

30 September 2008

Natural Hazard Updates:**29 Sep: Typhoon Jangmi leaves two dead in Taiwan**

Tropical cyclone 19W (Jangmi), once a super typhoon, is now a weakening tropical storm, moving by just offshore from mainland China before clipping the southernmost part of Kyushu Island, Japan. According to the latest Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) warning #25, this tropical storm has sustained winds of 45 knots (52 mph), with gusts to near 55 knots (63 mph). Jangmi is moving across the still warm waters of the east China Sea, to the north of Okinawa, the PDC reported. Its forward speed is 7 knots (8 mph), moving in a northeast (55 degrees) direction.

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/09/28/taiwan.typhoon.jangmi.ap/index.html>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE48S0EM20080929?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>

29 Sep: Death toll from monsoon floods in Thailand reach 18'

Health officials in Thailand say that the death toll from monsoon flooding in the country has gone up to 18, while almost 190,000 people have suffered from health ailments. At least 24 of Thailand's 76 provinces have been flooded since September 11. Thailand's public health ministry says that the 18 victims were killed in flood waters in the north, northeast and central regions, Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported. Thailand's Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department under the interior ministry said that 839,573 people have been affected and economic losses have been estimated at US\$3.4 million (115 million baht), including damages to homes, bridges, reservoirs, temples and schools. The department says that flooding has receded in 19 provinces. However, the Health Ministry says that five provinces are still under threat, namely, Pitsanulok, Lopburi, Ayuthaya, Khon Kaen, and Prachinburi. Almost 190,000 people have received medical treatment for flood-related injuries and health ailments including the flu, skin irritations and trench foot. Around 500,000 acres (200,000 ha) of agricultural land has been flooded, affecting some 2 percent of the total paddy for the 2008-2009 growing season.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/MYAI-7JWA5L?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=tha>

29 Sep: Up to 41 dead in floods in Vietnam

Rains from Typhoon Hagupit triggered flash floods and landslides over the weekend, leaving at least 41 dead and dozens of others injured. At least five people were still missing and feared dead. Vietnam's Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control said that more than 1,300 houses were destroyed and almost 20,000 hectares of rice paddy damaged when Hagupit moved into China's Guangdong province.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/SHIG7JXJ4M?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=vn>

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/09/28/vietnam.floods.ap/index.html>

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-09/30/content_10134095.htm

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/low/asia-pacific/7640692.stm>

26 Sep: At least 16 dead from heavy rains in southwestern China

Heavy rains have triggered flash floods and landslides, leaving at least 16 people dead and 48 others missing in southwestern China. Nearly 1.3 million people were affected by the disasters in Mianyang city in China's Sichuan province. Rains began hitting Mianyang on Monday (September 22). Around 20,000 people are in need of emergency evacuation, the

spokesperson said. "So far, we have moved 18,000 residents who were threatened with danger to safe areas.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-09/26/content_10117784.htm

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iRjTi5hbKoTs64VLEiHZZ_phDxKgD93EAF080

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/PEK294585.htm>

25 Sep, India: Floods worsen in India's eastern Orissa

The flood situation in India's eastern Orissa state have worsened after 43 new breaches of embankments on the major Mahanadi river. The continuing rains have worsened the situation for many of the displaced as many were sheltering along roadways and open areas. The death toll from the floods in the state has risen to at least 50. Around 4 million people, in around 6,000 villages in 18 districts of the state have been affected by the floods.

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/Orissa_flood_situation_worsens_after_43_new_breaches/rssarticleshow/3526268.cms

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/StoryPage.aspx?sectionName=&id=a33e4080-f784-48fa-86e8-7baa647d44f5&&Headline=Diseases+hit+thousands%2c+flood+toll+50&strParent=strParentID>

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Bihar_flood_situation_improves_action_plan_ready/rssarticleshow/3527501.cms

25 Sep: Monsoon rains leave at least 8 dead in southern and northern Philippines

Flooding triggered by monsoon rains had left at least six dead on the Philippines' southern island of Mindanao. Rains left six people dead in several towns while three people were injured in the city of Cotabato and surrounding areas. The office reported some 365,000 people had been affected by the rains and at least 12 houses had been destroyed.

