

9 Mar 2009

Natural Disasters:**6 Mar: Strengthening Cyclone Hamish heads towards northeastern Australia**

Strengthening Tropical Cyclone 18P (Hamish) is active in the southwest Pacific Ocean, located approximately 120 nautical miles (138.1 miles) northeast of Cairns, in northeast Australia, according to the Hawaii-based Pacific Disaster Center (PDC). The latest Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) warning #3 shows this strong typhoon with sustained winds of 80 knots (92 mph), with gusts to 100 knots (115 mph). This tropical system is expected to strengthen into a 100 knot storm, with gusts to near 125 knots (142 mph) early Sunday (March 8) morning, according to the PDC. Hamish is moving in a south-southeast direction (115 degrees), at 7 knots (8 mph). This bearing keeps the typhoon just offshore from the coast, although close enough to cause very active high surf conditions. Satellite imagery shows a tightly wound storm, keeping most of the associated rain bands over the Coral Sea, although as the storm continues on its path, the center of the storm will move closer to land, forcing heavy, potentially flooding rainfall ashore, the PDC reported. The point of eventual landfall, if it doesn't veer out to sea before striking the coast, looks to be generally in the area between Mackay and Rockhampton, Australia, according to the PDC. This area can expect battering winds, strong enough to cause excessive damage to physical structures in its path. Coastal residents and marine interests should both be making last-minute efforts at finding shelter, the PDC advised. Storm surge and very high surf will also make for very dangerous conditions. Rainfall, which will be heavy in the area, in addition to rising coastal seas will make dangerous flooding likely, the PDC reported. <http://metocph.nmci.navy.mil/jtwc/warnings/sh1809.gif>

4 Mar: Australian officials say worst of wildfire threat over

Rains and cooler temperatures led Australian officials to declare Wednesday (March 4) that the worst of the wildfire threat in southeastern Australia is over. Dozens of fires on February 7, known as "Black Saturday," left at least 210 people dead in southeastern Victoria State. Officials say that an unknown number of people remain missing. The fires burned down more than 2,000 homes and left some 10,000 displaced. An average of 0.8 inches (20 mm) fell across areas where four main fires burned in Victoria late Tuesday (March 3). Although all four continued to burn, officials said that threats to the region had largely passed. Around 3,000 firefighters were fighting the fires and about 2,000 more were on standby in case new fires ignite, according to reports. Containment lines have so far helped firefighters keep the fires under control. According to the AP, the Country Fire Authority was watching forecasts of stronger winds later Wednesday and cautioned communities to remain vigilant.

<http://www.iht.com/bin/printfriendly.php?id=20577797>

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MUMA-7PT9GG?OpenDocument&rc=5&cc=aus>

27 Feb: Australian firefighters contain fires despite weather

Firefighters in southeastern Australia have managed to keep four major fires under control after warnings that hot temperatures and winds might stoke the blazes. Thousands of people also reportedly fled their homes following the warnings. Schools and parks had been closed in southeastern Victoria state and people were warned not to travel to rural areas as heat, winds and lightning strikes were forecast for Friday. Officials had been cautious in an effort to prevent a disaster like the one that saw dozens of wildfires claim at least 210 lives on February 7. The fires, dubbed Australia's worst wildfire

disaster, burned down a total of 2,029 houses, more than 1,500 square miles (3,900 square km) and displaced around 7,500 people.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090227/ap_on_re_au_an/as_australia_wildfires

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iVrL-HB4lJKauP_TvuGvIRFYERzw

Landslide leaves at least seven dead in Papua New Guinea

Torrential rains triggered a landslide that left at least seven people, including four children, dead in Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Eastern Highlands, local media reported. According to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), the landslide left at least 14 people dead, including at least seven children. Officials expect the death toll to rise as more people are believed to be trapped under debris. Last month, hundreds of people in the Western Highlands province were left homeless after a river burst its banks following heavy rains. In early December extreme rainfall triggered a landslide in the vicinity of the Kainantu gold mine site in Eastern Highlands province, killing five mine exploration workers in their rooms and five local villagers that were traveling through the area. PNG's Highlands are prone to landslides due to the area's often heavy rains and mountainous terrain.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MUMA-7PT9KX?OpenDocument&rc=5&cc=png>

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MSAO-7PT5EF?OpenDocument&rc=5&cc=png>

<http://abc.com.au/news/stories/2009/03/04/2506863.htm>

Events:

- **3rd International Conference on Health GIS 2009**, 23-25 July 2009, Hyderabad, India.
<http://e-geoinfo.net/healthgis2009>
- **International scientific conference on climate change**
University of Copenhagen, 10 – 12 Mar, Copenhagen, Denmark
- **5th world water forum**, 16 - 22 Mar, Istanbul, Turkey, World Water Council
- **1st session of the regional platform for disaster risk reduction in the Americas**
17 – 19 Mar, Panama City, Panama UNISDR - The Americas
- **Scoping meeting on extreme events and disasters: Managing the risk**, 23 – 26 Mar, Oslo, Norway
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- **UNESCO world conference on education for sustainable development**, 31 –Mar- 2 Apr, Bonn, Germany, UNESCO & German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- **International symposium on disaster management**, 12 - 14 Apr, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- **International conference on water, environment and health sciences: the challenges of the climate change (ICWEHS)**, 13 – 17 Apr, Cholula, Mexico
- **Partners in emergency preparedness**, 14 - 15 Apr, Tacoma, Washington DC
Washington State University
- **Emergency management conference 2009** - learning from the past to prepare for the future, 16 – 17Apr- Perth , Australia

