

11 Feb 2009

Natural Disasters:**Record-breaking heat scorches southern Australia**

MELBOURNE, Australia – Wildfires destroyed more than 20 homes while hundreds of thousands of others lost power as a record-breaking heat wave that began claiming lives maintained its oppressive grip on southern Australia on Saturday. About six people died from heat stress in Melbourne, Australia's second largest city, over three days before the temperature mellowed to 31 degrees Celsius (88 Fahrenheit). <http://environment.developmentgateway.org/News.10971+M5e89a157006.0.html>

10 Feb: Australia bush fires leave over 180 dead

The death toll from deadly Australian bush fires in the country's south has gone over 170 and warned that the death toll is likely to rise. Hundreds of others have reportedly been injured. The worst-hit state has been Victoria, which has recently suffered from drought and record high temperatures. Two other states, South Australia and New South Wales have also been affected by bush fires but the fires are reportedly largely contained or are away from residential areas, the BBC reported. "We have had whole communities just completely wiped out, completely obliterated, by what people would describe as literally a fireball that just came over the hills and devoured everything before them. It's the largest natural disaster in our state's history and Australia's history," the BBC quoted Victoria State Premier John Brumby as saying. In 1939 a fire left 71 people dead on a day that became known as "Black Friday." <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7879979.stm>
http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/World/128_killed_in_deadliest_Australian_wildfires/articleshow/4097323.cms
<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/254854,australians-stunned-by-forest-fire-mayhem--131-dead--summary.html>

9 Feb: At least two killed by floods and landslides in Indonesia

At least two people were killed by floods and landslides triggered by heavy seasonal rains. "Two people have died and four others suffered from serious injury," the Xinhua news agency quoted Rustam Pakaya, the head of the Crisis Center at the Health Ministry, as saying. Floods have also inundated an airport and hundreds of houses in Central Java province on the main island of Java. The airport at the city of Semarang in Central Java was shut down on Sunday (February 8), Xinhua reported. According to Xinhua, Pakaya said that roads and railways were flooded by up to more than three feet (one meter), cutting off transport. According to the Jakarta Post, in Semarang, schools were closed and at least 4,500 people were forced to evacuate and were sheltering at mosques, community centers or with relatives. Environmentalists have long said illegal logging and farming practices have left many hillsides bare and prone to landslides.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/ASAZ-7P4HFR?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=idn>
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/ASAZ-7P4ET5?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=idn>
<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/02/09/indonesian-floods-close-airport-cause-landslides.html-0>

7 Feb: Floods and landslides leave five dead in central Philippines

At least five people were reported dead amid the worst flooding the central Philippines island of Negros has seen in an estimated 50 years. Heavy rain triggered by a low-pressure area began Saturday (February 7) and caused creeks and rivers in Negros Oriental province to rise by up to 13.1 feet (four meters), the Philippine Inquirer reported. Although provincial disaster officials said they were not able to assess damages because flooded areas were still inundated and unreachable on Monday, they said there had

been enormous property damage and an undetermined number of houses had been washed away in the province's main city, Dumaguete, according to the Inquirer. At least 400 airline passengers were stranded in Dumaguete Monday as several airlines canceled their flights. Negros Oriental's governor said three of the known victims were washed away by floods, while the other two, both children, were killed in landslides in the mountains. Officials said the worst damage was in coastal areas, where rain-triggered floods were combined with large waves, the Inquirer reported. The Philippines has two monsoon seasons. The current northeast monsoon is the lighter of the two and typically lasts from November through April, affecting the eastern half of the archipelago nation. In January, at least 25 people were killed in widespread flooding caused by the combination of a cold front and the monsoon. The worst flooding occurred on the northern coast of Mindanao island, just south of Negros island. <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/inquirerheadlines/regions/view/20090209-188221/Floods-landslides-kill-5-in-Negros>

News:

9 Feb: Humanitarian group appeals for US\$691 million for cyclone recovery in Myanmar

The group responsible for coordinating aid to Myanmar (Burma) in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Nargis appealed for about US\$691 million to help the country recover over the next three years. The Tripartite Core Group (TCG), which includes representatives of Myanmar's military government, the UN and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), released the appeal and its three-year plan in Bangkok, Thailand. Nargis struck Myanmar's southwestern Irrawaddy (Ayeyarwady) Delta on May 2, 2008, devastating the region's infrastructure, homes and agricultural crops and leaving about 138,000 people dead or missing. A US\$447 million appeal launched in July by the UN to carry efforts through April 2009 has only received US\$309 million. According to Reuters and the UN's Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), the new three-year strategic plan, known as the Post-Nargis Response and Preparedness Plan, is designed to guide recovery efforts in Myanmar through December 2011 using community-driven initiatives. It will also strengthen aid coordination, tracking and management to maximize effectiveness, IRIN reported. The plan focuses on recovery in eight key areas agreed on by the TCG, including health, nutrition and livelihoods.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUSSP237101.CH.2400>

