

9 October 2008

Natural Hazard Updates:**6 Oct: At least 30 dead in Tibet after two strong quakes**

Two earthquakes shook near the capital of Tibet in southwestern China on Monday (October 6), killing at least 30 people and destroying hundreds of houses. The US Geological Survey (USGS) said that the first quake measured 6.6 in magnitude and struck at 16:30 local time (0830 GMT) some 50 miles (80 km) west of Lhasa, the provincial capital, the Associated Press (AP) reported.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2008/10/06/30-died-after-2-strong-quakes-hit-...>

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MCOI-7K6LDC?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=ch...>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7655032.stm>

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/10/06/asia/07quake.php>

6 Oct: Alert level raised for volcano on Indonesia's Sulawesi island

Indonesian officials say they have raised the alert level for Mount Soputan volcano on Sulawesi island after it began spewing hot clouds and lava. The 5,955-foot (1,783-meter) Soputan, located in Northern Sulawesi province, is on the northern tip of Sulawesi island, some 1,351 miles (2,175 km) northeast of the capital, Jakarta. Soputan first started erupting on Monday, 6 Oct.

<http://asia.news.yahoo.com/081007/3/3q3wr.html>

<http://asia.news.yahoo.com/081007/afp/081007051757asiapacificnews.html>

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hAe4OmenEdNMQhnKOK4DsqACEekgD93L2GP00>

3 Oct: Weakening Tropical Storm Higos heads toward southern China

Tropical Cyclone 21W (Higos), a quickly dissipating tropical depression over Hainan Island, will move northward to the south coast of mainland China soon, the Hawaii-based Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) reported Friday (October 3). According to the latest Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) warning #19, this tropical depression has sustained winds of only 25 knots (29 mph), with gusts to near 35 knots (40 mph).

<http://metocph.nmci.navy.mil/jtwc.php>

News:**UN says Nepal faces huge challenge in dealing with natural disasters**

According to aid agencies, Nepal is becoming a disaster "hot spot," with natural hazards increasing over the past two decades, the UN's Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) reported. According to IRIN, floods, landslides, fires, cyclonic winds, hailstorms, drought and famine are among the disasters affecting the country. There is also a serious threat of an earthquake, particularly in the capital, Kathmandu.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/PANA-7K8CV7?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=npl>

Only half of requested Myanmar cyclone aid delivered

The UN-backed group overseeing relief operations in Myanmar (Burma) announced Wednesday (October 1) that it has only received half of the funds it requested to help the country recover from Tropical Cyclone Nargis, which devastated the agriculturally vital Irrawaddy Delta when it struck five months ago. The Tripartite Core Group (TCG), comprised of representatives from the UN, Myanmar's military government and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, said in a statement that it has received only US\$240

million of the US\$482 million requested in a UN Flash Appeal following the disaster, the Associated Press (AP) reported. verall response to what has been called the worst natural disaster in Myanmar's modern history has been good, particularly in the successful prevention of outbreaks of waterborne diseases and dengue fever.

<http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2008/10/01/asia/AS-Myanmar-Cyclone.php>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=28390&Cr=Myanmar&Cr1=>

Soon, a tsunami invisibility cloak to protect ocean structures from destruction: London, September 30 (ANI): Scientists have shown that it's possible to make oil rigs or other ocean structures invisible to tsunami waves, with the help of an 'invisibility cloak'. Invisibility cloaks that are able to steer light around two dimensional objects have become reality in the last few years. According to a report in New Scientist, the first real-world application of the theories that made them possible could be in hiding vulnerable coastlines and offshore platforms from destructive tsunamis. The first working invisibility cloak, built in 2006, guided microwaves around a small, flat copper ring as if it wasn't there. By October 2007, a device repeated the trick for harder-to-handle visible light, and some progress is reported on the yet more complex task of making cloaks to hide 3D objects. Now, Stefan Enoch at the Fresnel Institute in Marseille, France, says that established cloaking principles could be applied to ocean waves, which are essentially two-dimensional. "Such techniques could be used to render vulnerable coastlines or offshore platforms invisible to damaging waves," he said.

http://www.newslocale.org/sci%10tech/stnews/soon_a_tsunami_invisibility_cloak_to_protect_ocean_structures_from_destruction_200809307648.html

Dnepr Rocket Launches Earth-Watching Satellite for Thailand

Thailand's Theos Earth high-resolution optical Earth observation satellite was successfully placed into a transfer orbit Wednesday by a Russian-Ukrainian Dnepr silo-launched rocket after nearly two years of delays related to launch-vehicle availability, according to Thai authorities and satellite prime contractor Astrium Satellites.

<http://www.gistda.or.th/Gistda/HtmlGistda/Html/index2.htm>

International Day for Disaster Reduction with a spotlight on tropical cyclone mitigation

Tropical cyclones give developing countries much needed rain for agriculture. But as the earth warms, they are set to become more intense and strong cyclones can cause great loss of life and property. This is especially true in South Asia, where the Bay of Bengal's shallow coastal waters, high tides and densely populated low-lying areas make cyclones particularly deadly. <http://info.scidev.net/t/488761/5892549/10572/0/>

Events

Is microfinance really the way to poverty alleviation?

