

Risk and poverty in a changing climate

Invest today for a safer tomorrow



Launching of the 2009 ISDR Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction

<Friday 22 May 2009, 14:00 – 16:00>

Date & Time: Friday 22 May 2009 14:00 – 16:00

Venue: United Nations University, Tokyo (Elizabeth Rose Hall)
5-53-70, Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, 150-8925, Japan

Organizers: United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
United Nations University (UNU)

Working language: English

Programme:

- Opening Remarks, United Nations University
- Presentation on the Global Assessment Report (GAR) on Disaster Risk Reduction, Mr. Andrew Maskrey, GAR Coordinator, UNISDR Secretariat

- Panel Discussion: *Invest today for a safer tomorrow*
Facilitator: Mr. Srikantha Herath, Senior Academic Programme Officer, Institute for Sustainability and Peace, United Nations University
Panelists:
 - Prof. Sawako Takeuchi, Kyoto University, and Chair of the Result Management Council for the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
 - Mr. Makio Miyagawa (tbc), Deputy Director-General for Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
 - Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
 - Mr. Andrew Maskrey, GAR Coordinator, UNISDR Secretariat

* *The Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (English), and its Executive Summary both in English and Japanese will be distributed in the event.*

Registration (free of charge)

Please send an e-mail for registration by 15 May to <isdr-hyogo@un.org>

- Name
- Profession (government official, diplomat, staff of international organizations, professor, researcher, student, business person, media, and others)
- Affiliation, position, and office address (organization, company, university, etc)
- E-mail and phone number

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2009 ISDR Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction

“Risk and Poverty in a changing climate – Invest today for a safer tomorrow”

Development efforts are increasingly at risk. A faltering global economy, food and energy insecurity, conflict, global climate change, declining ecosystems, extreme poverty, and the threat of epidemics seriously challenge progress towards improving social welfare and economic growth in many developing countries.

In 2008, the deaths of approximately 140,000 people in the Myanmar cyclone and the collapse of more than five million buildings and damage to 21 million more in the China earthquake were stark reminders that disaster risks associated with tropical cyclones, floods, earthquakes, droughts and other natural hazards are a key part of this interlocked set of threats.

This Report focuses attention on that challenge. It identifies disaster risk, analyses its causes, shows that these causes can be addressed and recommends the means to do so. The over-riding message of the Report is that reducing disaster risk can also help in reducing poverty, safeguarding development and adapting to climate change, with beneficial effects on broader global security, stability and sustainability. Given the urgency posed by climate change, the Report forcefully argues the case for taking action now. The 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction is the first biennial global assessment of disaster risk reduction prepared in the context of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). The ISDR, launched in 2000, provides a framework to coordinate actions to address disaster risks at the local, national, regional and international levels. The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), adopted by 168 UN member states at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, Japan, in 2005, obliges all countries to make major efforts to reduce their disaster risk by 2015. It is expected that this Report will help focus international attention on the problem of disaster risk and to consolidate political and economic support and commitment to disaster risk reduction.

The 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction is a collaborative effort of the ISDR system. The report has been prepared and coordinated by UNISDR in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the ProVention Consortium, regional intergovernmental and technical institutions, national governments, civil society networks, academic institutions and many other ISDR system partners.

The GAR will be presented by the UN Secretary General to the Second Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in 16-19 June in Geneva (<http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2009/>).

Launching events of the GAR at international and regional level will be held by UNISDR outreach offices all over the world in May 2009, prior to the Global Platform in June. As one of these launching events, the event in Japan is co-organized on 22nd May by UNISDR Hyogo Office and UNU at the United Nations University in Tokyo. This launching event will provide an important opportunity to gain attention to the disaster risk reduction agenda in Japan and update on the issues and challenges to a number of stakeholders working in the area of disaster risk reduction in Japan. Presentation on the GAR will be provided by the UNISDR Coordinator of the GAR process, which will be followed by a panel discussion among high level panelists and eminent experts.

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