



Newsletter

Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network

October 2016 Issue

Special Topic

International Day for Disaster Reduction 2016



International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) began in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. Held every 13 October, the day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face. The 2016 edition marks the launch of the new "Sendai Seven" campaign, centred on the seven targets of the the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted in Sendai, Japan in March 2015, the first of which is reducing disaster mortality.

The average recorded global mortality rate from 2005 to 2014 was 76,424 deaths per annum, according to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED). Decadal average deaths from drought amount to 2,030. With the theme of "Live to Tell", the IDDR 2016 campaign will seek to create a wave of awareness about actions taken to reduce mortality around the world.

IDDR2016 supporters are encouraged to use the opportunity to tell the world what you are doing to implement the Sendai Framework in order to reduce mortality and improve health outcomes from disasters. Are you improving how people are becoming more risk informed? How are you doing it? Have you become more inclusive in your outreach with early warnings?

Please visit <http://www.unisdr.org/2016/iddr/> for more information on IDDR2016 and the new "Sendai Seven" campaign.

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About AADP

[Africa-Asia Drought Risk Peer Assistance Network \(AADP\)](#) is a network established by [the UNDP Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification \(GC-RED\)](#) under the *Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Project*.

The project is designed to mitigate the risks of drought and improve human livelihoods in Africa and Asia by creating an enabling environment for inter-regional knowledge sharing among drought-prone countries and facilitating the up-scaling of proven drought risk management (DRM) practices.

AADP provides the DRM practitioners and policymakers with a variety of peer learning and capacity development support to, based on their priorities, operational gaps and capacity needs, building on the pool of experiences and expertise of the ongoing [African Drought Risk and Development Network initiative \(ADDN\)](#).

Click [here](#) to view past issues of AADP newsletter.



Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

Open Data for Resilience Initiative (OpenDRI)



In 2011, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) launched the Open Data for Resilience Initiative (OpenDRI) to apply the concepts of the global open data movement to the challenges of reducing vulnerability to natural hazards and the impacts of climate change. OpenDRI supports World Bank Regional Disaster Risk Management Teams to build capacity and long-term ownership of open data projects with client countries that are tailored to meet specific needs and goals of stakeholders. OpenDRI engages with client governments in three main areas:

- **Sharing Data:** To increase public access to risk information, OpenDRI engages in dialogue with governments on the value of open data through working groups, pilot projects that evolve into long-term locally owned open data projects.
- **Collecting Data:** To engage communities in the creation of accurate and timely data about the rapidly evolving urban and rural environments in the place they live, OpenDRI works with governments and local communities to utilize simple, collaborative, crowdsourcing mapping tools.
- **Using Data:** To communicate risk more effectively to decision-makers in planning, preparedness and response activities, OpenDRI works with governments and partners to develop InaSAFE software, which provides insights into the likely effects of disaster events.

Further details on the OpenDRI are available at <https://opendri.org/>.

Asia Pacific Reference Centre on Disaster Risk Reduction and Community Resilience



**Asia Pacific Reference Centre
on Disaster Risk Reduction and Community Resilience**

With an increasing number of natural disasters and emerging humanitarian issues in Asia and the Pacific, it is imperative for the 38 National Societies to create an agent who can provide an intermediary service as well as introduce innovation and technology to effectively meet the growing needs of vulnerable people. As such the Republic of Korea National Red Cross (KNRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Asia Pacific Regional Office have jointly initiated the establishment of the region's first reference centre on disaster risk reduction and community resilience.

The expected functions of the Centre are as follows:

- **Knowledge creation and sharing** – To create, capture and share knowledge and resources through the Web;
- **Capacity strengthening** – To develop practical tools and training;
- **Advocacy** – To raise awareness and to promote policy and strategic approach; and
- **Partnership and networking** – To support the reference centre programming.

Please visit <http://apdrrcore.org/#community> for more information concerning the Asia Pacific Reference Centre on Disaster Risk Reduction and Community Resilience.



Asia Science Technology Status for Disaster Risk Reduction



ASIA
Science Technology Status
For Disaster Risk Reduction

2016



This publication explores the contributions of science and technology in disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Asia. The first part provides the qualitative analyses on the advancement of DRR science and technology in 11 countries in the region, many of which are prone to drought hazards.

The second part of the report features 28 case studies and good practices on applying science and technology in different field of DRR. In particular, a case study from China outlines how the advancement in the country's natural disaster monitoring, early warning, and risk assessment system contributed to the improvement in drought relief. A study in India focuses on the use of satellite data for drought assessment by both the national and state government under the National Agriculture Drought Assessment and Monitoring System in support of contingency planning and drought declaration processes.

