

who shared experiences on disaster risk reduction and resilience with representatives from the Climate and Development Knowledge Network, UK, Oxfam-Tanzania and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa.

Margareta Wahlström said: "The aim of this private sector initiative in Africa is to get more businesses to integrate disaster risk reduction into their business planning. This is a promising start and we hope to see more businesses coming on board."

Read more: <http://goo.gl/zlrh2>

10 > Algeria reviews HFA

Algeria has held North Africa's first national review of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) as UNISDR's consultations continue around the world on developing a new global framework for disaster risk reduction by 2015. "The new framework needs to maintain key elements of the current HFA but it should also focus on strengthening areas where progress has been slow," said Latifa Benazza, Director for Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Read more: <http://goo.gl/W1Pxs>

11 > Iran: Empowering women

Bitia Roohi is the first woman to be appointed a disaster

>> Disaster risk transforming African cities

Risks that have historically played out in rural areas like drought, floods and wildfires "are being transferred and transformed and expressed differently across Africa's fast growing cities and towns," said Dr. Ailsa Holloway in her keynote address to the 4th Africa Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in February.

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/EIG6F>



Main Office
9-11 Rue de Varembe
CH1202, Geneva
Switzerland



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FEBRUARY 2013 UNISDR NEWSLETTER

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manager in Iran where she is in charge of disaster management and risk reduction for the city of Hamadan, situated 360 km south-west of Tehran on the slopes of Mount Alvand. Hamadan province has a long history of earthquakes. Speaking to UNISDR, Mrs. Roohi observed that "Post-disaster trauma, anxiety and depression affect nearly one out of every three women."

Read more: <http://goo.gl/rpL9T>

12 > Gulf Council's risk roadmap

The Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), Abdul-Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani, has called for strong regional commitment towards development of a disaster risk reduction strategy. Al Zayani outlined five strategic targets: protecting the security and stability of GCC countries; maintaining sustainable economic growth; achieving comprehensive human development; increasing capacity to deal with crises and disasters; and enhancing regional and international cooperation.

Read more: <http://goo.gl/W1twv>

1 > GAR13 to focus on private sector, disaster risk

Work is entering the final stages on UNISDR's new edition of the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR13) which will appear in May this year. It is already being hailed by many peer reviewers as a "pioneering" piece of work because of its focus on risk as a major blind spot for the private sector.

UNISDR Chief Margareta Wahlström, wrapping up a two-day meeting in February with the GAR13's Editorial Advisory Board, concluded: "How the private sector and governments take on board the key findings of this report will influence trillions of dollars of investment in critical infrastructure in years to come."

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

2 > Africa stakes out its position on HFA

The 4th Africa Regional Platform concluded with a detailed set of commitments and recommendations on the complex challenges Africa faces due to surging economic growth, rapid urbanization, climate change and a wide range of natural hazards in February.

UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström, congratulated the participants from 40 countries across Africa for their contribution to shaping the international framework for disaster risk reduction, which will follow on from the current Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), which expires in 2015.

"Key findings of this report will influence trillions of dollars of investment in critical infrastructure in years to come."

Ms. Wahlström said: "This Regional Platform has shown that disaster risk reduction is centre stage for all African countries and is essential to building resilience to disasters as we debate the post-2015 development agenda and the future of the HFA."

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

3 > Thousands to attend Global Platform

UNISDR expects 3,000 people to attend the fourth session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction which will be the last to take place before the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in 2015.

The Global Platform will take place in Geneva from May 19 to May 23. This is the 4th such event to be held since 2007 and will be a major milestone in the consultative process facilitated by UNISDR for the development of a post-2015 global framework for disaster risk reduction. Those wishing to attend can register online.

