized its Disaster Preparedness Agency and also established a National Search and Rescue Committee.

For more information, visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/23343>

## this issue

Myanmar commits to HFA P.1

Resilient cities cite Campaign impact P.2

Turkish quake highlights building safety P.3

ASEAN seeks risk financing road map P.4

“The Campaign is opening up debate and triggering discussion. It is a very good thing that the campaign is being extended to 2015.”

Piyush Ranjan Rout, founder of the Local Governance Network in Orissa, India, speaking about the Making Cities Resilient Campaign

## AMERICAS LAUNCH DRR EDUCATION PLATFORM

Eighteen countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have agreed to tighten up on school safety while also integrating disaster risk reduction into the school curriculum, at the Latin American Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Education Sector, held in Panama in October. They are also forming the world's first Thematic Platform for disaster risk management on education.

For more information, visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/23468>

## TURKISH QUAKE PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON BUILDING SAFETY

The tragic loss of life in October's earthquake in the Ercis region of Turkey and the reported collapse of almost 1,000 buildings underlines the importance of providing the right incentives and information to builders and owners in the world's most dangerous earthquake zones. UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström said: “Turkey's seismic code provides the basis for safer structures and better urban planning. The country has made progress in Istanbul and elsewhere in retrofitting and rebuilding public buildings, schools and hospitals to the required standard. Despite any rebuilding or retrofitting and enforcement of standards for new construction, it is clear that in most earthquake zones there are large existing stocks of poor quality buildings so preparedness measures are essential.”

For more information, visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/23078>

## FLOODS AND VULNERABILITY IN EL SALVADOR

El Salvador has been coping with floods and the highest rain levels in 50 years affecting upwards of 300,000 people. A major concern is to ensure that there is close monitoring of the country's two principal volcanoes due to possible mudslides and seismic movements in populated areas including San Salvador, the capital city. “If we look at the impact of these rains, particularly the critical damage they have caused to agriculture and infrastructure, I believe we can say that El Salvador is now in the grips of one of the worst catastrophes in its history”, observes Ricardo Mena, Head of UNISDR Americas Office.

For more information, visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/23140>



Participants at Making Cities Resilient Partnership Meeting, see story on p.3 - Photo by Sandra Amlang



Photo by Brigitte Leoni

## CHILDREN, WORKERS HIT BY ASIAN FLOODS

The annual monsoon season in South East Asia continues to wreak havoc on lives and economies across many parts of the region with Thailand reportedly suffering from the worst floods in 50 years. Head of UNISDR's Asia Pacific Office, Jerry Velasquez, who has been in high media demand since the onset of the floods, commented: “Given what we are seeing, prevention measures need to be upgraded based on new meteorological data to accommodate the known emerging risks that have come about because of rising global temperatures and changing climate and weather patterns. At this point in time we really can't continue to say that we are surprised by the unexpected. The other main point is the death toll of children which is really high. If there's one thing we've achieved over so many years of prevention it is a reduction in the numbers killed by disasters. But the number of children killed in these floods is really high. Countries exposed to flooding should invest in education and teach their children how to swim.”

UNISDR's Asia Pacific Office reports that due to the lack of disaster risk reduction preparedness (DRR) by many private sector companies in Thailand, more than 900 industrial plants in Ayutthaya, among them Honda and Toyota, have been impacted by floods, which have affected more than 200,000 workers.

For more information, visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/23036>

## RESILIENT CITIES CITE CAMPAIGN IMPACT

Role model cities from around the world met for two days in Geneva to brainstorm the next phase of the campaign “Making Cities Resilient – My City is Getting Ready!” and have agreed on extending it to 2015. The 17-month old campaign which now has over 900 members was praised by city representatives from India, the Philippines, Ecuador, Italy and the United Arab Emirates who singled out the aspects that had encouraged their local governments to get involved.

For more information, visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/23270>

## AUDIT FRAMEWORK FOR DRR RAISED

Disaster risk reduction was high on the agenda as government auditors met in Turkey last month to discuss accountability and good practices in the area of disaster-related aid. The Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on Accountability for and Audit of Disaster-related Aid, chaired by Gijs de Vries of the European Court of Auditors, was convened by the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI). The Working Group was addressed for the first time by UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström, who said that national auditors at the meeting expressed interest in creating an audit framework for disaster risk reduction, and were planning to complete the first draft next year.

For more information, visit: <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/23164>