

8 September 2008

**Natural Disaster Updates:****Cuba, 7 Sep 08: Hurricane Ike Public Advisory 27****...IKE WEAKENS A LITTLE AS IT APPROACHES EASTERN CUBA...**

A hurricane warning remains in effect for the Turks and Caicos islands and the southeastern Bahamas. At 5 pm, the government of Cuba has issued a hurricane warning for the province of Matanzas. A hurricane warning is now in effect for the Cuban provinces. A hurricane warning means that hurricane conditions are expected within the warning area within the next 24 hours.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MUMA-7JA32X?OpenDocument&emid=TC-2008-000151-BHS>

**Hurricane Ike Situation Report #1: Hurricane Ike still affecting the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Southeastern Bahamas**

**The Event:** Hurricane Ike impacts Turks and Caicos and the southern Bahamas islands as a Category four Hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. A Hurricane Warning for Hurricane Ike (Category Three) remains in effect for the Turks and Caicos Islands and the southeastern Bahamas, including the Acklins Crooked Island, the Inaguas, Mayaguana, and the Ragged Islands, and for the central Bahamas including Cat Island, the Exumas, Long Island, Rum Cay, and San Salvador. A Hurricane Warning means that hurricane conditions are expected within the warning area within the next 24 hours. Preparations to protect life and property should be rushed to completion.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MUMA-7JA2M3?OpenDocument&emid=TC-2008-000151-BHS>

**India, 5 Sep 08: Up to 75,000 flood victims in northern India refuse evacuation**

Indian officials said that as many as 75,000 of the 100,000 people who still need to be evacuated from the flood-devastated northern state of Bihar are refusing to leave because they fear their property will be looted. The Indian armed forces have evacuated more than 800,000 people from five northeastern districts over the last week. In total, about 3 million people have been displaced by the floods, which began after the Kosi River burst a dam in neighboring Nepal on August 18 and cut a new path through a part of Bihar that has not seen major flooding in more than 50 years.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/AMMF-7J7H94?OpenDocument>

[http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/international/2008/September/international\\_September427.xml&ion=international](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/international/2008/September/international_September427.xml&ion=international)

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=5733058>

[http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/09/05/india.flooding.warnings.ap/index.html?eref=rss\\_latest](http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/09/05/india.flooding.warnings.ap/index.html?eref=rss_latest)

Flood, rainfall and river situation summary (as on September 5, 2008)

- Monsoon became active over south, south-east, north & north-east part of Bangladesh and adjoining Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya & Auranachal Pradesh.
- The Brahmaputra-Jamuna has started fresh rising and caused deterioration of present flood situation.
- The Ganges remained steady/slight fall and is likely to start rising slightly from tomorrow.
- The Meghna is likely to keep on rising trend for next 2-3 days.
- The confluence of both the rivers (Padma at Goalundo & Bhagyakul) will continue slight rising for next 2-3 days.
- Inundation situation of low laying areas in the eastern part of Dhaka city is like to slight deteriorate by next 48-72 hrs.

- More areas in the districts of Bogra, Jamalpur, Serajganj, Tangail, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Rajbari, Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Chandpur, Dohar & Nawabganj of Dhaka district, Shibganj & Sadar of Chapai-Nawabganj district is likely to inundate by next 48 hours.

**Bangladesh, 5 Sep 08: Disaster Management Information Centre situation report Monsoon became active.** The Brahmaputra-Jamuna has started fresh rising. The Ganges is likely to start rising slightly from tomorrow. The Meghna is likely to keep on rising trend. The Padma at Goalundo & Bhagyakul will continue slight rising. Inundation situation of low laying areas in the eastern part of Dhaka city is like to slight deteriorate. More areas in some districts are likely to inundate by next 48 hours.

