

Tentative format of the workshop

- **8-9 October: Technical Segment**
Technical discussions among education sector experts, curriculum developers and representatives from the disaster risk reduction community to exchange successful national and local experiences as well as major obstacles and challenges in integrating disaster risk reduction into education sector (formal and non formal school curriculum, safe school construction and education sector programs).
- **10 October: Policy Discussions**
The conclusions of the technical discussions will be brought to the policy makers and representatives from Ministries of Education to jointly come up with recommendations /statement on the need for mainstreaming DRR into education sector towards an effective education and protection of future generations.

The meeting will be articulated around

- **Plenary sessions** with presentations by selected countries and organizations on their successful experiences as well as difficulties and challenges in integrating disaster risk reduction into formal and non-formal school curricula, safer school construction and education sector programmes (see themes below).
- **Working group discussions**
 - A **Press event**

Specific themes identified

- **Integrating disaster risk reduction into school curricula**
Discussions on the content of educational material as well as possible curriculum subjects to “accommodate” and integrate DRR related issues. Also refer to assistance, tools and guidelines existing (or to be developed) to provide to teachers with effective support in teaching process (RCC guideline will be presented and reviewed)
- **Non-formal and extra-curricular approach**
Reference to indigenous/traditional knowledge, the role of local organizations in education, training and other non formal educational activities (drills, evacuation exercise, poems etc)
- **Safer School constructions**
Presentation of key examples of good practices in this area – Highlight the need to have this issue also integrated into school curricula and guidelines (Ahmdabad Declaration and UNCRD guidelines will be presented)
- **DRR in Education Sector Programmes / Plans**
Reference to integrating DRR into education sector programmes of Ministry of Education funded by the development banks (e.g. ADB and World Bank)
- **Educational materials on disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness**
Collection of existing material from the region supporting the formal and non formal education process on disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness for recognition and possible replication
- **Children event “Let our Children Teach Us”** involving school children from disaster affected countries to exchange their experience, as school children, of living through disasters and share lessons learned and recommendations

Expected participants

- **Governmental level:** Ministries of Education, Ministries / Departments of Disaster Management, National Platforms, NDMOs, etc.
- Relevant **regional partners** involved in education and disaster management related issues: selected UN regional offices, regional technical organizations, regional /sub-regional political bodies, regional NGO networks, IFRC regional office
- Selected **in-country stakeholders:** national NGOs, selected IFRC national organizations, universities, local communities representatives (incl. village leader), special guests

Participants interested to participate in the Regional Workshop on Education for Disaster Risk Reduction and more specifically to lead or contribute to any of the above proposed thematic discussions should contact the UN/ISDR Asia and the Pacific (Ms. Christel Rose, rosec@un.org) by 31 August 2007



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

First Announcement



Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on School Education and Disaster Risk Reduction

8-10 October 2007, Bangkok, Thailand

Jointly organized by
UNESCO, UNCRD, UNICEF, UN/ISDR Asia and Pacific
With the support of IFRC and ADPC



BACKGROUND

In the wake of the increasing number of sudden on-set large scale disasters that have occurred in the Asia and Pacific region over the past few years such as, in particular, the 2004 Indian Ocean and the 2007 Solomon Islands tsunamis, the Pakistan earthquake in 2005 followed by the Yogyakarta one in 2006 and landslides in the Philippines, there is unanimous consensus from humanitarian agencies and the development community that a better education and awareness of local communities on natural hazards could have contributed to reduce and mitigate the tragic human losses caused by these events. Sustainable development is severely undermined by the occurrence and threat of disasters, especially in developing countries, where decades of development efforts are wiped out in a few seconds. On 3 January 2005, Koichiro Matsuura, Director General of UNESCO highlighted that “anticipating, educating and informing are the keys to reducing the deadly effect of such natural disasters” but regretted that “such activities have not been given priority”.

Education and knowledge for disaster risk reduction are gradually recognized as priority areas of focus of world development processes. Priority 3 of the “Hyogo Framework for Action: Building the Resilience of Communities and Nations to Disasters, 2005-2015” (HFA) - which was adopted in January 2005 by 168 Member States in Kobe, Japan, as the international blueprint to guide the implementation of disaster risk reduction at the international, regional, national and local levels for the next 10 years - focuses on the use of “Knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels”. Together with the 2006-2007 World Campaign on Disaster Reduction led by UN/ISDR on “Disaster risk reduction begins at school”, the latter aims at enhancing a shift in mentalities and behavioral change towards a more proactive preventative approach to disasters and engages key partners and Governments in promoting the integration of disaster risk reduction as part of school curricula and in facilitating the development of disaster-resilient schools through school safety programmes at all levels. Education for disaster risk reduction builds on world efforts in achieving Target 2 of the Millennium Development Goals on “Achieving Universal Primary Education” as well as the goals of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) led by UNESCO aiming at the development of the concept of “Education for Natural Disaster Preparedness” (ENDP) and the overall integration of ENDP into sustainable development strategies.

