

1 September 2008

Natural Disaster Updates:**Japan, 1 Sep: Flash floods hit Japan**

Torrential rains and violent thunderstorms have lashed central parts of Japan through the early hours of Friday morning causing major flash flooding. At least one person has died and around half a million people have been evacuated from their homes as a result of the fierce weather. Authorities evacuated more than 140,000 people in Okazaki and nearly 360,000 in nearby Nagoya as homes became inundated with muddy water. Some areas were left without power or telephone services for hours after the storms.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/world/news/29082008news.shtml>

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/08/30/Heavy_rains_cause_Japan_floods_mudslides/UPI-1380122011171/

31 Aug: Gustav no longer expected to reach Category 4

Hurricane Gustav was no longer expected to reach Category 4 strength before hitting the U.S. Gulf Coast, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said on Sunday. Gustav was expected to have top winds of 127 mph (204 kph), Category 3 strength on the five-stage Saffir-Simpson scale of hurricane intensity, the hurricane center said in a report.

<http://members.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N312418.htm>

31 Aug: Cuba tallies Gustav's economic damage

Cuba, although apparently spared a major disaster from Hurricane Gustav, began assessing damage on Sunday after the monstrous storm passed over rural areas of mostly minor economic importance, local experts said. There was widespread destruction of homes, schools, medical facilities, warehouses and infrastructure in Cuba's western province of Pinar del Rio and the Isle of Youth hit hardest by the storm on Saturday, but they account for less than 10 percent of Cuba's 11.2 million residents and except for tobacco, have little economic importance. <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N31521379.htm>

India, 31 Aug: Three million displaced in India floods

Authorities struggling to provide aid after devastating floods in eastern India said on Sunday they needed more boats and rescuers to help hundreds of thousands of people still marooned in remote villages. Bad weather and heavy rain over the past few days have hampered rescue and relief operations in the worst-ever floods to hit Bihar state in 50 years, officials said.

<http://www.ndmindia.nic.in/flood-2008/floodMonth/floodsAugust.htm>

<http://www.abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=5683650>

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/08/29/asia/flood.php>

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/08/28/flood.desperation/?iref=mpstoryview>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7587368.stm

31 Aug: Chinese rescue crew rush to help quake victims

China's Sichuan province was hit by 300 aftershocks Sunday as rescue teams scrambled to the region after a deadly earthquake. At least 32 people are reported dead or missing after Saturday's 6.1 magnitude quake. Hundreds of people were injured, according to the China Earthquake Administration.

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080831/china_quake_080831/20080831?hub=CTVNewsAt1

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/31/AR2008083100858.html?hpid=moreheadlines>

News:

Research opportunity: Post doctoral opportunities on climate change research for sustainable development

The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand invites applications for postdoctoral fellows or research associates in their thematic research area of Climate Change and Sustainable Development. AIT is in the process of consolidating, strengthening and expanding research in response to climate change in the areas of technology, policy and planning, managerial and institutional arrangements. This opportunity will be in climate change science, mitigation of green house emissions, vulnerability aspects, adaptation measures to climate change, and more.

<http://www.ait.ac.th/news-and-events/announcements/post-doctoral-fellow-opportunities-on-climate-change-research-for-sustainable-development>

Links with international agencies to avoid future tsunami disasters: Sri Lanka has established communication links with international agencies to be notified within 15 minutes of any tsunami threat, Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Mahinda Samarasingha said. A tsunami caused by an earthquake took away tens of thousands of lives in Sri Lanka in 2004. "Many lives were lost, but now we have a system to deal with disaster," Mr. Samarasingha said in an interview with 'The Korea Times' during his visit to Korea.

http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=24706

Agriculture may decline due to climate change

www.businessstandard.com/india/storypage.php?autono=311243

Information Resources:

Group profile: SaveTheHills (STH) is a group of citizens working towards raising awareness about natural disasters which is endemic to but proliferating rapidly in the mountains but which is still largely unknown to most. <http://www.savethehills.blogspot.com>

Website profile: Climate and Farming

This site provides a unique and comprehensive set of resource materials to help farmers make practical and profitable responses to climate changes. Subjects include:

Greenhouse Gases & Climate Change, including and overview of climate science and indicators of climate change in the Northeast.