- **International conference on gender and disaster risk reduction**, 20 – 22 Apr, Beijing, China
- **7th open meeting of the international human dimensions of global environmental change: Social challenges of global change**, 26 – 30 Apr, Bonn, Germany
- **10th wildland fire safety summit International Association of Wildland Fire**, 27 - 30 Apr, Phoenix, Arizona, USA
- **International course on ecosystem-based integrated disaster risk reduction**, 13- 01 May Silang, Cavite, Philippines For more details, please see www.preventionweb.net
- **Evaluating mine action training workshop**, 2-6 Mar 2009, Bangkok, Thailand
- **Ensuring mine action promotes development: Priority Setting and Pre/post Clearance Assessment**, 11-13 Mar 2009, Vientiane, Lao PDR
- **The Bangkok workshop on achieving a mine-free South East Asia - EU Joint Action**, 1-3 April 2009, Bangkok, Thailand
- **Sixth International Humanitarian Demining Symposium**, 27-30 April 2009, Sibenik, Croatia
- **8th International Security Forum “Coping with global change”** 18-29 May 2009, Geneva, Switzerland **Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining**
info@gichd.org | www.gichd.org

News:

Climate change and cities: International negotiations have failed to achieve consensus on climate change mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions). The longer it takes to reach and implement global agreements on reducing emissions, the more adaptation will be needed for expected climate change, and the greater the number of cities (and other areas) for which protection will be impossible or too expensive. 'Urban centres contain a large proportion of the people most at risk from the effects of climate change. Urban dwellers face the threat of damage to their livelihoods, property, quality of environment and future prosperity: they suffer increasing risks from storms, flooding, landslides, drought and overloading of water, drainage and energy supply systems. Little attention has so far been paid to adaptation in urban areas. Although low- and middle-income nations are often perceived as predominantly rural, they now contain most of the world's urban population and most of its largest cities. Even Africa, long considered a rural continent, has two-fifths of its population in urban areas and a larger urban population than North America. <http://www.id21.org/insights/insights71/art00.html>

Information Resources:

Newsletter: TRINET: Climate Change and Fisheries
<http://www.trinet.in/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?cid=35&lid=530>

Tool: Micro Mapper: Community & PRA Application:

Application for Rural Communities. Provides interface for village information and planning. Primary and secondary information can be entered. Village level activities, facilities can be viewed and monitored. Water budgeting is calculated. Local language interface available. Village resource / PRA application can be drawn with GIS interface. This is a handy, user-friendly tool. This is designed basically to use a scanned image for digitizing map and adding data, labels etc. The user can design the map page. However there is no facility to port the map file, user can take image of the prepared map file and could be sent as attachment. Suitable for ICT / CSC centres. It is being field tested in some villages in Maharashtra. <http://www.micromict.net/jidnyasa/micromapper.html>

Tool: The Deskit: This compact emergency kit provides 72-hours of minimal support for one person. This "get-by" pack should be supplemented with more medical and other supplies in overall office planning. Special Velcro fasteners allow storage on the inner side of a desk--within easy reach in the event of an emergency. <http://emergencylifeline.com/emergProductDetail.php?product=7>

Tool: 'Disaster Recovery Testing: Exercising Your Contingency Plan,' written jointly by thirty disaster recovery professionals, drives home the importance of testing the company's contingency plan, discussing necessary management skills, effective use of resources, and the elements of successful testing in various settings. "The authors assume that a disaster recovery plan has already been developed and approved. The book's initial chapters are similar to what one might find in a disaster recovery planning book, including how to justify, budget, and manage the process - but all are geared towards testing. "One important chapter addresses the benefits of client participation. Disaster recovery managers know how important it is to develop a partnership with the client business leaders to address adequately all recovery aspects of business functionality. <http://www.rothstein.com/drgbooks/rg998.htm>

Guide: Fixing the Climate with ICT Produced by OneWorld South Asia in partnership with GKP, this advocacy guide is the result of the virtual GKP Forum on Climate Change held from 20 May – 9 June 2008 and captures in summary, key conclusions from discussions around the role ICT, partnerships and networks in promoting the creation and diffusion of knowledge in combating the effects of climate change. It also cites examples of ICT-related initiatives by GKP members and other organisations around the world in addressing climate change.