In the Asia and Pacific region, the regional offices of UNESCO, UNICEF, IFRC as well as UNCRD and ADPC have come together under the UN/ISDR leadership to form an Education Task Force (ETF)¹ to capture, recognize and duly reflect the wealth of expertise, knowledge and initiatives in the area of education on disaster risk reduction and school safety that Asia and Pacific region can contribute to the above global processes.

The Regional Workshop on Education for Disaster Risk Reduction is an initiative developed by the Education Task Force as a first step to demonstrate the long term commitment of this partnership to integrate disaster risk reduction into the Education sector. This three-day Regional Workshop will be part of a longer-term regional strategy that aims at raising awareness on the need to integrate disaster risk reduction and school safety construction programmes as part of education curricula. It will bring together decision makers and practitioners from the field of disaster risk reduction, disaster management and education and will build on past and existing in-country initiatives as well as key processes and bodies at the country and regional level that have placed education for disaster risk reduction and school safety as a top priority of their agenda (RCC, Asian Conferences on Disaster Reduction, ASEAN Committee for Disaster Management, UNCRD, IFRC among others). The Ahmedabad Declaration adopted in January 2007 at the International Conference on School Safety in India lists out a set of responsibilities and actions for each stakeholder to take to become a “school safety champion” and will serve as a reference to the discussions. The third day of the workshop is expected to benefit from the participation of Ministers of Education and will highlight the Bangkok-based joint celebrations of the International Day for Disaster Reduction and ASEAN Disaster Management Day. Its conclusions will serve as the regional contribution for the Asia and Pacific region to the International Conference on Education for Disaster Risk Reduction that will be organized in November 2008 by the UN/ISDR system Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education in Europe.



“Disaster risk awareness education needs to be incorporated into school curricula, communities should be informed about potential hazards and new constructions must adhere to safer building standards”

Bill Clinton, UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery
on the occasion of the first anniversary of HFA adoption, January 2006

Overall Goal

Contribute to the reduction of school children vulnerabilities and loss of lives as well as damage control to school environments caused by disasters through increased knowledge, awareness and formal education on disaster risk reduction at all levels and the effective integration of DRR as part of school curricula and safer school construction programmes.

Objectives

1. Seek political commitment in integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) into education curricula, school construction and education sector plans and come up with concrete recommendations and guidelines
2. Promote the integration of DRR into non-formal education and extra-curricular activities and recognize the importance of traditional and indigenous knowledge
3. Highlight the role and contribution of local communities, in particular village leaders and women, as well as local authorities and implementing partners (NGOs, national societies) in the educational process – Recognize the special needs of vulnerable groups including disabled children
4. Identify good practices and identify national “champions” in integrating disaster risk reduction into school curricula and in developing school safety programmes

Target audience

- Curriculum development and school construction authorities
- School children, teachers and parents associations
- Local communities, local authorities and related implementing agencies
- Other stakeholders (development agencies, tourism operators, tourists in resort areas)
- Governments and Ministries of Education

Expected outcome

- Formal recognition by Governments / Ministries of Education of the importance and urgency to include DRR as a priority in school curricula agendas and to develop their Education sector plans with strong components in DRR – Follow up on the outcomes of the Ahmedabad Declaration
- Concrete guidelines to assist Governments and schools in integrating disaster risk reduction into school curricula and school construction, with concrete recommendations to involve the local communities, in particular women, teachers, village leaders, local NGOs in the formal and non-formal educational process (based on RCC and UNCRD Guidelines)
- Recognize traditional and indigenous knowledge for DRR as well as the needs of special vulnerable groups (disabled school children among others)
- Commitment to develop and or adapt and translate relevant publications and DRR educational materials into local languages to facilitate access to education for all
- Agreement of the organization of regular events integrating DRR into education to take stock of progress made in advancing the goals of HFA and MDGs in area of education
- Compilation of success stories / good practices in integrating disaster risk reduction into school for possible replication in other countries / communities

¹An “Education Task Force” (ETF) was created under ISDR’s leadership to steer the discussions and come up with concrete preparatory work for the workshop and the development of a regional strategy on Education for DRR. The ETF is currently composed of UNESCO, UNICEF, UNISDR and IFRC regional offices for Asia and Pacific as well as UNCRD and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC).