

10 > Fiji's business resilience

In the worst of three disasters in 2012, floods reached some ceilings in the Fijian tourist hub of Nadi yet within a month 70 per cent of businesses were back up and running, according to Adrian Hughes, the Head of Westpac Banking Corporation in the city. He was speaking at the 2013 Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Pacific Climate Change Roundtable.

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

11 > Reducing economic losses

More than 18,000 km separates New Zealand from Scotland but the two countries are much closer when it comes to pursuing proactive partnerships to strengthen the resilience of their communities and countries.

UNISDR's 2013 Global Assessment Report highlights a public-private partnership study in Christchurch, New Zealand, that prompted the city's utilities to incorporate disaster risk management into their daily practices with a reduction in economic losses. In Scotland, national

>> Post-2015 proposal on resilient cities

UNISDR Chief Margareta Wahlström has welcomed a proposal from the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN) that "resilient cities" should be one of ten top global priorities in the post-2015 development agenda. Ms. Wahlström said: "UNISDR has been running the Making Cities Resilient Campaign for three years now and our experience of working closely with both capital cities and small municipalities tells us that urban resilience needs to be at the top of the global development agenda. Many Mayors and local governments around the world are leading the way in reducing risk."

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/vfGHu9>



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"Many Mayors and local governments around the world are leading the way in reducing risk."

planning policy has reduced construction on flood plains to almost zero since 1995. The approach is also founded on public-private partnerships.

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/XL4pfl>

13 October

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION 2013



UNISDR.ORG/2013/IDDR

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"...Follow the example of the Pacific and abandon the current norm of running separate and parallel strategies for disaster risk management and climate change."

1 > Praise for Pacific strategy

Speaking at the 2013 Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Pacific Climate Change Roundtable in Nadi, Fiji, in early July, Ms Wahlström, Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), hailed the Pacific as it committed to a world first of integrating action in disaster risk management and climate change in one strategy to secure a sustainable future for this increasingly threatened region.

"I urge the world to follow the example of the Pacific and abandon the current norm of running separate and parallel strategies for disaster risk management and climate change. By committing to integrate the two approaches, the Pacific will benefit millions of people and avoid billions of dollars in economic losses," Ms Wahlström said.

The Pacific's acute vulnerability leaves it no alternative but to lead the world in integrating risk reduction and climate change according to the Director-General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Dr David Sheppard.

"Although Pacific countries only contribute 0.03 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, our countries are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and sea level rise: We will be the first to go under," he told the 2013 Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Pacific Climate Change Roundtable in Nadi, Fiji.

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

2 > UNISDR launches survey on disability and disasters

Over 1,700 people living with disability in 110 countries have so far responded to UNISDR's online survey for people living with disabilities on their coping capacity in the face of a disaster event.

Margareta Wahlström, head of UNISDR, said: "The survey will focus on a major blind spot in disaster management, the needs of the one billion or more people estimated to live with some form of disability. We can expect that as many as 30 million people living with a disability are affected during an average year by earthquakes and weather-related hazards."

The survey results will be announced on International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction which is marked each year on October 13. UNISDR is working closely with UN ENABLE, the Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network for Asia and the Pacific (DiDRRN) and other partners on implementing the survey.

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/ktHcY4>

Cover photo – Which place is safe when a flood or storm comes? Participants with hearing impairment point at a hazard map of their community they drew at a Malteser International workshop in Danang, Vietnam. This year's International Day for Disaster Reduction focuses on people living with disabilities and disasters. Take the survey at: <http://www.unisdr.org/2013/iddr>

(Credit: Guilhem Alandry/doculab/Malteser International)

The insurance industry needs to completely rethink its approach to assessing risk because of more unpredictable extreme weather events.



>> Ms. Fatimetou Mint Abdel Malick, Mayor of Tevragh-Zeina, receives recognition from Margareta Wahlström of being a DRR champion for resilient cities.



10 > The March 2012 Nadi River floods reached 8.3 metres completely inundating several businesses. However, within a month 70 per cent had reopened in a remarkable demonstration of resilience.



11 > UNISDR staff demonstrate to the UN Secretary-General the iPad version of the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR).

3 > 2013 floods a "turning point"

The Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Margareta Wahlström, predicted that the year 2013 will be a turning point in how governments around the world view the threat of floods in a new age of extreme weather events.

She said: "The shocking loss of life in India underlines how vitally important it is that we start planning for future scenarios far removed from anything that we may have experienced in the past. When we look at the worldwide escalation in economic losses from disasters over the last five years it is clear that our exposure to extreme events is growing and this trend needs to be addressed through better land use and more resilient infrastructure as we seek to cope with population growth and rapid urbanization."

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

4 > Pacific's drought risk

UNISDR has issued a warning that a lack of safe drinking water is emerging as a major natural hazard for many small islands in the Pacific. More than 6,700 people on the Marshall Islands have a lack of safe water as drought conditions have depleted water tanks and made groundwater unsuitable for human consumption due to high salinity. The government has declared a "state of drought disaster".

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/ZWr110>

5 > UNISDR honours Canberra

UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström, has officially acknowledged Canberra as a Role Model city for UNISDR's Making Cities Resilient Campaign for its exceptional organizational capacity in preparing for, and responding to, natural hazards, such as floods, severe storms and bushfires.

Australian Capital Territory Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Simon Corbell said: "Experience has taught us how vital building resilience against a wide range of natural hazards in a disaster-prone area like Canberra is. I am proud that the United Nations has selected the Australian Capital Territory as a Role Model for this world wide campaign."

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/b0L0rz>

>> Mauritania's new champion

The Mayor of Tevragh-Zeina municipality in Nouakchott (Mauritania), Ms. Fatimetou Mint Abdel Malick, has been named Champion of the "Making Cities Resilient" campaign in recognition of her commitment and dedication to make her city more resilient to disasters.

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

6 > Cities as havens

An innovative urban developer in Japan has urged public and private sector leaders to embrace his company's vision of building cities that "people escape to rather than run away from" during disasters. At the Japanese launch of the 2013 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2013, Shuichi Sano, Senior General Manager of Mori Building said:

"Mori Building has recognized the need to explicitly deal with earthquake risk in the construction and maintenance of its developments."

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/od9QMY>

7 > Nigeria to strengthen disaster resilience

The Nigerian government has requested UNISDR to facilitate the development of a comprehensive disaster risk management plan for Africa's most populous country. The agreement to move beyond a predominantly response-focused approach to disaster planning came after wide ranging discussions between Nigerian Vice President Namadi Sambo and the head of UNISDR Margareta Wahlström in Abuja.

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

8 > Insurance industry warning

The insurance industry needs to completely rethink its approach to assessing risk because of more unpredictable extreme weather events, according to a new report from the Geneva Association, a risk and insurance think-tank.

"Traditional approaches, which are solely based on analysing historical data, increasingly fail to estimate today's hazard probabilities. A paradigm shift from historic to predictive risk assessment methods is necessary" according to the report entitled "Warming of the oceans and implications for the (re)insurance industry."

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/UB8nv5>

9 > Brazil's first role model city

The UN office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) has recognized the dynamic and vibrant economic and technological centre of Campinas for its commitment to reduce its disaster risk. The Head of UNISDR, Margareta Wahlström, officially acknowledged Campinas as Brazil's first Role Model City of UNISDR's Making Cities Resilient campaign.

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