

8 > Bush fire threat

Barry O'Farrell, the Premier of New South Wales, Australia, declared a state of emergency as weather conditions deteriorated significantly in bush fire zones "with potential for a significant and widespread danger to life and property across the State." Summer does not officially begin in southern Australia until December 1, but already a series of devastating fires look set to make the coming hot season one of the costliest.

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/5PZiFB>

9 > Europe improves on floods

EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Kristalina Georgieva, has told European parliamentarians that significant progress has been made in reducing disaster impacts across Europe over the last nine years of the HFA. She said this year's floods in Europe were worse than those which occurred in 2002 but fewer people died and damage had been contained because of measures which have been taken to reduce vulnerability. The floods could cost Euros 13 billion.

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/Se9LL5>

10 > DRR award

Dr Ilan Kelman, who is based at the Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research in Oslo, was presented with the Damir Čemerin Award for Local Change at the European Forum for DRR for his work to link DRR with climate change adaptation.

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

Call For Papers!

State of DRR at Local Level – Deadline: 14 Nov 2013
<http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/>



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SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2013 UNISDR NEWSLETTER

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Evacuations like these saved countless lives. Great community response to the warnings. Well done India. #Phailin
pic.twitter.com/tZ2mSz8JU1

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1 > Shock survey on disasters and disability

The results of the first-ever UN global survey of persons living with disabilities on how they cope with disasters, illustrates why they die, or are injured, in disproportionate numbers in disasters. An estimated 15% of the world's population lives with some form of disability.

Whether in multi-hazard prone United States of America or Bangladesh, earthquake-prone Italy or flood-prone Thailand, people living with disabilities across the world say they are rarely consulted about their needs and only 20% could evacuate immediately without difficulty in the event of a sudden disaster event, the remainder could only do so with a degree of difficulty and 6% would not be able to do so at all.

The fact that the percentage of those who could evacuate with no difficulty almost doubles if they are given sufficient time, underlines the importance of early warning systems and ensuring that warnings reach all members of the community regardless of any mobility or communication challenges.

UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström, described the results of the survey as "shocking." She said: "I would like to express my gratitude to the 5,450 people from 126 countries who have made the effort, sometimes with the help of a relative or friend, to fill in this survey which provides us with a new insight into how to build a world more resilient to disasters for both disabled and able-bodied people."

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

2 > Millions Tweet for IDDR

One tweet on 13 October this year, "Disability is not inability! I am supporting this year's International Day for Disaster Reduction", was the simple message that galvanized over five million people all over the world on social media around the critical issue of persons living with disabilities and disasters.

This year's International Day organized by UNISDR with UN-ENABLE was observed in 120 countries, with support from 2,000 governmental and non-governmental organizations. UN-ENABLE also tapped into its 11,000-plus network of disability advocates to drum up support for the Day.

To date, 5,700 people from 130 countries have responded to UNISDR's survey of people living with disabilities and how they cope with disaster situations. The survey and the vivid stories received from the respondents and their care-givers paints a picture of a very resilient group of people struggling against exclusion.

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

Cover photo – For the 2013 International Day for Disaster Reduction theme of disability and disaster, staff at UNISDR's Geneva headquarters organized an afternoon of basketball at the International School of Geneva with the participation of CERN, the Basketball Club Latino Carouge, and the Geneva Environment Network. The highlight of the event was a demonstration by members of the Aigles de Meyrin wheelchair basketball team, a local professional team.

For more photos of the afternoon, visit: <http://www.henrikthorlund.com/galleries/organizations/isdr/international-day-2013>

For photos of the various events that took place around world, visit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/isdr/sets/72157634649035180/>

“I recommend that we engage in a country-wide risk evaluation of all our schools and hospitals as part of the UNISDR Safe Schools and Hospitals campaign.”



>> Margareta Wahlström, who welcomed the Rabat Declaration's call for a post-2015 urban development goal, also participated in the launch of the third report of the Global Observatory of Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD III) – Photo: UCLG



2 > A local fair, that included a marketplace and theatre performances, was organized in Cusco, Peru as part of events around the world that celebrated the 2013 International Day for Disaster Reduction.



