



PRESS RELEASE

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DISASTER REDUCTION LIBRARIES INDONESIA WILL BE THE FIRST COUNTRY TO RECEIVE THE BLUE TRUNK

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction will launch today in Jakarta, Indonesia the first Disaster Reduction Library (DRL). The DRL is an ISDR initiative that will help communities to develop a culture of prevention and to become more resilient to the effects of natural, technological and environmental hazards.

“Investing in knowledge is a vital element for reducing risk of disasters, says Salvano Briceño, Director of the ISDR secretariat. The project will increase opportunity to learn and develop skills in disaster reduction. It will give wider access to information on hazards, vulnerability and risks to decision makers who can better educate and prepare entire communities.”

The field library contains more than 70 books and kits on disaster reduction placed into a blue metal trunk fitted with two shelves. “The trunk is easy to transport and takes a minimal space for storage, says Marie-Lou Darricau who is coordinating the project. “It has been conceived to be easy to install and useful for the people who need it.” The library will be constantly up-dated with new editions that will take into consideration the disaster history of the region.

The first library will be handed over to H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia during an official ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta. This ceremony will be part of two other events organized by the Government of Indonesia and UNDP to commemorate the International Day for Disaster Reduction.

The DRL will first support countries most affected by the Indian Ocean disaster and will be mainly disseminated in Asia. Two other sets of the field library will be presented to the Indian Home Minister during the two-day workshop on micro finance that will take place in New Delhi on 14 and 15 October. “We hope to distribute around 20 field libraries in Asia before the end of the year 2006” says Marie Lou Darricau.

The DRL will contribute to the dissemination of disaster risk reduction information to various target groups, such as national disaster management offices, local leaders, regional institutions, NGO’s, research centers and key educational institutions.

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