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=82826>

30 Jan: Zoellick calls for 'Vulnerability Fund' ahead of Davos Forum

World Bank President Robert B. Zoellick has a message for the world as heads of state, CEOs, policy-makers and economists gather in Davos, Switzerland, for perhaps the gloomiest World Economic Forum in the meeting's 39-year history. The Vulnerability Fund could help developing countries by funding investments in key areas: infrastructure, safety nets, SME financing

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:22049582~pagePK:64257043~piPK:437376~theSitePK:4607,00.htm>

[Food Production Satisfactory In Post-Nargis Myanmar, But Access To Food Difficult For Many](#)

Food production in Myanmar was satisfactory in 2008 thanks to good harvests in areas not affected by last year's cyclone, says a new report. Despite extensive damage from Cyclone Nargis that mostly destroyed the rice harvest in the Ayeyarwaddy delta area, overall food production in Myanmar was satisfactory in 2008 because of increases in crop harvests in other regions, says a report issued by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WFP. Rice production in the cyclone-affected areas of Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon divisions is expected to be only 50 percent that of the previous year. However, agricultural production in unaffected areas will be close to or better than in the previous year. Reflecting favourable weather conditions and increasing use of better rice seeds, the

2008/09 cereal output is forecast at 21 million metric tonnes, 3 percent below the previous year but 10 percent above the average of the last five years.

[http://foodsecurity.developmentgateway.org:80/index.php?id=10976&tx_dgcontent_pi1\[tt_news\]=487910&cHash=6af7df7057&MP=10976-8861](http://foodsecurity.developmentgateway.org:80/index.php?id=10976&tx_dgcontent_pi1[tt_news]=487910&cHash=6af7df7057&MP=10976-8861)

Event:

Disaster Management 2009

First International Conference on Disaster Management and Human Health Risk: Reducing Risk, Improving Outcomes

23 - 25 September 2009

New Forest, UK

<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/09-conferences/disaster-management-2009.html>

Information Resources:

Opinion: A triple call on climate change: Simon Maxwell

ODI has launched a new meetings series on climate change, asking about the trade-offs and complementarities between climate change and poverty reduction. The discussions can be framed as three 'calls': a call to act; a call to collaborate; and a call to values. The call to act is directed to all those in the field of international development who do not currently work on climate change. Nobody can stand aside from this issue. It requires the combined multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary attention of every one of us – urban and rural, national and international, development and humanitarian. Our urgent priority is to mainstream action on climate change. Attempts to mainstream gender or poverty have shown us how difficult this can be. The lessons from those experiences need to be learned.

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/odi-publications/opinions/122-climate-change-call-action.pdf>

Study: 22 Jan: Research identifies risk factors that affected World Trade Center Evacuation

Study's inclusive collaborative approach finds organizational factors led to time delays

Researchers at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health have released findings identifying factors that affected evacuation from the World Trade Center (WTC) Towers on September 11. A research methodology known as participatory action research (PAR) was used to identify individual, organizational, and structural (environmental) barriers to safe and rapid evacuation.

<http://www.mailman.hs.columbia.edu/>

Website: LifeLines is a novel initiative for information services delivery, which uses an innovative mix of internet and telephony to provide critical and timely information to communities in rural India on a range of livelihood and related issues. Initiated by OneWorld in collaboration with British Telecom and CISCO, LifeLines today reaches out to rural communities in over 4600 villages across India with information services in the Agriculture as well as Education sector. <http://lifelines-india.net/>

Website: To successfully combat Avian Influenza (AI), or "Bird Flu", it needs early detection. Hence, it is necessary to catch or spot AI early on, and then try to nip it "in the bud" by timely and swift response. Recognizing this threat, the project dubbed, Communication and Information Systems for the Control of Avian Influenza (CISCAI) reeled into operation in 2nd quarter of 2008 and is headquartered in Jakarta, Indonesia, under the aegis of the ASEAN Foundation. The purpose of the study is to gauge the performance of these developed ICT systems in terms of the hardware, software and "people" ware aspects, in order to provide the requisite and timely information for concerned officials to act in a rapid

manner for the effective control and management of AI outbreaks within the ASEAN region. Re-launch of the CISCAI website <http://www.ciscai.org>.

