

A series of radio and television commercials aimed at educating and sensitizing millions of viewers in the Philippines about disaster risk reduction is being aired throughout the disaster prone south-east Asian nation.

"These commercials will help people understand the risks they face. It is an awareness tool to remind everyone that natural hazards need not become disasters," said Senator Loren Legarda who launched the commercials in July.

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/TCQZQ>



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## INDIGENOUS PEOPLE THREATENED BY DROUGHT

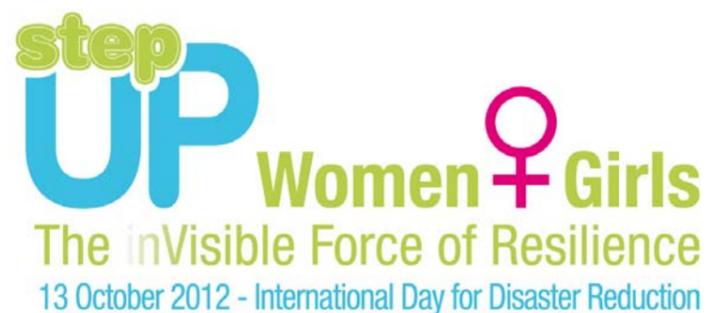
Mexico is in the grips of a drought which has devastated agricultural production for over one year now. According to the National Water Commission the prolonged drought has affected 70 percent of the country. Chihuahua is one of the areas most affected by the Mexican drought. It is home to the reclusive indigenous Tarahumara community. Compounding the tragedy are drug cartels that are exploiting the legendary Tarahumara endurance running and enlisting them to run drugs by foot across the border to the U.S.

"Indigenous people are among the most vulnerable. Climate change added to their current socioeconomic condition, can transform drought into a chronic, widespread and irreversible disaster for these communities. While immediate measures to alleviate the suffering of the Tarahumara are necessary, even more critical are the establishment of credible drought risk models to protect them, create resilience and safeguard their culture and heritage", said Ricardo Mena Head of the UN Americas Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). **For more information, visit:** <http://goo.gl/dWQgu>

## CLIMATE MIGRANTS IN HARM'S WAY

The Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government, Sir John Beddington, recently spoke to UNISDR about how migration triggered by natural hazards is actually taking people into areas of increasing vulnerability. Sir John leads the Technology Foresight Programme which recently produced the report 'Migration and Global Environmental Change: Future Challenges and Opportunities.'

"Previous discussions on migration in the context of climate change were saying people were fleeing from areas because of the effect of climate change on sea level, storm surges and so on. But this report actually came out with something that is rather more subtle: that migration is taking people into areas of increasing vulnerability. Obviously cities are one of those," he said. **For more information, visit:** <http://goo.gl/TepqA>



Step Up for Disaster Risk Reduction on 13 October!

<http://www.unisdr.org/2012/iddr>

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## CHILDREN ASK TO BE HEARD ON POST-HFA

Japanese school children have asked Margareta Wahlström, to make sure that children's views are taken into account in the consultations on a new framework agreement on disaster risk reduction to succeed the Hyogo Framework for Action which expires in 2015. Ms. Wahlström took time out to meet the children while she was attending the World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction hosted by the Government of Japan in July.

At a dialogue event organized by Save the Children, Ms. Wahlström met with children from "Children's Community Building Clubs" in the Tohoku region. They meet once a week in Ishinomaki City, Rikuzentakata City, and Yamada town to discuss how they can contribute and make their communities better through the reconstruction efforts in their communities following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/0lu9L>



UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlström met with children from "Children's Community Building Clubs" in the Tohoku region of Japan.

## FIRST RISK AWARD GOES TO BEIRA

The flood-prone coastal city of Beira in Mozambique has been named as the winner of the first RISK Award at the 4th International Disaster and Risk Conference. Beira won with a proposal to implement a flood warning system based on digital contact sensors activated by rising water levels and a system of well-trained Disaster Risk Reduction Committees. The prize is a collaboration between UNISDR, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Munich Re Foundation and the Global Risk Forum, Davos. The €100,000 prize for project implementation is funded through the Munich Re Foundation.

Jaoa Ribero, Director, National Disaster Management Institute (INGC), said: "After the great floods of 2000, INGC began involving communities in disaster risk management. Rural flooding was regular during 2006 to 2008 then Mozambique began to see flooding in urban areas in 2007. Beira was one of those cities." INGC is strongly focused on building community capacity with its German Development Cooperation partner GIZ.

