

Press release

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BANGKOK TO HOST 6TH ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Bangkok/Geneva, 13 March 2014 – Some 3,000 experts including government ministers from 50 Asian countries are to meet in Bangkok, to discuss the disaster-prone region's final inputs into a new global agreement on disaster risk reduction to replace the existing Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

They will be hosted by the Royal Thai government from June 22 to 26 and it will be the last Asian Ministerial Conference to discuss disaster risk before governments meet at the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015, to adopt a new global agreement.

The new agreement will arrive ten years after the Asian Tsunami led to the unanimous adoption of the HFA by UN member States. The HFA is the world's first comprehensive agreement on how to reduce exposure to disasters.

Margareta Wahlström, head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, said: "Asia has much to teach the world about reducing disaster risk and the growing challenge of extreme weather events. This important gathering will help to ensure that risk blind-spots which have emerged over the last ten years are addressed in the new Post-2015 agreement on disaster risk reduction.

"Asia is the most affected region in the world when it comes to all natural hazards. It is also one of the most advanced and experienced in the implementation of disaster risk reduction policies."

The 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction is a biennial event. Previous hosts were Beijing, People's Republic of China (2005); New Delhi, Republic of India, (2007); Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, (2008); Incheon, Republic of Korea (2010); and Yogyakarta, Republic of Indonesia (2012).

About UNISDR: UNISDR is the UN office dedicated to disaster risk reduction. It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and supports implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* which seeks "the substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries."

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