Feature article: The human costs of climate change – a challenge for human security

Different from other problems facing humanity today, climate change and its interactions with human security challenges us at numerous levels. First among its consequences is our growing vulnerability to natural disasters, which have claimed more lives and affected more people in recent years than ever before. Moreover, climate change threatens to trigger setbacks for human development and will deepen human insecurities. Rising sea-levels, mounting temperatures and land degradation are already disrupting harvests, undermining food security, increasing the spread of diseases and causing competition over natural resources. In rural areas, the ripple effects of climate change mean millions of people will face growing hunger, ill-health, loss of opportunities and displacement. Meanwhile, crowded conditions and rapid population growth in the world's cities mean millions more will be at greater danger from natural disasters. Today climate change is a harsh reality for the world's poor and tomorrow it will grow into longer term dangers for humanity as a whole. A potentially overwhelming issue, climate change stands to be among the defining challenges of our generation. Yet, it also provides us with an opportunity to come together to protect our environment and to ensure that we can deliver on our commitments to advance sustainable development, peace and security. <http://ochaonline.un.org/humansecurity>

Feature article: Mainstreaming human security in responding to climate change

In addition to protecting our environment, tackling the human impacts of climate change is an urgent priority. Strong commitments will be needed to better shelter people from natural disasters, strengthen livelihoods and to prevent potential conflicts. *Mobilizing people and reducing risks*: Responding to climate change must start with a strong commitment towards reducing risks. Risk reduction however begins at home; in schools, at work and across communities through better disaster education, safer building techniques, improved agricultural practices, community-driven early warning systems, and disaster response plans. The most effective tools to reduce risks will be those grounded in local knowledge and tested in the crucible of local experience. Risk reduction must therefore start from the bottom up to help save lives and build disaster resilient communities. <http://ochaonline.un.org/humansecurity>

When disaster strikes: a guide to assessing seed system security

'Intervening in seed systems is serious business. Seed systems are at the heart of agricultural production and determines what farmers grow and whether they will have a harvest. Badly designed and poorly implemented seed aid during a crisis harms farmers, making them even more vulnerable to uncertainties. 'Do-gooder' aid though well intentioned, can also create long term dependency and may also weaken systems. Avoiding these pitfalls is a major concern for those intent on delivering better seed aid and seed system support. Emergency seed aid interventions must be carefully matched to the local ecology and to people's ecosystems.'

[http://foodsecurity.developmentgateway.org:80/index.php?id=10976&tx_dgcontent_pi1\[tt_news\]=487637&cHash=fec1c1060&MP=10976-8861](http://foodsecurity.developmentgateway.org:80/index.php?id=10976&tx_dgcontent_pi1[tt_news]=487637&cHash=fec1c1060&MP=10976-8861)

State of the Regions Report 2007-08: Climate Change

The 2007-08 State of the Regions report focuses on climate change and its implications and impact on Australia's diverse regions. The Report provides a useful overview of international, Commonwealth, state and territory greenhouse policies, as well as critically discussing some of the regional impacts of potential abatement measures and carbon taxes. The Victoria shire of Mount Alexander is presented as a specialist case study. <http://www.alga.asn.au/sor/2007/>

Working paper: Climate change challenges for EU development co-operation: emerging issues

This paper reviews that main policy processes that have been developed within the EU for addressing climate change in the context of development cooperation. It then looks at progress within the EU in terms of three of the main challenges that climate change poses to development co-operation, including:

1. How to bridge the large gap in funding climate change response efforts in developing countries;
2. How to ensure well coordinated, complementary and coherent efforts between different donors and between climate change and development policy processes; and
3. How to 'mainstream' climate change into development co-operation in the EU.

http://www.edc2020.eu/fileadmin/Textdateien/EDC2020_WP03_ClimateChange_online.pdf

Publication: Managing for Long-Term community recovery in the aftermath of Disaster

Managing for Long-Term Community Recovery in the Aftermath of Disaster is an insightful new book designed to help local officials and community leaders better understand the issues and challenges in restoring or building the social, political, and economic elements that make a community viable in the long term after a disaster has occurred. Written by Daniel J. Alesch, Lucy A. Arendt, and James N. Holly, Managing for Long-Term Community Recovery in the Aftermath of Disaster, is the result of years of cumulative research in dozens of communities that have experienced extreme events to determine what it takes for a community to truly recover. An extreme event can result from a natural hazard event; an intentional or mindless act of destruction; a large accident; a widespread virulent epidemic; or even an economic crisis brought on by the closure or relocation of a principal employer in the community. Years after experiencing an extreme event, many communities still struggle to recover. www.riskinstitute.org

Heavy weather: What climate change really means for Britain

Wash-out summers, big chills, extreme heatwaves. Each time the weather goes mad, we're given the same reason: climate change. Is that the whole story?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/heavy-weather-what-climate-change-really-means-for-britain-1515557.html>

For archived DRM updates:

ADPC Website:

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

Note: The information has been collated from publicly available information. Although the sources are deemed reliable, the information reported here are topical and are subject to change. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please drop a mail to adpc@adpc.net.

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