<http://www.manilatimes.net/national/2008/sep/26/yehey/prov/20080926pro7.html>

News:

UN to feed 170,000 displaced by floods in western Nepal

The UN's World Food Program (WFP) in Nepal said that it is mobilizing emergency food assistance for up to 170,000 people who have been displaced by flooding in Nepal's west, Nepalnews reported. The WFP's Emergency Operation (EMOP) has a budget of US\$2.5 million and will provide the affected with a mixed basket of foodstuffs. The latest spate of flooding in Nepal has inundated eight districts in the Mid- and Far-West. Worst hit are three districts in the western Terai: Kanchanpur, Kailali and Bardiya.

<http://www.nepalnews.com/archive/2008/sep/sep26/news12.php>

<http://www.nepalnews.com/archive/2008/sep/sep26/news13.php>

Scientists begin tsunami research: Bremerhaven, Germany - Researchers from 11 Indian Ocean littoral states have begun training tsunami detection techniques in the northern German port city of Bremerhaven. With the Weser River as their classroom, the specialists in particular are learning to use surveying equipment used for taking measurements of the seabed. On board the research vessel Uthoern, the scientists from Thailand, Sri Lanka, Madagascar the Maledives and other states are spending two weeks to learn ways of charting the ocean floor's structure using modern sonar equipment. The data is to be used to map the seabed and predict the course of giant waves caused by seaquakes, said Hans-Werner Schenke of Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research. The research institute started an international training programme in the aftermath of the tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean in late December 2004.

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=143&art_id=nw20080922161426584C707572

Discovered: world's largest tsunami debris: A line of massive boulders on the western shore of Tonga may be evidence of the most powerful volcano-triggered tsunami found to date. Up to 9 meters (30 feet) high and weighing up to 1.6 million kilograms (3.5 million pounds), the seven coral boulders are located 100 to 400 meters (300 to 1,300 feet) from the coast. The

house-sized boulders were likely flung ashore by a wave rivaling the 1883 Krakatau tsunami, which is estimated to have towered 35 meters (115 feet) high.

<http://www.physorg.com/news141568075.html>

No hope for MDGs without Climate Plan: "Development and environment have to go hand in hand," U.N. Under-Secretary General Ad Melkert said when the Poverty Environment Partnership (PEP) -- an informal network of development agencies and representatives from U.N. member states -- met to discuss the relationship among environment, climate change and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). "There is no way to distinguish agendas," Melkert stressed. "Investing in environment management is a crucial and often missing link to reduce poverty, to improve health." Even though climate change "affects everyone -- developed and developing countries", as Melkert stressed, "the poorest suffer the most" because of their high exposure to the effects of climate change and their limited capacity to adapt to the consequences. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=43987>

WHO says climate change poses health risks: Manila (AFP) — The World Health Organization on Wednesday warned Asia Pacific countries that they could be vulnerable to health risks and food shortages as a result of climate change. Climate change is among the topics being discussed in a regional WHO conference being held in Manila, and governments are being pushed to put health issues in their national climate change mitigation plans, officials said. Outgoing WHO regional director Shigeru Omi said that while they have been successful in dealing with controlling diseases, focus should shift to addressing "global health security" arising from global warming. "A warmer planet has contributed to some diseases, such as dengue, now occurring in areas where it was never seen before," Omi said in a statement. "Heat waves and droughts are among the many factors contributing to the current food crisis," he added. "Rising oceans could soon threaten our low-lying island states and areas in the Pacific." A draft paper being discussed at the conference called for a regional framework of action to protect human health from climate change.

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5j1RExofE2uyxDD2WLIFk-bVcXEGQ>

Sep: Bangladesh steps up to tackle climate change

Bangladesh has launched a comprehensive action plan to ensure the country's resilience to climate change over the next decade. The 2009–2018 plan was presented on 10 September during the UK–Bangladesh Climate Change Conference in London, United Kingdom. Addressing the conference via video message, Fakhruddin Ahmed, head of the Bangladesh government, said the country was on track for achieving the Millennium Development Goals but "climate change has the potential to wreak havoc on our efforts." A major focus of the plan is on research to better estimate and monitor the scale and timing of climate change impacts. The plan calls for more accurate modelling scenarios at a regional and national level, particularly for the predicted hydrological impact on the Ganges–Brahmaputra–Meghna delta system. It also targets research into the impacts of climate change on the macro-economy and linkages between climate change, poverty and health to identify suitable interventions. <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/bangladesh-steps-up-to-tackle-climate-change.html>

Events

National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi

October 1-5, 2008

Grameen Gyan Abhiyan (Rural Knowledge Empowerment Movement – Mission 2007: Every Village a Knowledge Centre) Secretariat and India: Telecentre Academy – Jamsetji Tata Training School of M S Swaminathan Research Foundation are organizing the following events.