[http://environment.developmentgateway.org:80/index.php?id=10976&tx_dgcontent_pi1\[tt_news\]=490613&cHash=cd666767fe&MP=10976-8690](http://environment.developmentgateway.org:80/index.php?id=10976&tx_dgcontent_pi1[tt_news]=490613&cHash=cd666767fe&MP=10976-8690)

Report: Climate change impact and disaster vulnerabilities in the coastal areas of Bangladesh

'Focusing on the coastal areas of Bangladesh, this report analyses the impact of disasters with specific reference to the effects of climate change. It also looks at the nature of the disasters that frequently occur and discusses efforts to mitigate their impact. The coastal areas of Bangladesh are different from rest of the country because of their unique geo-physical characteristics and different socio-political consequences that often limit people's access to endowed resources and perpetuate risk and vulnerabilities. Bangladesh's coast is the biggest victim to natural disasters and highly affected by climate change with problems including salinity and water logging, soil erosion, flooding and cyclones.'

http://www.equitybd.org/newsletter/english/Issue-5/Disaster_BD.pdf

Paper: Climate change vulnerability mapping for Southeast Asia This paper provides information on the subnational areas (regions/ districts/provinces) most vulnerable to climate change impacts in

Southeast Asia. This assessment was carried out by overlaying climate hazard maps, sensitivity maps, and adaptive capacity maps following the vulnerability assessment framework of the United Nations' Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=7865>

Paper: Reducing poverty and hunger in Asia: Climate Change in the Context of Asia:

Pro-Poor Adaptation, Risk Management, and Mitigation Strategies

With a focus on Asia, this paper looks at climate change, particularly in terms of pro-poor adaptation, risk management, and mitigation strategies. It also discusses what can be done from an international perspective in moving forward the fight against climate change. Developing countries, such as those of Asia, are more vulnerable and less able to adapt to the changing climatic conditions. Much can be done with international support at the national level to foster local adaptation initiatives.

http://www.ifpri.org/2020/focus/focus15/focus15_11.pdf

Gender & Disaster Research: Katrina and the Women of New Orleans is a collaborative effort of the Gender and Disasters Research Group sponsored by the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, Tulane University. The goal in writing this report was to analyze the ways the hurricanes of 2005 affected the lives of women and girls and to bring those findings to the attention of policy makers, community leaders, scholars, grant makers, and disaster managers.

The ten chapters of the report focus on the pre-storm vulnerability and post-storm resilience of New Orleans women, and tackle the dearth of qualitative data specific to women to report on housing, employment and earnings, women's physical and mental health, and domestic violence.

http://newcomb.tulane.edu/article/report-katrina-and-the-women-of-new-orleans?department_id=nccrow-research

http://newcomb.tulane.edu/article/report-katrina-and-the-women-of-new-orleans?department_id=nccrow-research

Publication: Women and the Environment: Stressing the value of examining sustainable development through a gender perspective, this United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) publication explores specific policies, strategies, and practices in environmental use and conservation. The purpose of the book is to make the often hidden links between women and the environment visible, with an explicit focus on the gender-related aspects of land, water, and biodiversity conservation and management. Throughout the book, specific illustrations are included to highlight the ways in which women contribute to the well-being and sustainable development of their communities and nations, and to the maintenance of the earth's ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources. <http://www.comminit.com/en/node/282706/348>

E-learning course on gender equality in humanitarian crisis available July 2009

The IASC Gender Sub-Working Group (SWG) on Gender and Humanitarian Action, in collaboration with InterAction, is developing an e-learning course to help humanitarian workers mainstream gender strategies into their work. This course will provide illustrative examples to help you learn how to develop programming that ensures the needs and capacities of women, girls, boys and men are met in humanitarian situations. For more information contact: Julie Montgomery at jmontgom@interaction.org

Findings from the Commission on the Social Determinants of Health

Of the main recommendations findings from the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health several point directly to the need for action on the health of women and girls and to address health inequalities. http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241563703_eng.pdf

1. Improve Daily Living Conditions: Improve the well-being of girls and women and the circumstances in which their children are born, put major emphasis on early child development and education for girls and boys, improve living and working conditions and create social protection policy supportive of all, and create conditions for a flourishing older life. Policies to achieve these goals will involve civil society, governments, and global institutions.

2. Tackle the Inequitable Distribution of Power, Money, and Resources: In order to address health inequities, and inequitable conditions of daily living, it is necessary to address inequities – such as those between men and women – in the way society is organized. This requires a strong public sector that is committed, capable, and adequately financed. To achieve that requires more than strengthened government – it requires strengthened governance: legitimacy, space, and support for civil society, for an accountable private sector, and for people across society to agree public interests and reinvest in the value of collective action. In a globalized world, the need for governance dedicated to equity applies equally from the community level to global institutions.

Analysis: Capacity Assessment of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Support of Disaster Risk Reduction" a Analysis of the 2006 WMO Disaster Risk Reduction Country-level Survey published in 2008 http://www.wmo.ch/pages/prog/drr/natRegCap_en.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, request cross checking before referencing. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please drop a mail to adpc@adpc.net.

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
E-mail: roopa@adpc.net
Website: www.adpc.net