

22 October 2008

Natural Hazard Update:**20 Oct: Floods leave 22 dead in central Vietnam**

Floods in central Vietnam have left up to 22 people dead after a storm hit the region last week. Emergency services officials said that the storm left at least 10 fishermen missing in the South China Sea. The deaths were reported in the provinces of Nghe An, Thua Thien-Hue, Quang Tri, Quang Nam and Quang Ngai, AFP reported Nguyen The Hung from the National Flood and Storm Control Committee in Hanoi as saying. Officials said that soldiers were deployed to flood areas to search for victims while rescue workers were trying to reach people stranded after 18,000 buildings were damaged or submerged. According to Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA), the central provinces saw heavy rains from Wednesday (October 15) to Sunday (October 19) with average daily rainfall between 11.8 and 18.5 inches (300 and 470 mm). Additionally, more than 27,182 acres (11,00 hectares) of paddy and vegetables were damaged and three schools and several kilometers of roads were destroyed, according to DPA. Earlier in September, Typhoon Hagupit left up to 41 dead in northern Vietnam and caused some US\$65 million in damages.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MCOI7KLP8Y?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=vn>

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/TUJA7KL9DQ?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=vn>

News:

7 Oct, Maldives: Up to US\$ 400,000 tsunami aid handed out on election eve: Residents of one island in Maldives received more than US\$10,000 per household in tsunami relief only one day before the country's first multiparty elections last Wednesday. An investigation by Minivan News shows that up to 40 households in Shaviyani Atoll Maroshi were given Rf 128,500 (US\$ 10,039) in cash by the island office. An anonymous source within the island office confirmed the handouts but said the payments were distributed because that was when the office received the money from the national disaster management centre. The households have now been paid a total of Rf 771,000 (US\$ 60,234) in three installments, almost four years after the December 2004 tsunami devastated much of the island.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MCOI-7KEQTP?OpenDocument&rc=3&emid=TS-2004-000147-LKA>

13 Oct, Indonesia: Creating new economic opportunities in tsunami-affected communities of Aceh: The American Red Cross and Grameen Foundation are expanding their partnership to bring additional microfinance services to further alleviate poverty and revitalize communities in the tsunami-affected province of Aceh, Indonesia. This new initiative will enable YAMIDA, a Grameen Foundation partner microfinance institution, to open its first branch offices in the Aceh Jaya district, one of the poorest areas in Aceh. "Our microfinance program will use loans and additional safety nets such as saving plans to help generate livelihoods and incomes for women, an essential component of sustainable recovery in tsunami-affected communities," says Gerald Anderson, senior director of the Tsunami Recovery Program for the American Red Cross. "The expansion of this partnership will help increase income for women to provide housing, nutrition, healthcare, and education for their families."

<http://www.reliefweb.int:80/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/PANA-7KDBHF?OpenDocument&rc=3&emid=TS-2004-000147-LKA>

17 Oct, Sri Lanka destroys food aid withheld from tsunami victims: Sri Lanka said it would destroy a consignment of more than five tonnes of rotting rice and lentils meant for victims of the December 2004 Asian tsunami. District officials in the southern city of Galle said the food aid had not been distributed among the needy in the coastal town of Habaraduwa due to bureaucratic bungling. "It's the fault of the cooperative society in Habaraduwa which was supposed to distribute the rice and lentils, but for some reason they have not done their job and try to blame us," district official Saman Jayasekara told AFP. Independent auditors have reported that only a fraction of the outpouring of international and local aid for victims of the tsunami here actually reached the intended recipients. A spokesman for the Habaraduwa cooperative society, Samantha Weligamage, said it was sent the food stocks by the district secretariat, which coordinated tsunami aid without any instructions on how to distribute the food.<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/FBUO-7KHGR3?OpenDocument&rc=3&emid=TS-2004-000147-LKA>

Indonesia held int'l workshop on disaster risk management, climate change: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs held an international workshop on disaster risk management and climate change in Gran Melia Hotel, Jakarta. The workshop on "Enhancing South-South Cooperation Role in Disaster Risk Management in Asia Pasific: Focusing on Climate Change Adaptation" is in partnership with the Non Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and The Pasific (UN ESCAP) and UNDP Special Unit for South South Cooperation. The workshop is aimed to promote the capacity and the experience of various government institutions in Indonesia on disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA) in handling natural disasters.

http://www.jtic.org/en/jtic/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=462&Itemid=90

16 Oct: Higher food prices leave 45 percent of Bangladeshis food-insecure

The sharp increase in global food prices this year following a devastating flood and cyclone season has left about 65.3 million people-45 percent of the population-food-insecure in Bangladesh, according to a recent UN World Food Program (WFP) report. This latest figure has jumped from that reported earlier this year, as about 7.5 million additional people have been rendered food-insecure by rising food prices. WFP country representative John Aylieff said that during April and May, 74 percent of households reduced the sizes of their meals, 62 percent cut the number of meals they ate each day and 15 percent sometimes skipped food for an entire day, according to Xinhua. Because of this, Aylieff said food assistance for Bangladeshis should include items that are rich in micro-nutrients. Of the 65.3 million people who are labeled food-insecure in Bangladesh, about 6.9 million consume fewer than 1,800 kilo-calories per day, qualifying them as severely food-insecure, Xinhua attributed Aylieff as saying. With more than 40 percent of Bangladeshis living on less than US\$1 a day, the country struggles with chronic food insecurity but faced heightened levels following a devastating 2007 flood season that killed more than 1,000 people during the June to October South Asia monsoon season. In July, international agencies including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank offered a total of US\$1.3 billion in food aid to Bangladesh.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/KKAA-7KG9P4?OpenDocument>