- (1) Consultative workshop on “Telecentre Networks for Strengthening the Capacity of Telecentre Managers”, October 1-2, 2008
- (2) 5th Convention of Grameen Gyan Abhiyan, October 3-5, 2008
- (3) Technology Partners Pavilion, October 4-5, 2008

For more information:

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The second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Geneva, Switzerland, 15 - 19 June 2009

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is the main global forum on disaster risk reduction. At its first session in June 2007, it brought together representatives of governments, UN agencies, regional bodies, international financial institutions, civil society, the private sector and the scientific and academic communities to raise awareness on disaster risk, to share experience and to guide the ISDR system with a view to supporting countries to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action. www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform

5th SOUTH ASIAN WORKSHOP ON RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

27 - 29 November 2008 at Colombo, Sri Lanka

Leaders and fundraisers from over hundreds of non-profit organisations from all over Asia will attend and learn how to increase support for the causes they represent. The theme "BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY IN THE NON PROFIT SECTOR" is most timely and appropriate. The workshop provides a unique opportunity for the international community to exchange ideas and develop a common vision and strategy of resource mobilization for fund raising on sustainable basis. For details visit www.carmsl.org.

Information Resources:

World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development

This is the flagship annual report from the World Bank. Summary: 'World Development Report 2008 calls for greater investment in agriculture in developing countries. The report

warns that the sector must be placed at the center of the development agenda if the goals of halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 are to be realized.

- While 75 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas in developing countries, a mere 4 percent of official development assistance goes to agriculture.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, a region heavily reliant on agriculture for overall growth, public spending for farming is also only 4 percent of total government spending and the sector is still taxed at relatively high levels.
- effective in raising incomes of extremely poor people than GDP growth originating outside the sector.

<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTWDRS/EXTWDR2008/0,,menuPK:2795178-pagePK:64167702-piPK:64167676-theSitePK:2795143,00.html>

Document: Development and Climate Change in Bangladesh: Focus on Coastal Flooding

'This document is an output from the OECD Development and Climate Change project, an activity being jointly overseen by the Working Party on Global and Structural Policies (WPGSP) of the Environment Directorate, and the Network on Environment and Development Co-operation of the Development Co-operation Directorate. The overall objective of the project is to provide guidance on how to mainstream responses to climate change within economic development planning and assistance policies, with natural resource management as an overarching theme. Insights from the work are therefore expected to have implications for the development assistance community in OECD countries, and national and regional planners in developing countries. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/46/55/21055658.pdf>

Dealing with Disaster and Climate Change in Bangladesh

Absolute levels of disaster risk are increasing due to various pressures, including climate change. All over the world, impacts of global warming and climate change is already challenging development aspirations. This brief describes the case of Bangladesh, one of the countries most vulnerable to natural disasters and adverse impacts of climate change. As a nation, our priority concern is to progress from our vulnerable state toward a state of climate resilience. Bangladesh showcases what will happen under climate change, and what many countries will need to do to protect themselves in the years ahead.'

<http://www.climatechangepublications-bd.org/publications/15changingwayweddevelop.pdf>

Paper: Climate Change and Bangladesh

Bangladesh has already achieved one of the key Millennium Development Goals (MDG) - gender parity in primary and secondary schooling. The country is on track to achieve most of the MDG goals, even the difficult ones like infant and maternal mortality by 2015. However, disasters induced by climate change pose a serious threat to the development vision of Bangladesh. Frequent flood, tornados, landslides, spread of water salinity, drop in land productivity, bone-shivering cold spells, drought are some of the consequences that the country is having to do with despite being one of the lowest contributor of carbon emissions. If the scenario continues, very soon the country will be stripped off most of its development achievements. This paper presents, in a nutshell, the impacts of the climate change over the last few decades on Bangladesh, and suggests policy changes and international co-operation to help reduce the torments of climate change. <http://www.climatechangepublications-bd.org/publications/13ccbd.pdf>

Building back better: post-earthquake responses and educational challenges in Pakistan

