

## **SPECIAL EVENT ABSTRACT**

### **Charting Global Agenda for Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction *A follow-up of the report of the High-level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB***

#### **1. Context and Scope**

In response to increasing worldwide water-related disasters and related damages, this event is going to catalyze a global agenda toward water-related disaster risk reduction. The main objective of the event is to identify follow-up actions for risk reduction based on the "Water and Disaster" report published by the High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB. The proposed event will be held to crystallize a list of actions to implement the following six urgent imperatives in order to reduce water-related disaster risk:

- Galvanize and mobilize before disaster strikes
- Prioritize systems to forecast, inform, alert and evacuate
- Incorporate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaption as integral to development planning
- Improve disaster response
- Provide safe water and toilets quickly when disaster strikes
- Implement special crosscutting initiatives

#### **2. Expected Result and link to the GP09 outcomes**

The results of this special event will greatly contribute to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, as water-related disasters have been a major cause of economic damages and death tolls in recent years. It will also promote awareness of water-related disasters and will introduce a list of actions for water-related disaster risk reduction at local, national, regional, and global levels suggested by UNSGAB/HELP in "Water and Disaster" report. The event will help to promote implementation of the listed actions and will discuss how these actions can be carried out by designated organizations. Moreover, this event will contribute to developing a Side Publication on Water and Disaster Risk with IFI members including UN/ISDR.

#### **3. List of partners involved**

The main convener of the event will be the International Flood Initiative (IFI) consisting of representatives of UNESCO, WMO, UNU, UN/ISDR, and the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) as the IFI Secretariat. IFI is a framework for promoting collaboration on flood risk reduction based on the Hyogo Framework for Action and serves as a thematic group of the ISDR system. IFI as the main convener would like to extend invitations to other possible collaborators including the Japan Water Forum, the Korean Water, and a few other members and organizations related to UNSGAB-HELP.

#### **4. Format of the discussions and tentative list of speakers / panelists**

It will be in "workshop" format.

Tentative list of the panelist and speakers:

- UNSGAB/HELP representatives (WWC, ICRC, OCHA, OECD, Japan Water Forum, Korean Water)
- International Flood Initiative partners (WMO, UNESCO, UNU and UN/ISDR)
- ICHARM

#### **5. Names of: Chair, Moderator and Rapporteur**

Not decided yet.

#### **6. Equipment required**

Power Point presentation facilities

**7. Expected number of participants**

About 100 participants

**8. Supporting document and expected printed material to be brought by the organizer(s) to the event**

Water and Disaster Report (UNSGAB/HLEP)

**9. Preferred date and time**

13:00~ 15:00, 18 June 2009