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/hE1TD>

## MANILA FLOODS HIT HARD

Even by the standards of one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, the August floods which hit Manila and other parts of the Philippines have been devastating. Latest reports indicate that four million people have been affected and as many as one million people are living with relatives or in evacuation centres. UNISDR Regional Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction, Senator Loren Legarda, called for more "disaster and climate risk-sensitive development planning. Over half a million Filipinos, so called climate refugees that were displaced by the monsoon rains, have suffered irreparable damage on their homes and possessions, adding to the 3,995 families still residing in temporary shelters seven months after Tropical Storm Sendong." **For more information, visit:** <http://goo.gl/pGCCy>

## AFRICA MOVES ON DISASTER INSURANCE

UNISDR Parliamentary Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction, Abdou Sané, Member of Parliament from Senegal, has welcomed the African Union's decision to establish an African Risk Capacity Secretariat - a specialized agency of the African Union which will help elaborate a legal agreement on a pooled risk insurance facility for droughts, floods, earthquakes and cyclones.

Mr. Sané praised the move, saying African governments had crossed the line from "a philosophy of reaction" to a "proactive approach of forecast and reduction of climate risks."

More than two-thirds of Africa's population lives in rural areas and depend on rain-fed agriculture and pasture, making them highly vulnerable to bouts of extreme dry weather, noting that there have been 132 recorded droughts in sub-Saharan Africa since 1990, according to the AU.

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/Zo2RQ>

## GAP BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION

In a major address to the 4th International Disaster and Risk Conference in Davos, UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström, said: "Any worthwhile narrative on the 21st century must begin with a prologue on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and end with an epitaph on the triumph of human resilience if there is to be any narrative at all for future generations. From the turn of this century to now, disasters have taken 1.1 million lives; destroyed 1.3 trillion dollars of counted worth of property, and affected 2.7 billion people. The latter is almost half of the world's current population of 6 billion. The recent IPCC Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events demonstrates that we have the knowledge to make the right choices about managing climate related disaster risks. In fact, we have the knowledge to manage any hazard risk, be it hydro meteorological or geo-physical. The danger is that there is a gap between our state of knowledge and resulting action."

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/FwpPK>

## SCHOOLS FOR DRR

A new study by UNICEF and UNESCO is a timely assessment of how some countries are faring with the implementation of disaster risk reduction education seven years after such education was requested by the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). The report, Disaster Risk Reduction in School Curricula: Case studies from Thirty Countries, will contribute to efforts currently being undertaken by the United Nations Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education to build resilience. It will also help governments to respond positively to commitments made on disaster risk reduction education at the 2009 and 2011 Global Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction. For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/8XZM8>

UNISDR Chief Margareta Wahlström speaking at the opening ceremony of IDRC. (Photo/GRFDavos)



UNDP Administrator Helen Clark (Photo/UNDP)

## UNDP TO DOUBLE ITS SUPPORT FOR DISASTER REDUCTION

UNDP Administrator, Helen Clark, said the agency intends to double its overall support for disaster reduction over the next five years and will add five countries per year to the "growing list of countries on track to becoming champions in disaster resilience." In a major policy speech which follows the launch by UNISDR of consultations on a replacement for the Hyogo Framework for Action, the international agreement on disaster risk reduction which expires in 2015, Ms. Clark said the post-Hyogo discussions need to link to other processes.

"2015 is the date for achieving most of the Millennium Development Goal targets which have guided international development since 2000. Disaster risk reduction needs to become central to mainstream development planning and action, and be reflected in discussions of the overall post-2015 development agenda," she said.

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/yGIOh>

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Margareta Wahlström during the opening ceremony of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Disaster and Risk Conference (IDRC)

For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/FwpPK>

## NEW URBAN RESILIENCE AWARD

UNISDR and the China-based World Cities Scientific Development Alliance (WCSDA) have announced the launch of the Resilient Cities Award to recognize excellence in land use planning and design and other activities that help protect communities from the impacts of natural hazards. The award, which will be presented at a ceremony in Beijing, China on 29-31 October during the Second Mayors' Summit on Disaster Risk Reduction, comes at a time when cities across the world are facing more extreme weather events and feeling the pressure of rapid urbanization and population growth.

"The Resilient Cities Award aims to raise awareness of the importance of good planning in the face of urbanization and climate change, and advance the exchange of ideas, innovation, and investment in disaster risk reduction," said Helena Molin Valdes, Coordinator of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign. For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/aiPfu>