

10 > Jordan sticks with HFA despite refugee crisis

UNISDR Chief Margareta Wahlström met with senior government ministers of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who briefed her on the challenge to disaster risk management in the resource-starved country as it seeks to meet the needs of an estimated 440,000 Syrian refugees.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nasser Joudah, said he was looking forward to receiving feedback from UNISDR following the country's completion of its first report on implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, the global agreement on disaster risk reduction.

Read more: <http://goo.gl/oW5if>

11 > UNISDR Chief meets children of Fukushima

UNISDR Chief Margareta Wahlström announced that children from Japan who continue to live with the consequences of the Great East Japan Earthquake, will attend May's Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Read more: <http://goo.gl/m8c3d>

>> Nablus to join Cities' Campaign

UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström, has welcomed Nablus' commitment to become the first Palestinian city to join UNISDR's Making Cities Resilient Campaign. The city has experienced more than 20 major earthquakes in the last 1,000 years.

In his meeting with Ms Wahlström, the Mayor of Nablus, Ghassan Al Shakaa, highlighted the city's efforts to reduce disaster risks and confirmed his commitment to take the necessary steps to join the Making Cities Resilient campaign "as soon as possible".

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

"76% of respondents say that the top priorities for inclusion in the HFA2 are ensuring that land use, urban planning and building codes include measures for reducing disaster risk."

12 > Italy's disaster loss database

The Italian government is in the process of establishing a national disaster loss database in the wake of last year's devastating series of earthquakes and after-shocks that caused EUR13 billion of losses. The database represents a major boost to strengthening community and national resilience in Italy. Such a critical tool, unfortunately, remains lacking in many other hazard-prone European countries.

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/2BJUo>

13 > Cities identify HFA2 priorities in new survey

A new UNISDR survey has received over 1,000 responses spelling out what cities and towns would like to see included in the new global framework for disaster risk reduction which will follow on from the existing Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in 2015.

An early analysis of the survey results to date, shows that 76% of respondents say that the top priorities for inclusion in the HFA2 are ensuring that land use, urban planning and building codes include measures for reducing disaster risk.

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

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"This year's Global Platform provides an opportunity to turn up the volume in the discussion on the importance of the private sector in disaster risk reduction."



Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Fourth Session - Invest Today for a Safer Tomorrow

Geneva, Switzerland, 19-23 May 2013

<http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2013/>

2 > UN family agrees plan for disaster risk reduction

Representatives of UN agencies, funds and programmes completed an action plan in March that will accelerate the integration of disaster risk reduction into all UN country level operations in response to the rising levels of disruption to millions of lives each year from disasters.

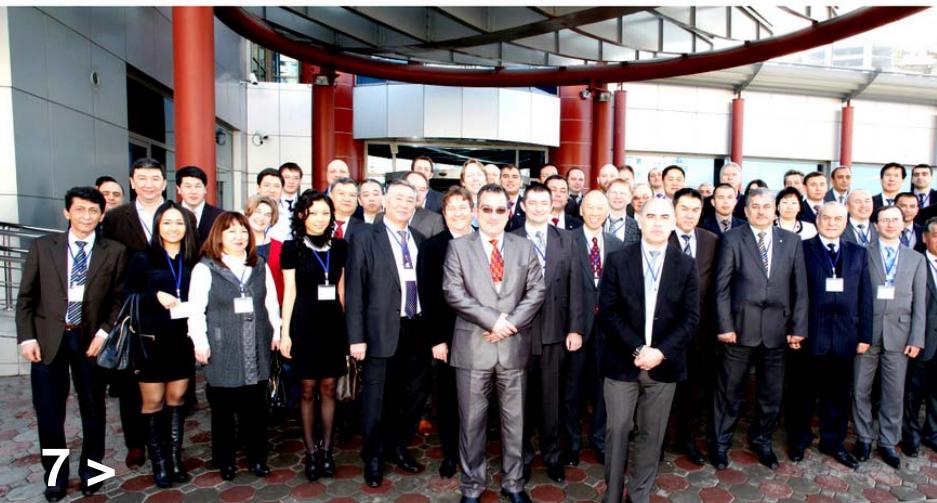
The United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience commits to bringing multiple partners together to support the further implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, the international framework agreement on disaster risk reduction, adopted by all UN member States in 2005.