<http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=58934>

NGOs say flood-affected in Nepal struggling to rebuild

Local NGOs say that although floodwaters in western Nepal have receded, the poorest communities that were hardest hit are still struggling to rebuild, the IRIN reported. Around 180,000 people were displaced by the heavy rains which affected Nepal's west between September 19 and 21 and triggered landslides and floods, IRIN reported. "The situation looks normal now but the poorest are facing a lot of difficulties because their livelihoods have been

severely affected," IRIN quoted Dhanapati Dhungel, the coordinator of the Forum for Awareness and Youth Activities, a local NGO, as saying. Far Western Kailali district, around 373 miles (600 km) southwest of the capital, Kathmandu, was the worst affected district, with 144,000 displaced. NGOs say that most families have returned to their damaged homes but are uncertain how they will sustain themselves as their farms and livestock have been destroyed, IRIN reported. The government says that some 247,000 acres (100,000 hectares) of land were ruined, causing some US\$8 million worth of crop loss. Officials say that seeds for winter crops have been destroyed and sediment has damaged soil fertility. "The problem is the farming season has arrived and the families need immediate support, especially for seeds and planting," said Sitaram Joshi from the Nepal Red Cross Society. According to IRIN, a joint mission from the government and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization is expected to carry out an assessment this week.

<http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?nid=163711>

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/KKAA-7KH9G6?OpenDocument>

New Initiative: Thailand: The Faculty of Public Health, Thammasat University, Thailand is pleased to announce the commencement of its **international MPH (Global Health) Program** in June 2009. Further information is available from our faculty webpage: <http://www.fph.tu.ac.th>

India: Strengthening Disaster Prevention and Resilience: Developing Media and NGO Capacity to increase awareness among communities in the Indian States of West Bengal and Orissa: In December 2007, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service Trust (WST) launched a 15-month pilot project designed to build the capacity of India's media, government, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to communicate effectively and regularly about disaster risk reduction issues. This initiative is shaped by the observation that radio, print, and television journalists have a crucial role to play in raising awareness amongst the public about risk management. The Trust contends that, rather than wait for a crisis situation, the media should be skilled in increasing and improving coverage of these issues on a regular basis as part of a culture of disaster prevention and preparedness.

<http://www.comminit.com:80/en/node/273321/2754>

Events

Training on climate change for media professionals from Maghreb

A specialised training course for the Maghreb media on the climate change will take place from 13 to 17 October 2008 in Rabat, Morocco. This session is being organized by UNESCO, ISESCO, the French Embassy in Morocco and the Moroccan Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment in the framework of the Arab Environment Day celebrated every year on 14 October. During the session a training kit prepared by Moroccan experts will be used as support material. It contains data sheets on climate change and key messages useful for the media. Participants from Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia will also have opportunity to take part in practical exercises. Particular attention will be given to examples of messages that journalists could convey on climate change and writing styles they could use in reporting on the subject.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=27563&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Regional Workshop on the Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness Programme (ERRP) for South Asia was held in Kathmandu, Nepal

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) in cooperation with the government of Nepal, the UNDP and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SARRC) Disaster Management Center (SDMC), organized the first Regional Workshop on the

Earthquake Risk Reduction and Recovery Preparedness Programme (ERRP) for South Asia in Kathmandu, Nepal on 10-12 August 2008. This workshop served as the kickoff event for the regional programme of the ERRP. This workshop was attended by a total of about 200 representatives from the five target countries.

The **Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2008** (ACDR2008) will be hosted in Bali by the government of the Republic of Indonesia on 12-14 November 2008. ACDR2008 aims to follow up on the progress made towards the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and to identify the gaps and challenges being faced in the Asian region. <http://www.adrc.or.jp/acdr2008bali/index.html> for more information.

Information Resources:

DRR Educational resources for children, teachers

<http://www.climatechangeeducation.org/>

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<http://www.drrlibrary.org>

Disaster Management Community, Solution Exchange: An initiative of the United Nations Agencies in India, connecting the nation's development professionals and enabling them to share, learn from each other, and collaborate through Communities of Practice. The Disaster Management community is one of the eleven communities of practice under solution exchange. This is a group of professionals from a wide range of organizations and perspectives who are concerned with issues pertaining to various phases of disaster management such as response, recovery, preparedness, prevention and mitigation. For accessing updates and other ongoing discussions, please sign up the disaster management community at: www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/en

Briefing: Talking about a Revolution: Climate Change and the Media

This International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) Briefing paper on climate change and the media is based on published studies of how the media report on climate change in different countries and on the problems that persist in the way it is reported.

The document emphasizes the complexity of climate change reporting, and recognises that, amidst criticisms of the media coverage, there has been improvement and that this improvement could increase with training for media outlets. It finds that the "catastrophic narrative" (reporting that depends on scenarios of potential imminent disaster for audience interest) is disempowering, and can be traced to scientists, politicians and non-governmental organisations, but that it is declining in favor of more balanced reporting. Ensuring relevance to audiences, including ways to address climate change that bring benefits, is a challenge, along with raising the profile of adaptation and the perspectives of the economically poor.

<http://www.comminit.com:80/en/node/273991/2754>

Blog: Climate in Crisis and planet in peril - but we're squabbling over copyrights!
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Is climate change the new HIV of our times?

<http://movingimages.wordpress.com/2008/10/06/warning-is-climate-change-the-new-hiv-of-our-times/>

Documentary film: *Climate in Crisis*, global documentary in two parts (2 x 52 mins) co-produced in 2006 by Japan's public broadcaster NHK together with The Science Channel and ALTOMEDIA/France 5.

For archived DRM updates:

ADPC Website:

<http://www.adpc.net/v2007/IKM/EVENTS%20AND%20NEWS/DISASTER/2008/DISASTER-NEWS-2008.asp>

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