

International Early Warning Programme (IEWP)

The IEWP Advisory Board meeting took place from 1 to 2 December 2006. The Board members met in Bonn to discuss further steps to implement the programme. During the meeting the role of the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW) as secretariat for the IEWP was discussed.

At the next meeting in March 2007 the IEWP work plan, including responsibilities of PPEW and the terms of reference of the Board members, and the IEWP programme document will be finalised. Main tasks of the PPEW work plan will be the follow-up of the Global Survey of Early Warning Systems and the support of Early Warning Projects of the Early Warning Projects Portfolio (EWPP).

Additionally, a procedure for board member elections will be agreed. In December the following organisations attended the IEWP Advisory Board meeting: ADRC, DKKV, GFMC, IFRC, IOC, UN/ISDR, UNOOSA, UNU-EHS and WMO.



IEWP Advisory Board meeting in Bonn, December 2006

Building Resilience to Tsunamis in the Indian Ocean - European Community AIDCO Project

In December 2006 the UN/ISDR project "Building Resilience to Tsunamis in the Indian Ocean" was approved and the contract was signed by the European Community (EC). This three year initiative, that is located in the Indian Ocean region, particularly in India, Indonesia, Maldives, and Sri Lanka, constitutes a continuation of the Tsunami Flash Appeal initiative aiming at building the resilience of communities and nations to disasters by strengthening national and local institutions, mechanisms and capacities for disaster risk reduction. This initiative will focus on four main objectives towards:

- Strengthening national institutional capacity in disaster risk reduction
- Increasing public awareness and knowledge on tsunami risk and disaster risk reduction
- Strengthening disaster risk reduction capacities of local communities (including capacities for preparedness, mitigation and response)
- Advancing research and analysis on the risk and impact of tsunamis and other related hazards such as earthquake and cyclones

The project will be implemented through partnerships with ISDR system partners and will be monitored from the ISDR office for Asia and the Pacific with support from the ISDR headquarters in Geneva. The UN/ISDR Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW) will provide technical support and guidance with respect to assessing and supporting the strengthening of end to end national early warning systems within a regional coherent approach. The EC will directly conduct mid-term and final evaluations of the project including auditing.

Early Warning Projects Portfolio

In November 2006 the **InWEnt** – Capacity Building International (Environment, Energy and Water Division) started the early warning project "**Capacity Building in Mozambique: Using the Education Sector for Disaster Awareness Outreach**". The two year project is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office with the amount of 610,000 €. The partner organisation of the project is the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) in Maputo/Mozambique.

Capacity building at the institutional, organisational and individual level can systematically strengthen the elements of the early warning chain. This pilot project aims to integrate disaster awareness and knowledge about early warning systems into the education sector by making disaster awareness part of the curricula for primary education. One of the main activities will be disaster sensitisation courses for the educational sector. At least 100 teachers are to participate in the workshops, each of them subsequently passing on his/her knowledge to 100 students. As a result, 10,000 students would be equipped to convey their knowledge to their communities. A film, to be aired on television, is to be produced to enhance the outreach of the project in Mozambique and the Southern African region.

InWEnt - Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung Capacity Building International, Germany

InWEnt is an organisation for human resources development, further training and dialogue with worldwide operations.

InWEnt strengthens the proactive capacities of specialists and executives in political, organisational and in-company change processes. The capacity building services make a substantial contribution to sustainable development within the framework of international cooperation.

The main client is the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). InWEnt works for other German federal ministries, the governments of individual German federal states, international clients including the European Commission, the United Nations and the World Bank, as well as for private-sector businesses.

InWEnt was established in 2002 following the merger of the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft e.V. (CDG) and the German Foundation for International Development (DSE).

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InWEnt - Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung Capacity Building International, Germany

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In order to achieve optimum results in development cooperation, InWEnt cooperates closely with other development-policy organisations, including KfW Entwicklungsbank, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and the German Development Service (DED).

InWEnt cooperates equally with partners from developing, transition and industrialised countries.

Programmes and measures at InWEnt aim at promoting change competencies on three levels: They strengthen the individual's executive competencies, increase the performance of companies, organisations and administrations, and at the political level improve decision-making skills and the capacity to act. The methodological tools comprise modules and can be adapted to meet changing requirements in order to provide solutions. Apart from face-to-face situations in measures offering training, exchange of experience and dialog, emphasis is on e-learning-assisted networking.

InWEnt brings to bear a wealth of experience and competence in eight business fields. They span various areas and feature an interdisciplinary approach:

- Good governance and reform processes
- Crisis prevention and peace development
- Social development
- Environment and natural resources
- Sustainable business
- Foreign trade and international relations
- International vocational training
- Education for international development
- International management skills in change processes
- Management of international education programmes

Worldwide, InWEnt operates regional offices in Hanoi, Lima, Manila, Beijing and Pretoria, in most cases jointly with the German Development Service (DED). These offices represent InWEnt within the framework of German and international development partnerships.

www.inwent.org

Indian Ocean Consortium

On November 15th, Former US President Bill Clinton, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery chaired a meeting to assess progress made in post-tsunami rebuilding efforts. This was the fifth meeting held by the tsunami consortium, which includes UN agencies, international financial institutions, the Red Cross movement, NGOs, the five most affected countries, as well as the main donor countries. Accelerating the development of national and local early warning capacities and other disaster reduction measures were the main focus of this meeting. Margareta Wahlstrom, ASG for Humanitarian Affairs gave an update on the tsunami early warning consortium efforts, on behalf of the ISDR system partners. Throughout his two year mandate as a Special Envoy, President Clinton has been promoting the importance of disaster risk reduction in the recovery process in the Indian Ocean countries, as well as globally. During the meeting, President Clinton urged donors to invest more in disaster reduction and early warning and called on their help to reduce the remaining financial gap.

For more information, please visit www.tsunamispecialenvoy.org

Avian Influenza and Wild Birds

In August 2005, concerns about the role of migratory birds as potential vectors of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), led the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), in close cooperation with the Agreement on the Conservation of African Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), to establish a Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds. The Task Force aims to bring together the best scientific advice on the conservation impact of the spread of avian influenza, assessing the role of migratory birds as vectors of the virus, and issuing advice on the root causes of the epidemic as well as technically sound measures to combat it and develop early warning systems. The Task Force aims to draw on expertise and collaboration between conservation scientists, hunters, veterinarians, epidemiologists, virologists, land managers and other experts.

The Task Force comprises 13 members and observers, including United Nations bodies, wildlife treaties and specialist intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations.

www.cms.int/ or www.ramsar.org/features/features_avianflu.pdf

Tourism Emergency Response Network (TERN)

The Tourism Emergency Response Network (TERN) is a multi-stakeholder framework that is designed as a global resource for the sector with United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) as convener and portal provider. The UNWTO Emergency Management System (EMS) and TERN site and related online activities are a free public service.

The UNWTO is working in a network of government and industry bodies committed to making travel as safe as possible and to ensuring that the sector is fully prepared for any influenza developments. Its goal is to facilitate information exchange among the different components of the tourism chain and ensure consistency of messages for the public. It is also supporting tourism administrations in their actions within national and international preparedness plans.

This website was established as an information system to provide good, accurate and timely information, to synthesise the rapidly changing situation and focus on tourism related aspects and impacts.

www.ternalert.org/

Consulting Unit of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) on Biodiversity and Tourism for Tsunami Affected Countries

The Consulting Unit of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation on Biodiversity and Tourism for Tsunami Affected Countries took up its activities on October 1, 2006, being the 13th United Nations Unit based in Bonn.

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has been supporting the countries of Asia that were affected by the tsunami in December 2004. In order to continue and to strengthen the support to these countries, the UNWTO has joined forces with the Government of Germany to provide a range of consultancy and advisory support in the field of biodiversity and tourism development following the guidelines of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

This collaboration will provide consultation and assistance to national and local governments so as to contribute to the reconstruction in the tsunami hit countries by improving capacity, knowledge sharing and participation processes to develop sustainable tourism practices and to demonstrate that tourism development and biodiversity can be mutually supportive. Awareness raising at national and local levels and a multi-stakeholder participatory approach will also provide for a range of tourism projects to be implemented.

www.unwto.de and www.unwto.org/tsunami/eng.html

The Health and Climate Partnership for Africa

The Health and Climate Partnership for Africa was created in April 2006, to increase cooperation between individuals and organizations involved in health, climate, humanitarian assistance, ecosystems, research and operational services. The Partnership is an outcome of the EWC III and its motto "from concept to action". It focuses on the practical implementation of health and climate programmes and projects to help Africans find sustainable ways to improve health outcomes for the millions of people at risk from climate-sensitive diseases. The partnership is committed to developing the capacity and funding needed to:

- Work with local communities to develop and try methods to use environmental information more effectively to provide early warning of potential disease outbreaks and to reduce the impact of climate sensitive-diseases and other related environmental threats
- Work with the health sector to improve communication between remote regions and health centres to improve diagnoses
- Improve ecosystem services to reduce the risk of future epidemics due to climate change
- Support existing health and climate activities
- Raise donor awareness of specific community needs and opportunities
- Provide a forum to share ideas, knowledge and best practices in health, climate, environmental, and humanitarian assistance
- Educate and train public health workers on climate issues relevant to better health care; educate and train environmental scientists on health issues relevant to better assessments and climate-related warning services

For further information please contact David Rogers, drogers@bluewin.ch.