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/mxn1f>

3 > Arab cities set targets for risk reduction

Mayors and local government representatives across the region agreed on the Arab Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Cities at the First Arab Regional Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction organized by UNISDR and partners in March.

Five years after energy black-outs and major floods exposed serious weaknesses in the city's infrastructure and services, Barcelona has been recognized as a role model for urban resilience...



Conference participants representing some 40 cities and towns across the region set 13 concrete targets for the next five years including allocating at least 2% of annual budget to disaster risk reduction; establishing a dedicated unit for planning and organization; passing legislation and implementing specific disaster mitigation measures.

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

4 > Frank Sinatra's resilient hometown

Early April, some 1,000 residents of the city of Hoboken in New Jersey, birthplace of the legendary crooner Frank Sinatra, came out in full force and high spirits to run a special race in aid of Hurricane Sandy disaster relief in both Hoboken and its sister city Port Maria in Jamaica. Hoboken has also joined UNISDR's "Making Cities Resilient" Campaign.

Following the event's striking success, Mayor Zimmer announced that the Resilience Run will be held again next year and could well be an annual tradition in the making.

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/VAwn6>

5 > UN recognizes Barcelona as role model city

Five years after energy black-outs and major floods exposed serious weaknesses in the city's infrastructure and services, Barcelona has been recognized as a role

model for urban resilience in recognition of its efforts to reduce the vulnerability of critical infrastructure and services.

UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström, welcomed the city into UNISDR's Making Cities Resilient Campaign. "The work of the Mayor and citizens of Barcelona to protect and upgrade critical infrastructure, and to ensure that continuous access to services in the event of disaster, make them the very example of resilience. Barcelona's 'City Protocol' is a good model for local governments seeking to take action to make their cities safer and more resilient."

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/Zo8rZ>

6 > Media training and Cyclone Nargis

Five years after Cyclone Nargis claimed over 138,000 lives, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is joining

>> Bosnia and Herzegovina launch platform

UNISDR Chief Margareta Wahlström participated in the launch of a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina where over 400,000 people have been affected by floods and drought since the beginning of the century, taking a major toll on the country's economic development.

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

forces with the media in Myanmar to highlight the lessons learned as the anniversary of the tragedy comes around.

Sixteen journalists from the country's main print and TV media organizations met in Yangon for two days to learn more about the root causes of disasters. And they all committed to writing stories about the changes and challenges of disaster risk management since Cyclone Nargis in a country which suffers from a wide variety of natural hazards including earthquakes, floods and wildfires.

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

7 > Central Asia meets on HFA2

Representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan gathered in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and identified significant progress on HFA implementation and priorities for the future. The region has high exposure to earthquakes, drought, landslides, wildfires and other hazards.

The gathering heard that the government of Kazakhstan will shortly endorse the intergovernmental agreement with Kyrgyzstan on the establishment of the Centre for Disaster Response and Disaster Risk Reduction in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Read more: <http://goo.gl/6Jkkv>

8 > Aqaba's resilience protects investments

The busy Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba, has become the first city in the region to be recognized by UNISDR's Making Cities Resilient Campaign as a role model.

The fast developing port city and tourist destination is making a virtue of its exposure to seismic risk and flash floods by promoting its growing disaster risk management capacity in order to instill confidence in investors and tourists that strong measures are being taken to protect the city and its population from future risks.

The Chief Commissioner of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA), Dr Kamel Mahadin, said Aqaba was proud to be acknowledged by UNISDR as a role model city for its efforts to build resilience to disasters.

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/10Eq7>

9 > Petra joins Cities Campaign

Petra is the first of the "seven wonders of the world" to join UNISDR's Making Cities Resilient Campaign, an event which was officially marked during a visit to Jordan by UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström in March. The Mayor of Petra, Mohammed Abu Al-Ghanam, said he was very pleased to join the campaign and to be recognized by UNISDR alongside other UNESCO world heritage sites such as Venice and Byblos.

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