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/92ALP>

4 > Asia and the economics of disasters: The 'Inside Story'

Asia suffers from more disasters than any place on earth. While the number of people killed by disasters in the region decreased in 2012, the economic impact remains a major cause of concern. The 'Inside Story', an

"All of these disasters in the past few years, a large proportion of the losses, are actually borne by regular people - farmers, teachers, policemen. And, most of them get no support."



Aljazeera English program, discussed the economic implications with UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström.

"All of these disasters in the past few years, a large proportion of the losses, are actually borne by regular people - farmers, teachers, policemen. And, most of them get no support," said Jerry Velasquez, Head of the UNISDR's Asia-Pacific Regional Office who also featured in the programme. Manu Gupta, the chair of the Asia Disaster Reduction and Response Network; and Helen Hodge, an associate director at the risk analysis company, Maplecroft, also participated.

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/7MQ6Y>

5 > Impact of poor urban governance

A new report acknowledges the Philippines as a global leader in enacting legislation on disaster risk reduction but finds this is undermined by poor urban governance resulting in ineffective building codes and poor land use planning at the local level.

"Disaster-induced internal displacement in the Philippines" takes an in-depth look at the aftermath of Tropical Storm Washi / Sendong which hit Mindanao in December 2011 and finds that the storm's impacts "show that legislation is insufficient unless it is supported by strong political will to ensure implementation."

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/Y6CDB>

6 > Colombia moving ahead on HFA

High-level experts gathered in Bogota, Colombia, to identify strategic actions following legislation introduced last year, inspired by the Hyogo Framework for Action, which focuses on improving disaster response mechanisms but also on disaster preparedness, risk reduction and risk knowledge.

Law 1523 signed by President Juan Manuel Santos established a new "National System for Disaster Risk Management" and also emphasizes the importance of engaging with local communities.

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/B0f0M>

>> Italy seeks EUR 40 bn for flood prevention

The Italian Government is seeking EUR 40 billion over the next 15 years for flood prevention further to heavy rain and storms at the end of 2012. The country's Inter-Ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE) is considering a plan which includes measures to adapt infrastructure for water management including drains and collection systems.

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

7 > Climate change causes community conflict

Speaking at the opening of the 4th Africa Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Tanzanian Minister for the Environment, Dr. Terezya Huvisa Luoga, expressed her fears that climate change could cause community conflict in her country.

Dr. Huvisa who is also President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), said: "In AMCEN we are so much concerned about disasters caused by climate change in our countries. Climate change disasters faced by Tanzanians and all Africans are threatening the lives and sustainable development of the African continent.

"In Tanzania we are experiencing outbreaks of violence between the livestock keepers and the farmers as water shortages force livestock keepers to move south onto farmlands. I would like this conference to address seriously the issue of disasters being caused by climate change."

She said the existing international framework for disaster risk reduction known as the Hyogo Framework for Action had "served our country as main point of reference in devising and reviewing plans, policy program and strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction."

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/8UbGP>

Cover photo - from left: African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, H.E. Tumusiime Rhoa Peace, Margareta Wahlstrom, UNISDR Chief, and the Minister for the Environment, United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Terezya Huvisa

8 > Disaster databases in Africa

Ethiopia is on course to build Africa's most comprehensive risk profile database by 2015 and has urged other countries on the continent to follow its example.

In a keynote address to the 4th Africa Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in February, Tadesse Bekele, Deputy Director in Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector of the Ministry of Agriculture, said that Ethiopia has carried out 100,000 household interviews representing a population of 35 million in 250 districts. It is on course to complete detailed risk profiling for all 750 districts by 2015.

"I would encourage all countries in Africa to follow Ethiopia's example in developing in-depth information systems based on nationwide risk profiling of disaster-affected communities. It is important to get out of the vicious circle of managing from crisis to crisis," he said.

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/Lkkd5>

9 > UNISDR private sector initiative launched in Africa

A private sector initiative for Africa was launched mid-February by UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström, at the 4th Africa Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

An inaugural meeting took place including representatives from ARUP, Microsoft, and Safaricom