Microfinance has the potential to shift the entire paradigm of poverty relief efforts and make a positive difference to millions of lives – but does it actually work? Our experts will bring you up to speed on breaking developments in this innovative field.

3 – 4 November, 2008

Asian Institute of Technology

Bangkok, Thailand

<http://www.csr-asia.com/summit08/precon.php>

Information Resources:

Save the Children Publication: In the Face of Disaster: Children and climate change

Climate change is having, and will continue to have, a devastating impact on millions of children worldwide. While climate change will have major implications for the environment and the economies of developing countries, this paper focuses on the increasingly severe and less predictable natural disasters that are likely to occur. We cannot know exactly what disasters climate change will bring about in the future, but it will be the poorest countries, and the most vulnerable people in those countries, who will be most adversely affected. Therefore, those who work with these communities – national governments, donors, humanitarian and development organisations – must have a better analysis of disaster risks and vulnerabilities, and must be flexible and innovative in order to respond to them.

<http://www.savethechildren.org/publications/emergencies/Climate-Change-Report-PDF.pdf>

Programme profile: Children in a Changing Climate (CCC): CCC is a collaborative programme spanning research, action, advocacy and learning with the purpose of securing children's influence on tackling climate change at every level. The programme brings together leading research and development organisations, each with a commitment to share knowledge, co-ordinate their actions and to work with children as protagonists rather than just as victims. These organisations recognise the considerable knowledge and capacity children possess for tackling climate change and they are dedicated to helping children directly voice their concerns and solutions to decision-makers at all levels. As such, the programme is informed and guided by children's opinions and is committed to letting children speak for themselves on the issues important to them. Children in a Changing Climate invite all interested agencies and children to get involved. Children in Changing Climate offers an opportunity for people to think big, and start taking timely action on strengthening children's role in tackling climate change, so long as new initiatives and collaborative work meets the aims, objectives and key guiding principles of the programme.

www.childreninachangingclimate.org.

Opinions:

Preparing for cyclones can save lives, but to save livelihoods nations must also help people **adapt to cyclones' impacts**, says Saleemul Huq, head of the climate change group at the International Institute for Environment and Development. <http://info.scidev.net/t/488761/5892549/10574/0/>

Investing in **detailed maps of potential cyclone damage** will save lives in Indian Ocean countries <http://info.scidev.net/t/488761/5892549/10575/0/>

Combining statistical and physical models offers the best hope of predicting changes in local cyclone risks in the Indian Ocean: <http://info.scidev.net/t/488761/5892549/10576/0/>

Disaster research can help future interventions, but urgency should never excuse exploitation of survivors, says Athula Sumathipala, honorary director of The Institute of Research and Development in Sri Lanka: <http://info.scidev.net/t/488761/5892549/10577/0/>

Feature articles:

Bay of Bengal cyclones are often hugely destructive. India hopes to cut deaths in the region through improved storm prediction and research, <http://info.scidev.net/t/488761/5892549/10578/0/>

A background feature by Greg O'Hare, a professor of geography at the UK-based University of Derby, explains **how cyclones in south Asia develop**, the damage they cause and what can be done to protect vulnerable populations: <http://info.scidev.net/t/488761/5892549/10579/0/>

Carbon disclosure in Asia - the year of storms and supply chains

ASrIA - the Association for Sustainable and Responsible Investment in Asia – recently launched the 2008 results of the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) for Asia ex-Japan. The report findings are insightful and will be of great interest to investors. The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) is a collaboration of 385 institutional investors with a combined US\$57 trillion of assets under management. This group of investors are actively seeking information from the world's largest companies on the business risks and opportunities presented by climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. The CDP is one way in which they are working together to collate this information. The 385 signatory investors, which include companies such as Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, AIG Investments, Barclays and HSBC, have access to all CDP responses including those which are not made publicly available. http://www.csr-asia.com/weekly_detail.php?id=11499

Global Risk Forum (GRF) Davos

Due to the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction 2008 the Global Risk Forum GRF Davos would like to present the "Platform for Networks", a new networking tool for the disaster and risk community. Meet colleagues on a virtual platform, exchange ideas and information and share experiences in disaster and risk management across disciplines, institutions, organizations and companies and stay up-to-date with recent developments in the field. Register under >>> www.grforum.org

Summary of the first meeting: UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, 3 October 2008, Paris

http://www.prevention2000.org/meeting_UNESCO_03oct08.pdf

Newsletter: The Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) CRUNCH newsletter presents an overview of the 2008 first semester disaster figures.

<http://www.emdat.be/Documents/CredCrunch/Cred%20Crunch%2014.pdf>

Website: The International Day for Disaster Reduction today, 8 October 2008, the new **global campaign website for making Hospitals Safe from Disasters** has been launched.

Bookmark <http://www.safehospitals.info> for:

- publications, information, tools and guidelines on making hospitals safe from disasters
- direct links to all the WHO regional webpages on the safe hospitals campaign
- media, interviews and video clips
- good practices and case studies
- key information in English, French and Spanish
- an event calendar synced with PreventionWeb, the disaster risk reduction community site
- information about the Hospital Safety Index

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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