#### **Nepal, 4 Sep 08: Emergency declared in flood-affected south**

Nepal's government has formed a high-level team to deal with flood-affected areas in the country's southeast. The panel has Defense Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa and Minister for Physical Planning and Works Bijaya Gachhedra as members. The meeting also declared nine Village Development Committees (VDCs) - Paschim Kusaha, Sripurjabdi, Haripur, Laukahi, Basantapur, Bhiokraha, Dhuski, Madhuban and Narsingh - as emergency areas, Nepalnews reported. According to Nepalnews, with a state of emergency in place officials will have an easier time utilizing resources for relief and rehabilitation in flood-affected areas without any hurdles. <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/EDIS-714N2M?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=npl>  
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/FBUO-716DLZ?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=npl>  
<http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?&nid=159410>

The impacts of Koshi floods is quite alarming with now more than 3 million affected in Nepal and India. Rescue and relief is becoming a challenge to reach out to millions that have been affected. Water related diseases are increasing. Please download the document from the link below: [http://www.disasterpreparedness.icimod.org/viewdoc.php?link\\_id=2f31ef3bb95761a2712663e392b53d0b](http://www.disasterpreparedness.icimod.org/viewdoc.php?link_id=2f31ef3bb95761a2712663e392b53d0b) or <http://tinyurl.com/5ztouk>

#### **Vietnam, 3 Sep 08: Bird flu spreads in Ben Tre province**

The bird flu epidemic has so far spread across Ba Tri district in southern Ben Tre province, according to the provincial Animal Health Department. Head of the Department, Le Tan Huu, said that veterinary workers and local authorities have culled a flock of 500 ducks infected with H5N1 virus at a farm in Phuoc Thoi hamlet, Phuoc Tuy commune. Over the past 3 days, 2 new bird flu outbreaks have been detected in An Hiep and An Binh Tay communes in Ba Tri district, with more than 1000 ducks culled. So far, the district has culled more than 5700 ducks from more than 10 farms in 6 communes.

Below is the recent outbreak of Avian Influenza in Vietnam. Also included is a link on an **interactive global health map** <http://healthmap.org/promed?v=14.9,108.5,5> that shows recent outbreaks of animal, plant and human diseases. <http://www.promedmail.org> (ProMED-mail is a program of the International Society for Infectious Diseases).

#### **News:**

**Why Disasters Are Getting Worse:** In the space of two weeks, Hurricane Gustav has caused an estimated \$3 billion in losses in the U.S. and killed about 110 people in the U.S. and the Caribbean, catastrophic floods in northern India have left a million people homeless, and a 6.2-magnitude earthquake has rocked China's southwest, smashing over 400,000 homes. If it seems like disasters are getting more common, it's because they are. But some disasters do seem to be affecting us worse — and not for the reasons you may think. Floods and storms have led to most of the excess damage. The number of flood and storm disasters has gone up

by 7.4% every year in recent decades, according to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters. (Between 2000 and 2007, the growth was even faster — with an average annual rate of increase of 8.4%.) Of the total 197 million people affected by disasters in 2007, 164 million were affected by floods. It is tempting to look at the line-up of storms in the Atlantic (Hanna, Ike, Josephine) and, in the name of everything green, blame climate change for this state of affairs. But there is another inconvenient truth out there: We are getting more vulnerable to weather mostly because of where we live, not just how we live.

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1838400,00.html>

**Statement by Achim Steiner in response to Hurricane Gustav and the devastating Indian floods:** The evacuation of New Orleans in advance of hurricane Gustav and the displacement of two million Indians to the worst flood in 50 years underline the increasing vulnerability of humanity to natural disasters-vulnerability that is set to rise under the scientific scenarios if climate change is left unchecked. According to Munich Re, one of the world's leading insurance companies and a member of the UNEP Finance Initiative, 2008 is already shaping up to be a significant, disaster-prone year. By June, an estimated 400 natural disasters had occurred costing \$82 billion. And while the earthquake in Sichuan Province, China cannot be laid at the climate change door many of the others are in line with the scientific predictions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/EGUA-7J5L3H?OpenDocument>