The full report is available for download at <http://www.irdrinternational.org/2016/08/22/asia-science-technology-status-for-disaster-risk-reduction-white-paper/>.

Building resilience to drought: Learning from experience in the Horn of Africa



Building resilience to drought:
Learning from experience in the
Horn of Africa



This publication, compiled by the Integrated Drought Management Programme in the Horn of Africa, shares lessons learned from innovative drought and water security demonstration projects conducted by communities and partners in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. In preparing this document, the country facilitators reviewed 10 documented case studies of interventions in drought and water security with a view to consolidating general lessons and examples of good practice that could be replicated elsewhere in the region.

In each case, the facilitators assessed the background and extent of the problem and its related effects, and described the interventions and coping strategies undertaken to address the issue. They then reviewed the outcomes and drew out the lessons learned. It is hoped that these lessons will help stakeholders to deal with water scarcity in their own situations throughout the Horn of Africa.

The full report is available for download at http://www.droughtmanagement.info/literature/GWP_HOA_Building_Resilience_to_Drought_2016.pdf.

Event and Training Opportunities

EdX Open Online Courses (Open; Online)



Founded by Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2012, edX is an online learning destination and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) provider, offering high-quality university-level courses from the world's best universities and institutions to learners everywhere,



including some courses at no charge. It also conducts research into learning based on how people use its platform. EdX's mission is to increase access to high-quality education for everyone, everywhere, enhance teaching and learning on campus and online, and advance teaching and learning through research.

As of March 2016, edX has more than 7 million students taking more than 700 courses online. They include courses related to climatic disasters and droughts. For example, a five-week-long free course entitled "Sensing Planet Earth – Water and Ice" focuses on global warming, rising sea levels, droughts, flooding and the melting of the polar ice caps. Through the course, students learn how continental water and ice masses are measured and monitored through remote sensing, and how water and mass transport can be traced, and how this relates to the Earth's complex system.

For more information on edX and its courses, please visit <https://www.edx.org/>.

Aid & Development Africa Summit 2017 (21-22 February, 2017; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)



Gathering 300+ representatives from governments, UN agencies, NGOs, donors and private sector companies, the Aid & Development Africa Summit 2017 looks at how technological innovations and best practice can improve aid delivery and development strategy in East Africa. This exclusive platform of regional and global expertise will offer a unique opportunity for cross-sector engagement between UN

and government agencies, development banks, civil societies and the private sector, contributing to build long lasting partnerships and effective collaborations via structured networking opportunities, exchange ideas and influence regional development and humanitarian goals among participants.

The Summit provides comprehensive overview of the latest trends around humanitarian logistics, community health, WASH, security of aid workers and communities, camp management, mobile for development, financing, communication with communities and among aid agencies, etc. It will also be an opportunity to discover the lessons learned, new innovations and practical solutions from the recent drought crisis with all actors involved in humanitarian aid and development programmes in the region.

Please visit <http://africa.aidforum.org/> for more information on Aid & Development Africa Summit 2017, including the registration process.

Positions and Grant Opportunities

Research Associate – United Nations University (Closing date: 6 October 2016)



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

The United Nations University (UNU) is an international community of scholars, engaged in research, postgraduate teaching and capacity development and dissemination of knowledge in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. UNU's Institute for Environment and Human Security (EHS),



established in December 2003, is part of the UNU system, a worldwide network of Research and Training Institutes. The Environmental Migration, Social Vulnerability & Adaptation Section (EMSVA) section of the UNU-EHS undertakes pioneering research on how society manages climate stressors such as floods, drought, storms, sea level rise, and climatic shifts. The section works with governments, the private sector, and civil society to identify and design innovative climate risk management solutions to build resilience.

Under the authority of the Director of the UNU EHS and the supervision of the Head of the EMSVA, the appointee will be responsible for the project coordination, management and research related to the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII) as well as the institutional management of the MCII project office. MCII is an initiative is hosted at UNU-EHS and is formed by insurers, climate change and adaptation experts, NGOs, and policy researcher's intent on finding solutions to the risks posed by climate change.

Please visit <http://ehs.unu.edu/about/vacancies/academic/research-associate-2.html#overview> for more information on the post.