Resources and Training

The following three libraries contain relevant information on disaster risk reduction and early warning. Combined they give a broad overview of this topic.

UN/ISDR Library

The Library has specialized in disaster risk reduction and related issues such as sustainable development, climate change, early warning systems, human settlements, environment, education, gender.

It collects books, reports, educational materials, periodicals, proceedings of main conferences and workshops, electronic resources to support the programmes and activities of the Inter-Agency secretariat of the ISDR, the Inter-Agency Task Force on disaster reduction, ISDR units in Latin America, Africa, Asia, UN and non-UN partners, governments, NGOs, as well as the international academic, technical and scientific community.

www.unisdr.org/eng/library/lib-index.htm

UNCCD Library

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Library & Data Centre in Bonn, Germany, assumes the role of depository of material dealing with all aspects of combating desertification and land degradation, including historic collections and scientific data related to best practices and actions that are focused on the restoration of degraded lands.

The collection offers books, reports, periodicals, articles, videos, audiocassettes and CD-ROMs. Its archive houses all official UNCCD documents in the six official UN languages, national reports and national action programme documents.

Material may be freely consulted by anyone visiting the UNCCD Library & Data Centre in Bonn.

www.unccd.int/library/menu.php?newch=16

Also online at <http://www.unisdr-earlywarning.org>

Natural Hazards Center Library

The Natural Hazards Center Library at the University of Colorado houses one of the most unique collections of social science literature in the world. The library's primary focus is on research and information about how society prepares for, responds to, recovers from, and mitigates damage and other losses from natural hazards and catastrophic events.

This nonlending library is an important resource for scholars and practitioners who are studying hazards and disasters. The collection includes bound documents, serials, reports, journal articles, video tapes, and compact discs.

Hazlit, the library's searchable online database, provides access to the full collection of the library.

www.colorado.edu/hazards/library/

2007 Summer Academy on Social Vulnerability

The 2007 Summer Academy provides around twenty outstanding PhD candidates from all over the world a platform to present and discuss their research with leading international experts and scholars in social vulnerability, as well as senior scientists from the United Nations University and Munich Re Foundation. The summer academy is designed to advance the science of social vulnerability by discussing "state of the art", research needs and strategies to address academic, policy and practical challenges and knowledge gaps.

Application deadline: 15 January 2007; Please contact Dr Koko Warner (warner@ehs.unu.edu)

Publications

Hazards of nature, risks to development - An IEG evaluation of World Bank Assistance for natural disasters

www.worldbank.org/ieg/naturaldisasters/docs/natural_disasters_evaluation.pdf

Disaster Risk Reduction and the Int'l Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The publication is available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. To order it, please contact malika.chebab@ifrc.org. or visit

www.ifrc.org/docs/pubs/disasters/reduction/disaster-reduction-en.pdf

Developing Early Warning Systems: A Checklist

The draft version of Developing Early Warning Systems was distributed at the Third International Conference on Early Warning (EWC III). During the conference the document was revised by all participants. After finalisation the English document was translated into 19 different languages (four United Nations languages and 14 Indian Ocean languages).

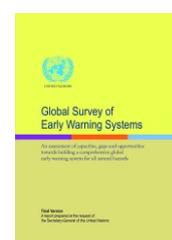
Please refer to www.unisdr-earlywarning.org to download the different versions of the checklist.



Global Survey of Early Warning Systems

The final version of the Global Survey of Early Warning Systems is available at the PPEW website: www.unisdr-earlywarning.org

The first version of the document was disseminated at the Third International Early Warning Conference (EWC III). The global survey was requested by the UN Secretary General in March 2005. PPEW coordinated the preparation of the document. To fill the gaps in early warning systems the survey provides 5 recommendations.



Point of View - The Global Early Warning System: A Call for Universal Responsibility.



Douglas Pattie

Conventional wisdom suggests that a global early warning system, multi-hazard in scope, people-centered in spirit and effective in performance will require a great deal of technology transfer, institution-building and commitment over the next 5 to 10 years.

In the coming months the work of the ISDR International Early Warning Programme must evaluate a host of systems in relation to inter-agency activities in order to benefit from the broader community. This is surely a pragmatic and reasonable first step toward designing an all-inclusive global system. Successive steps will require a recognition of the need for a wider perspective in response to the diversity of the human family itself.

