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24/05/2011

Ms. Helena Molina Valdes
Deputy Director
The United Nations International
Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction
9-11 Rue de Varembe 1202
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Ms. Valdes:

Subject: Commitment to Participate in the Resilient Cities Campaign

On behalf of Dubai Municipality, let me first congratulate the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) for the 'Resilience Cities Campaign'. Indeed, this campaign has encouraged a growing list of local governments to invest in the future by establishing sustainable development practices.

As our contribution towards this laudable initiative, Dubai Municipality is committing itself to the campaign with our assurances that we will aspire to meet the objectives of the Ten-Point Checklist. This commitment and pledge of support will bind us with the overarching objective of providing a safe and resilient city for the citizens and residents of the Emirates of Dubai.

I have tasked the Public Health and Safety Department through its Dir. Eng. Redha H. Salman, to lead the effort in pursuing the goals of this campaign and to be the focal point in this campaign. We are committing the resources of the Department to see to it that significant milestones are achieved in our quest to become a disaster-resilient city.

Please accept the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration and awaiting your official confirmation regarding the inclusion of city of Dubai in 2011 list of participants.



Sincerely,

Engr. Hussain Nasser Lootah
Director General of Dubai Municipality

CC: Asst. Director General for Health, Safety and Environment,
Director, Public Health and Safety Department

رؤيتنا: بناء مدينة متميزة تتوفر فيها رفاهية العيش ومقومات النجاح
Our Vision: To create an excellent city that provides the essence of success and comfort of living

Annex II

Nomination form for cities and local governments to participate in the campaign

Please send the nomination form and the mayor's letter to isdr-campaign@un.org. Nominations will be accepted on an ongoing basis throughout 2010-11.

City / Local Government (Please indicate the year the numbers were provided.)	
City name	Dubai Municipality
Location (short description)	Dubai is one of the seven emirates of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It is located south of the Persian Gulf on the Arabian Peninsula and has the largest population with the second-largest land territory by area of all the emirates, after Abu Dhabi. The emirate of Dubai shares borders with Abu Dhabi in the south, Sharjah in the northeast, and the Sultanate of Oman in the southeast.
Size (year)	Dubai is positioned at 25°16'11"N 55°18'34"E / 25.2697°N 55.3095°E / 25.2697; 55.3095 and covers an area of 1,588 sq mi (4,110 km ²), which represents a significant expansion beyond its initial 1,500 sq mi (3,900 km ²) designation due to land reclamation from the sea
Population (year)	The population of the Emirate of Dubai is estimated to be 1.9 Million with a growth ratio of 5%. The population of Dubai is increasing at the rate of 7,000 people monthly and this would be around 2.3 Million by the end of 2011. (Source: Dubai Statistics Center)
GDP	
Hazard type(s)	Natural (Sand Storm, Fog, Drought) Human-made/Technological (Fire, Structural Collapse, Oil Spill, Hazardous Materials Leak) and Epidemics
Name of Mayor / Commissioner / Governor / Community leader	
H. E. Mr. Hussain Nasser Lootah, Director General of Dubai Municipality	
Which part of the city administration will be the focal point for the Campaign?	
Public Health and Safety Department, Dubai Municipality	
Contact details Focal Point	
Name	Engr. Redha Hassan Salman
Function	Director, Public Health and Safety Department
Address	PO Box 67, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Email	rhsalman@dm.gov.ae
Telephone	+9714 2064244
Fax	+9714 2270160
Which local institutions will be engaged in the Campaign? (In addition to the local government.)	
Dubai Police, Dubai Civil Defense, Dubai Health Authority, Road and Transportation Authority, civil society and academe	

Major Disaster Risks

(Please indicate major disasters that have occurred, prevailing hazards and vulnerable conditions.)

Explosion of illegal fireworks warehouse in Al Quoz in 2008 ; More than 100 shops gutted by fire at the Naif Open Market in 2008; Fire at cluster of warehouses in Al Quoz Industrial area in 2009; Maritime Accident off Jebel Ali Freeport Zone in 2009; Multiple vehicular accident caused by poor visibility due to fog in 2011.

Achievements and plans in relation to the ten essentials areas

A - Make an estimation of the **status** per essential as follows:

1 - poor/nothing in place, 2 - some progress in place, 3 - in place, well functioning, or N/A

B - Please describe main areas of **progress** and **achievements**

C - Please identify **activities** and **plans** your city will pay special attention to **improve the current situation** during the campaign and beyond. Additionally, feel free to propose special events or activities your city would like undertake to raise awareness on disaster resilience. Please select the respective Essential(s).

Essential 1 – Risk reducing organization and coordination in place

Status - 3

Progress and achievements – Local Emergency Management Committee formed (Dubai Police, Civil Defense, Ambulance, Road and Traffic Authority, Dubai Health Authority and Dubai Municipality). Regular coordination meetings and table top exercises being conducted; Annual update of resource database.

Plans – Enhance coordination between internal Dubai Municipality departments and external organizations by automating information sharing through web-based softwares.