**India more vulnerable to climate change: UNIDO:** India's high dependence on fossil fuel makes it more vulnerable than others to adverse effects of climate change, which may result in low crop yields, rising sea level and loss in the country's GDP, a UNIDO report said today. Diverse geographical and population characteristics along with extremely high carbon-related energy dependence pose risks to India, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (South Asia) report said. It warned excessive use of fossil fuels could lead to heavy environmental, social and regulatory costs causing a drain on the nation's resources over the next century. <http://www.business-standard.com/india/storypage.php?tp=on&autono=45916>

**A governance blueprint for climate refugees- Preparing for a warmer world: towards a global governance system to protect climate refugees**

Climate change threatens to cause the largest refugee crisis in human history. More than 200 million people, largely in Africa and Asia, might be forced to leave their homes to seek refuge in other places or countries over the course of the century. This paper argues that current institutions, organisations and funding mechanisms are not sufficiently equipped to deal with this looming crisis and advocates a blueprint for global governance for the protection of climate refugees.

<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/migration&id=36646&type=Document>

## Events

9 Sep 2008

**International Symposium on Digital Earth** Organisers of the 6th International Symposium on Digital Earth are calling for papers to be presented at the conference. The conference is scheduled to take place in Beijing, China, and abstracts of papers need to be submitted by 30 November this year. <http://www.isde6.org/>

10-11 Sep 2008

### **BirdFlu 2008**

Avian Influenza and Human Health

Oxford, United Kingdom

<http://www.comminit.com/en/node/266599/ads>

25-29 May 2009

**Conference on Earth Observation for Global Changes**

Chengdu, China

The topic of geospatial data processing and integration for change detection is also likely to be included. <http://www.eogc2009.com.cn/>

18-20 Aug 2009

**Map Asia 2009**

Singapore

It is the 8th annual international conference and exhibition on geospatial information, technology and applications. It is being organised by GIS Development and the Singapore Land Authority.

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

**Information Resources:**

ADB's 2008 stats book on development

[http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Key\\_Indicators/2008/](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Key_Indicators/2008/)

Article: Virtual Disasters: EMS Training Goes High-Tech-A National Emergency Medical Preparedness Institute project uses game-based learning to teach EMS operational response to large-scale disasters. [http://www.emsresponder.com/print/Emergency--Medical-Services/Virtual-Disasters--EMS-Training-Goes-High-Tech/1\\$8059](http://www.emsresponder.com/print/Emergency--Medical-Services/Virtual-Disasters--EMS-Training-Goes-High-Tech/1$8059)

**Booklet: Degrees of separation: Poverty and climate change**

A new booklet from DFID shows just how close the links are between climate change and poverty. "Degrees of separation" explains how DFID and others are working to ensure that development becomes a big part of the solution to these major global problems. It also highlights the role that individuals can play in making a difference. For more contact: [enquiry@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@dfid.gov.uk) or call 0845 300 4100.

**Profile: The BEE - a solar-enabled communication hub**

In June 2008, UNICEF's Division of Communication set out to complete a prototype of a portable solar-enabled communication hub that would (1) connect children even when there is no connectivity, (2) offer quick connectivity hubs in an emergency, and (3) provide informational, communication, and educational opportunities for children in remote and/or emergency situations.

The BEE, as the communication hub is now called, was originally envisioned as an information tool that could remain in the community/school after an emergency. However, as the prototype neared completion, it was evident that it could be used for a variety of purposes whether for information exchange, a radio station, a way to deliver curriculum, ensure business continuity, or deliver entertainment and give people, especially children, a voice. <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/environment/climate-change>

**For previous DRM updates:**

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

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Roopa Rakshit  
Communication & Information Manager  
Information Knowledge Management (IKM)/  
Office of the Executive Director (OED)  
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center  
979/69, 24th Floor, SM Tower, Paholyothin Road  
Samsen Nai, Phayathai, Bangkok, 10400  
Tel: (02) 2980681-92 ext 141  
Fax: (02)2980012-13  
Mobile: 086 01 76246  
E-mail: [roopa@adpc.net](mailto:roopa@adpc.net)  
Website: [www.adpc.net](http://www.adpc.net)