How does one measure progress toward a Global Early Warning System (GEWS). What indicators should we use? What does early warning mean to a nomadic pastoralist in the ever-increasing drylands of the world? What is early warning to the meteorological services in the Caribbean? And what does it mean to the general public in earthquake-prone Japan.

The different complexions and perceptions of early warning and all of its resulting decision-making have one common element – universal responsibility. In the past small communities in remote parts of the world could exist more or less independent of one another. They could survive quite well without the perspective of their neighbors well-being. Today, our reality is so complex and interconnected that sudden events and disasters on one side of the planet have some type of an effect on countries on the other side. The unambiguous effect that technology leaves on the natural environment when a disaster occurs, often reverberates throughout our global networks.

Communities in developed countries may be able to move in time to avoid disasters. They may be able to reduce their risk. The gap between first and third world, north and south, between developed and the least developed, between rich and poor is enormous and this poses a fundamental challenge to the coordination effort required to both comprehend, as well as coordinate a GEWS.

Today, no single EWS can be considered to lie within the confines of its own geo-physical boundaries. The multi-hazard, interdependent approach to a global early warning system has been accepted. Before the UN General Assembly requested work on a GEWS, former Secretary General Kofi Annan repeatedly called for a culture of prevention through which we would at some level have to cultivate a sense of universal responsibility. But natural disasters are completely beyond the scope of the individual. Most people are willing to accept the need for unity within their own group, university, office or village and within this, the need to consider other's welfare, yet the tendency is to neglect the rest of humanity. In doing so, we ignore not only the interdependent nature of our world, but the movement toward a culture of prevention and risk reduction.

Perhaps it may sound idealistic to have a global system of early warning. Some will advise an approach that keeps a broad perspective and concentrates on maximizing the coordination between existing operational EWS, positioning multi-systems somewhere between the humanitarian and the development domains. The interplay of digital monitoring and forecasting networks and web-based information gathering systems will continue to evolve their monitoring capabilities for many potential disasters and will develop in their own space and time, delivering freely available information. However, the capacity to absorb the data at the community-level and

to act on its content will march to a different model, and somewhat slower drum-beat.

Although it will undoubtedly be difficult to bring about a genuine GEWS, clearly it can be done. The potential is there. And its foundation is a sense of responsibility on the part of each of us as individuals toward all others.

New coordinator of the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW)

Douglas Pattie is the new coordinator of the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning. Holding a PhD from Colorado State University (USA), he is coming to the position having held the post of Environmental Affairs Officer in the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Bonn, Germany. At the UNCCD, he was responsible for scientific issues related to desertification in drylands where policy work relates to early warning, migration, natural disasters and traditional knowledge. From 1993 to 2003 he worked as Projects Manager at the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in Yokohama, Japan monitoring forest industry projects in Malaysia, Indonesia, Brazil, Philippines and the Congo Basin. He has served in the USDA Forest Service and NOAA. He is also a former US Peace Corps Volunteer in Nepal. Pattie's research interests lie in the promotion of traditional knowledge systems for risk reduction and the blending of high-technology with indigenous settings. He remains a promoter of technology transfer pathways and community-based GIS approaches to disaster reduction and the creation of alternative futures.

Upcoming Meetings

Global Challenge, Global Climate Solidarity, Climate Change and Vulnerability Conference

University for Peace in Costa Rica is organizing a conference to be held 13-14 February 2007 in The Hague, Netherlands
www.upeace.org/climate

Secure and Sustainable Living: Social and Economic Benefit of Waether, Climate and Water Services

International Conference organised by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in Madrid, Spain, 19-22 March 2007
www.wmo.ch/madrid07/

4th International Wildland Fire Conference

Organizers of the Conference are the Ministry of Environment and the Junta de Andalucia of Spain, in cooperation with ILC and UNISDR. 14-17 May 2007, Sevilla, Spain
www.wildfire07.es/html/in/index_in.html

17th World Conference on Disaster Management (WCDM)

The Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness is organising this conference in Toronto, Canada, from July 8-11, 2007
www.wcdm.org

**United Nations
International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)
Platform for the Promotion
of Early Warning (PPEW), Bonn**

Tel: +49 228 815 0302
 Fax: +49 228 815 0399
isdr-ppew@un.org
www.unisdr-earlywarning.org
 Hermann Ehlers Strasse 10
 D-53113 Bonn
 Germany

**United Nations
International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction Secretariat,
Headquarters, Geneva**

Tel: +41 22 917 8909/8907/8849
 Fax: +41 22 917 8964
unisdr@un.org
www.unisdr.org
 Postal Address:
 Palais des Nations,
 CH 1211 Geneva
 Switzerland