The successes and challenges of rebuilding Pakistan's education sector after the 2005 earthquake A powerful earthquake struck the northern areas of Pakistan, India and Afghanistan on 8 October, 2005. The timing of the quake and the low quality of school construction were factors in its major impact on the education sector. This study documents the education sector's response to the earthquake in Northern Pakistan

and Pakistan-administered Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) from its immediate aftermath to July 2007. It presents the experience of educators and educational planners, managers and implementers who were engaged in new co-ordination mechanisms - the Education Clusters - at central and hub level. <http://www.unesco.org/iiep/PDF/pubs/2008/Pakistan.pdf>

UN World Water Development Report

<http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/>

- **Water for People, Water for Life**, First edition, 2003
<http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/wwdr1/>
- **Water: A Shared Responsibility**, Second edition, 2006
<http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/wwdr2/>
- **Water in a Changing World**, Third edition, to be published 2009
<http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/wwdr3/>

The United Nations World Water Development Report, released every three years in conjunction with the World Water Forum, is the UN's flagship report on water. It is a comprehensive review that gives an overall picture of the state of the world's freshwater resources and aims to provide decision-makers with the tools to implement sustainable use of our water.

Through a series of assessments, the Reports provide a mechanism for monitoring changes in the resource and its management and tracking progress towards achieving targets, particularly those of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Reports also offer best practices as well as in-depth theoretical analyses to help stimulate ideas and actions for better stewardship in the water sector.

The development of the WWDR, coordinated by WWAP, is a joint effort of the 24 UN agencies and entities which make up UN-Water, working in partnership with governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

8 October 2008: International Day for Disaster Reduction 2008

The International Day for Disaster Reduction raises the profile of disaster risk reduction, and encourages every citizen and government to take part in building more resilient communities and nations. This year the focus of the International Day for Disaster Reduction is on making hospitals and health facilities safe from disaster. The Day is being marked the world over by the United Nations, governments, organizations, and the public. UNISDR, the WHO, and national governments are working together to raise awareness of disaster risk reduction on 8 October, and launch new tools like the Hospital Safety Index.

http://www.unisdr.org/eng/public_aware/world_camp/2008-2009/iddr-2008/2008-iddr.htm

UN ISDR Publications:

Gender Perspectives: Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction into Climate Change Adaptation - 2008 Good Practices and Lessons Learned

This publication points out the vital nexus between women's experiences of natural resource management, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and how they can come together to make whole communities strong and sustainable. It also provides inspirational case studies of grassroots women's leadership, and of ways to support and encourage women's full participation as citizens in risk reduction, climate change adaptation, development, and disaster preparedness. The case studies also point to practical tools for implementing gender equality and mainstreaming gender perspectives.

Indigenous Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction:

Good Practices and lessons Learned from Experiences in the Asia-Pacific Region 2008

Even before we came up with high technology based early warning systems, or standard operating procedures for response, numerous local communities worldwide have prepared, operated, acted, and responded to natural disasters using indigenous methods passed on from one generation to the next. The publication "Indigenous Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction: Good Practices and Lessons Learned from experiences in the Asia-pacific Region", produced with the assistance of the European Union, aims to build awareness for indigenous knowledge as an effective tool for reducing risk from natural disasters. By improving the understanding of indigenous knowledge and providing concrete examples of how it can be successfully used, this publication can help all practitioners and policy makers to consider the knowledge hold by local communities and act to integrate this wealth of knowledge into future disaster-related work

Towards National Resilience -2008

Good practices of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction

Governments increasingly recognize the need for comprehensive multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral national coordinating mechanisms – National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction - to reduce, prevent and manage the impact of natural hazards. 45 countries have already launched National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction. Several other countries are in a process of establishing them. In an effort to inspire and support the birth of new National Platforms, and also to strengthen existing ones, the UN/ISDR secretariat launches its new publication featuring nine National Platform case studies.

Linking Disaster Risk Reduction and Poverty Reduction - 2008 Good Practices and Lessons Learned: A Publication of the Global Network of NGOs for Disaster Risk Reduction Building on last year's effort, this publication seeks to highlight initiatives that have successfully linked poverty reduction and disaster risk reduction in various parts of the world. It features several projects and initiatives that show how DRR can be integrated into poverty reduction (or vice-versa) to help reduce the vulnerability of the poor and protect their livelihoods and development gains

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

Disaster courses

<http://www.google.com/cse?cx=partner-pub-6825533572199708%3A3eh78k-ui1b&q=disaster&sa=Search>

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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