Climate Change Impacts on Agriculture, including effects on crops, livestock, weeds, pests and pathogens.

Energy, Greenhouse Gases & Farming, including cost-effective strategies for farmers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enter the renewable energy marketplace.

www.climateandfarming.org

Website profile: Work of several agencies supporting **children as 'agents of change'** in the context of disasters and climate change. www.childreninachangingclimate.org

Essay: Climate change and agriculture: Measuring the effect of climate change on developing country agriculture www.fao.org/DOCREP/003/X8044E/X8044E00.HTM

Study: Vulnerability of Indian agriculture to climate change and globalization
Climate change and globalization are two main processes of global change, and it is assumed that both have major impacts on Indian agriculture. www.teriin.org/coping/index.htm

Action plan: Climate change action plan on sustainable agriculture

www.financialexpress.com/news/Climate-change-action-plan-aims-at-sustainable-agriculture/329513/

Potential Impacts of climate change

www.gcrio.org/CONSEQUENCES/summer95/agriculture.html - 48k - C

Fact sheet: Climate change effects on marine ecosystems report

www.csiro.au/resources/ps2yd.html

Article: Climate change: Attributing cause and effect

www.nature.com/nature/journal/v453/n7193/full/453296a.html

**Guidance manual: Effects of Climate Change and Ocean Acidification on Living Marine
Climate Change Effects and Impacts Assessment: A guidance manual**

www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate/effects-impacts-may04/index.html - 11k -

Global Warming, Climate Change, Greenhouse Effect

IPCC 4th Report Climate Change Impacts Adaptation and Vulnerability

www.global-greenhouse-warming.com/

Paper: Browsing on fences: pastoral land rights, livelihoods and adaptation to climate change addressing pastoral rights in response to climate change

This paper presents an overview of pastoral systems and addresses rights issues around access and control of resources in the context of climate change. The document brings together the inputs made by over 120 participants in a 2006 web-based forum and also includes material from a number of projects from around the world.

<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/environment/climate-change/feature&id=39239&type=Document>

Report: Climate resilient cities

'The World Bank joined with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) to publish an interactive report entitled, "Climate Resilient Cities." A Primer on reducing cities' vulnerability to climate change disruption and strengthening disaster risk management, Climate Resilient Cities should prove a useful tool for city managers the world over.'

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/Resources/climatecities_fullreport.pdf

Report: The impact of climate change on least developed country and small island developing states

This report considers how these countries will be impacted by climate change, reviews what is currently being done about the issue, and charts some areas of further development in the near term and longer term future, at the national and international level. The key impacts of climate change in this report include, firstly, those on natural and managed systems, Secondly, the projected human costs are outlined, and finally threats to cultural knowledge, particularly where cultural focal points are located near the coast

<http://www.iied.org/CC/documents/ClimateChangeReportFinal.pdf>

WB Research on the challenges of adapting to climate change

The World Bank conducts rigorous research on climate change to guide its operational strategies and offer better advice to member countries. An important aspect of this research agenda is its focus on adaptation to climate change – an issue that has received increasing attention since Kyoto. For most United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC) parties with relatively low emissions, adaptation is the critical challenge in framing policies that respond to climate change.

<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/0,,contentMDK:21572392~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:469382,00.html>

Coping with climate change: what works for women?

'Oxfam is calling for climate change adaptation policies at every level to be gender-sensitive so that they address both women's and men's needs and interests. Only this approach will be effective in building community-wide resilience to climate change, reducing gender inequalities, and so also promoting development.'

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate_change/downloads/climate_change_women.pdf

Briefing paper: Another inconvenient truth: How biofuel policies are deepening poverty and accelerating climate change

'The current biofuel policies of rich countries are neither a solution to the climate crisis nor the oil crisis, and instead are contributing to a third: the food crisis. In poor countries, biofuels may offer some genuine development opportunities, but the potential economic, social, and environmental costs are severe, and decision makers should proceed with caution.'

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate_change/downloads/bp114_inconvenient_truth.pdf

For previous DRM updates:

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

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