7 > The 4th European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction took place in Oslo, Norway to share Europe's experience in the lead-up to a new international framework for DRR - Photo: Hanne Negaard

3 > Philippine Resilience Award

Philippine President Benigno Aquino has ordered an investigation into possible violations of the building code following October's 7.2 magnitude earthquake in the Visayas region which has resulted in at least 171 deaths and widespread damage and destruction to critical infrastructure in Cebu, Bohol and Siquijor provinces.

He also directed the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Science and Technology to continue development of a comprehensive plan to make high-risk buildings and other structures more resilient to earthquakes. He said that the government would also be coordinating with the private sector to help with the audit of buildings.

UNISDR Champion, Senator Loren Legarda made an impassioned plea for stronger enforcement of building regulations: "We need safe schools and hospitals and it is clear from this disaster event that we do not always have them. I recommend that we engage in a country-wide risk evaluation of all our schools and hospitals as part of the UNISDR Safe Schools and Hospitals campaign so we can take immediate action to ensure that these important community assets are fully disaster-proof."

Philippines Senator Loren Legarda marked the 2013 International Day for Disaster Reduction with the launch of a national Resilience Award to inspire local leadership to build safer communities. Typhoon Nari left 13 people dead in the northern provinces of the Philippines and 750,000 people were affected.

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

4 > DRR saves lives in India

Untold thousands of lives were saved by early warnings, good communications and timely evacuations of over one million people as Cyclone Phalin roared towards Odisha and other parts of India on October 12, putting 12 million people in jeopardy. Loss of life has been minimal but many homes and businesses have been lost along with critical infrastructure. The State government of Odisha estimates the losses at \$700 million.

UNISDR Chief, Margareta Wahlström said: "The Indian government, the Indian Meteorological Department, the State governments of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, their local governments and disaster management authorities are to be congratulated for the highly professional way in which they tracked the cyclone

and took the necessary measures to evacuate a million people out of harm's way.

"It is clear that the economic losses will be enormous from the wind damage and extensive flooding of Odisha's farms in particular but the recovery effort is well underway and the lessons learned from this disaster can only strengthen India's resilience."

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/1qhQZI>

5 > Invest better in DRR

Donor governments have signaled the need to better capture investments in disaster risk reduction to strengthen evidence of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

A roundtable of donors broadly supported efforts to improve tracking of international spending on disaster risk reduction as preparations for the Third World Conference on Disaster Reduction, in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015, get underway.

The Geneva consultation, entitled "Options for increasing the effectiveness of development assistance for disaster risk reduction", was hosted by Ambassador Elissa Golberg of the Permanent Mission of Canada on behalf of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

For more, visit: <http://goo.gl/E7zWSP>

6 > IPCC Climate Report

Based on current disaster trends and economic values, the world is looking at a minimum cost in the region of 25 trillion dollars in disaster losses for the 21st century if there is no concerted response to climate change.

Margareta Wahlström, UNISDR Chief, said: "The robust science behind the latest Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change report translates into a world of catastrophic losses unless there are wholesale changes in how we allocate resources to prepare for extreme weather events."

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

7 > Finland's HFA Review

Finland has begun a peer review of its national implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), the global agreement on disaster risk reduction. The 4th European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) heard that Finland is aiming for the same impact as the UK's peer review – the world's first – which served as a catalyst for high-level engagement and reflection. EFDRR members called for a better understanding of advances in governance and accountability of disaster management. They agreed to consolidate Europe's learning in this regard.

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

>> Urban DRR Call

The World's biggest forum of local leaders has called for sustainable urban development to be integral to the post-2015 development agenda. The Rabat Declaration at the conclusion of the Fourth United Cities and Local Governments Congress stated: "The new (post-2015) agenda should include specific goals for Sustainable Urban Development."

The Mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa, Mr Mpho Franklyn Parks, said it was crucial to mobilize communities to build prevention measures into community-based solutions for localized emergencies.

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