International Specialist on Disaster Risk – UNDP (Closing date: 7 October 2016)



The UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH) is implementing an Asian Development Bank-funded Regional Capacity Development Technical Assistance project on 'Enhanced Use of Disaster Risk Information for Decision Making in Southeast Asia'. Output 2 of this project aims to take stock of existing disaster risk information, and provide guidance on how such information can be used for the public investment planning processes in each of the three project countries, i.e., Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar. This Output 2 is expected to provide the scope and recommendations for integration of disaster risk information in public investment planning processes and will include sharing of experiences across the countries.

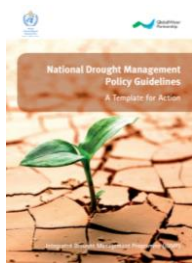
Empowered lives.

Resilient nations.

In this context, the BRH seeking an international consultant, whose main assignment is to design and lead the review of existing public investment planning processes in each of three countries. More specifically, the assignment will:

- Lead, design and develop a methodology for review of existing disaster risk information in each country in consultation with the lead international expert on Public Investment Planning and Disaster Risk Management;
- Consult with relevant officials and agencies in each of the three countries to take stock of the past and ongoing initiatives on disaster risk assessment and analyze their scope, purpose, coverage and usage;
- reviewing the public investment planning processes and disaster risks and existing institutional arrangements for public investment planning and assessment of disaster risks; and
- Guide the national public investment planning specialists in collection and analysis of information from agencies and write the specific section in the final report of the Output 2 in consultation with the lead international expert on Public Investment Planning and Disaster Risk Management.

Please visit https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=68627 for more information on the post.



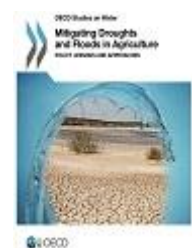
National Drought Management Policy Guidelines: A Template for Action (2014)

The National Drought Management Policy Guidelines provide a template for action that countries can use in the development of a national drought management policy and drought preparedness/mitigation plans. The process is structured in 10 steps that can be adapted by countries to reflect their institutional, infrastructure, legal, socio-economic and environmental context. It includes case studies from Brazil, Mexico, Morocco and the USA and will be continuously updated based on the experiences gained in the guidelines' application. The guidelines respond to a need for action oriented drought policies, which Governments articulated at the [High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policies](#). The document is available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).



Guidelines for preparation of the Drought Management Plans (2015)

The recommendations for the development of a drought management system described in these Guidelines provide a set of basic steps that many drought-affected countries can use to develop national drought policy aimed at risk reduction. The Guidelines are intended for those countries that are trying to move from crisis management to drought risk reduction policy. The step-by-step planning process is based on the National Drought Management Policy Guidelines (2014) and was harmonized especially for the European Union and/or accession countries in compliance with the key principles of integrated water management and within the context of the Water Framework Directive.



Mitigating Droughts and Floods in Agriculture: Policy Lessons and Approaches (2016)

The agriculture sector is particularly exposed to risks of floods and droughts, which may become more frequent and severe due to climate change in the context of increased demand for food and urban space. This report proposes a comprehensive analysis of, and a set of key recommendations on policy approaches to the sustainable management of droughts and floods in agriculture. It builds on recent trends, experiences and research from OECD countries in this area, in particular Australia, Canada, France, Spain and the United Kingdom. It also provides a general policy framework that could be useful for countries to analyze their own drought and flood policies, as well as to identify ways forward.

Useful Links on Drought Status Updates

Africa

African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development: <http://acmad.net/new/>
 Experimental African Drought Monitor: <http://drought.icpac.net/>
 Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Africa: <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>
 Food Security & Nutrition Working Group Update: <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/fsnwg/drought>
 IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC): <http://www.icpac.net/Forecasts/forecasts.html>
 Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) Africa: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Africa.aspx>
 Prevention Web Africa: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/africa/>
 Relief Web Africa: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc115?OpenForm&rc=1>
 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Climate Service Centre: <http://www.sadc.int/english/regional-integration/is/csc/>

Asia

Asian Disaster Reduction Center: <http://www.adrc.asia/latest/index.php>
 East Asian Drought Monitoring System: <http://atmos.pknu.ac.kr/~intra2>
 FEWS NET Central Asia: <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>
 IRIN Asia: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Asia.aspx>
 Pacific Disaster Center/World Natural Hazards Website: <http://www.pdc.org/iweb/pdchome.html>
 Prevention Web Asia: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/asia/>
 Relief Web Asia: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc115?OpenForm&rc=3>
 SAARC South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network Weekly Disaster News: <http://www.saarc-sadkn.org/about.aspx>