Essential 2 – Budget assigned

Status - 3

Progress and achievements – All the relevant stakeholders (Police, Civil Defense, Health Authorities, Dubai Municipality Departments) are allotted a flexible emergency response budget that can be used to respond to emergency or disaster situations within the Emirate.

Plans – Review current allocations to ensure optimum utilization and relevance.

Essential 3 – Risk assessment prepared

Status - 3

Progress and achievements – Risk and Emergency Management Policy of Dubai Municipality recently established (copy enclosed); Each Department within Dubai Municipality has identified priorities based on a recently concluded risk assessment exercise of emergency response capabilities; Various agencies in Dubai collaborate to provide comprehensive data for risk assessment (e.g. seismicity, tides, air quality, drainage and waterways, road network, etc.).

Plans – Dubai Municipality will regularly conduct assessment of capabilities of all departments to monitor preparedness and response capabilities.

Essential 4 – Investment in risk reducing infrastructure

Status - 3

Progress and achievements – Flood drainage within the Emirate has been enhanced to anticipate climactic variations; Intelligent road network system established to monitor road emergencies; Automated drainage and irrigation system being utilized to monitor water system.

Plans – As Dubai is one of the fastest growing cities in the world with new communities and complexes being built, connecting the flood drainage to these newly built areas is an on-going priority.

Essential 5 – Safe schools and health facilities

Status - 3

Progress and achievements – The Public Health and Safety Department through the Public Safety and Health Control Sections are regularly conducting safety and health inspections on priority areas to monitor compliance with local health and safety ordinances; Monitoring of priority areas are given emphasis by more frequent site inspections, shorter compliance due date, stiffer fines for violations; 24 hours Call center in place to receive complaints and suggestions.

Plans – Strengthen and continue efforts in monitoring compliance of schools and health facilities to local health and environment standards.

Essential 6 – Risk-compliant building regulation and land use applied	Status - 3
Progress and achievements – Dubai Municipality has strict building and land use codes. Urban plans take into consideration environmental, sustainable development, and public safety issues.	
Plans – Regular update of GIS base maps through aerial surveys to track recent developments that may have impact on safety and security of communities.	
Essential 7 – Education programmes and training in place	Status - 3
Progress and achievements – Dubai Civil Defense leads efforts to educate both the public and the private sector on emergency preparedness and risk reduction measures. Schools and government facilities are prioritized in the conduct of evacuation exercises.	
Plans – Highlight 'Resilient Cities Campaign' in education and awareness programmes being conducted. Involve other sectors in the campaign to ensure wide campaign coverage.	
Essential 8 – Ecosystems and natural buffers protected	Status - 3
Progress and achievements – Since 2002 Dubai Municipality is running a comprehensive Coastal Monitoring Programme of coastal environment and coastal processes which includes real-time monitoring of water quality of the sea and of coastal processes such as currents, waves, water levels, storm surge, sediment transport, shoreline instability due to loss of sand, coastal erosion, coastal flooding, etc.	
Plans – Continue to explore ways to strengthen monitoring capability .	
Essential 9 – Early warning systems installed	Status - 3
Progress and achievements – Various systems in place to monitor and provide early warning to public; Waterways linked to a central facility to ensure efficient flood control; Intelligent Road Warning System to warn motorists of road conditions to reduce accidents.	
Plans – Intensify conduct of exercises in public and private establishments; Enterprise communication system being explored as a platform for crisis communications.	
Essential 10 – Needs-based (survivors) reconstruction	Status - 3
Progress and achievements – Location of temporary shelter areas have been identified through aerial reconnaissance for different disaster/emergency scenarios; Coordination mechanism to work on relief, recovery and reconstruction is in place.	
Plans – Involve civil society in the local coordinating body to ensure a comprehensive relief and recovery plan.	

World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-11, UNISDR Secretariat, E-mail: isdr-campaign@un.org



Risk and Emergency Management Policy at Dubai Municipality



Dubai Municipality is committed towards preparing and implementing an effective customized system of risk and emergency management in accordance with global best practices to manage and control the risks and cope with emergency situations occurring within its facilities or all over the emirate through the establishment of the following by the Municipality's Departments:



Compiling the list of the available resources, competencies and existing working teams and updating this annually.



Preparing emergency plans at the departments level as per the scenarios relevant to the concerned Department.



Responding to emergency situations occurring at DM work sites.



Responding to any disaster & crisis situation which may occur in the Emirate in accordance to the nature of operations of the concerned department.



Preparing annual reports and alerting Public Health & Safety Department regarding the emergency cases participated in or responded to.



Protecting employees & public lives against any dangers causing injuries/ death at DM sites or its surrounding areas and making effort to protect the private and public properties from loss and damage.



Commitment towards raising awareness regarding risk and emergency management discipline and its applied mechanisms among all Dubai Municipality employees through conducting training workshops & awareness publications.



Taking the necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of the emergency plans, evaluating them and updating it based on internal and external data analysis.



Reviewing and improving our policy on a regular basis and ensure that it is documented and announced to all employees and customers of Dubai Municipality as well as ensuring its effectiveness and continuous improvement.

Public Health & Safety Department
Dubai Municipality