

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Water and Hazards' from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN). As you are aware today, 14 October, is celebrated worldwide as the 'International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction', we have coincided this issue of the digest with today's observation on disaster reduction. More information on 'International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction' is available on the web at <http://www.un.org/en/events/disasterreductionday/>

Regards,
APMN team

News

[1] International day for disaster reduction

October 14, 2009

The tragedies that struck the Asia and Pacific region this month underscore the urgent action that must be taken to better protect hospitals from natural disasters. Large-scale human suffering is exacerbated when the very services that are most needed to save lives - hospitals, clinics and other health facilities - are counted among the casualties.

Today, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction dedicates its annual International Day for Disaster Reduction to the urgent need to make "Hospitals Safe from Disasters."

Source:

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/international-day-disaster-reduction/5/27115>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yIkamzc>

[2] Indonesia declares seven quake-destroyed villages mass graves

October 13, 2009

Indonesian authorities declared as mass graves Tuesday seven villages destroyed by earthquake-triggered landslides, as they called off the search for over 200 people believed buried.

The decision to cancel the search in villages obliterated by landslides caused by the huge 7.6-magnitude quake that struck Sumatra island on September 30 had been made in consultation with the local community, said Padang Pariaman district police chief Uden Kusumawijaya.

Source:

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Indonesia_declares_seven_quake-destroyed_villages_mass_graves_999.htm

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/ykxyot>

[3] Isolated Philippine mountain areas running low on food

October 12, 2009

Rescue workers in the northern Philippines were on Monday trying to clear roads so that food, water and other supplies could reach survivors of landslides that killed nearly 300 people.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council in Manila said over 50 road sections and nine major bridges had either been destroyed in the landslides or washed away by floods, making it difficult to reach hardest hit areas.

Source:

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Isolated_Philippine_mountain_areas_running_low_on_food_999.html

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yfk6val>

[4] Natural disasters: A place of greater safety

October 12, 2009

When cyclones devastate a city, when homes collapse in a sudden earthquake, the most urgent need is medical attention. But a hospital is not necessarily a place of greater safety.

In the Gujarat earthquake of 2001, a total of 3,812 hospitals, clinics and other health facilities were reduced to piles of rubble: patients died, and medical staff with them. Seven years later, in the Wenchuan earthquake that leveled cities in Sichuan, China, more than 11,000 health centers were also seriously damaged or completely destroyed.

Source;

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/oct/12/natural-disaster-facility-prevention>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/ygkc4a9>

[5] Slides in mountains, floods in plains

October 11, 2009

At least 73 bodies had been dug up from the landslide site in Little Kibungan in La Trinidad on Sunday afternoon, even as shortages in food, gas and other basic items loomed for the millions residing in this mountain city, one of dozens of areas isolated by floods and slides caused by Typhoon Pepeng.

In all, at least 175 persons were killed in landslides in various parts of the mountain provinces, a number seen to rise as rescue team's work round the clock to pluck out people and clear debris.

Source:

<http://businessmirror.com.ph/home/top-news/17147-slides-in-mountains-floods-in-plains-.html>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yg6wqov>

[6] Ramsar secretariat selects theme for 2010 world wetlands day

October 8, 2009

The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands has announced that the theme for 2010 World Wetlands Day (WWD), celebrated on 2 February, will be "Caring for wetlands – an answer to climate change."

http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-63-78^24106_4000_0

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/ykrraxj>

[7] New disasters in India and Nepal add to save the children's massive relief efforts in Asia-Pacific

October 8, 2009

The past week has seen a considerable amount of disasters in the Asia Pacific region, and the recent flash flooding in Kamataka, India and severe landslides in Nepal have further intensified Save the Children's massive relief efforts in affected countries.

Source:

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/national/new-disasters-india-and-nepal-add-save-children039s-massive-relief-efforts-asia-/5/26636>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/ygfk9rg>

[8] UN looks to long-term recovery plans after slew of disasters in Asia-Pacific

October 5, 2009

United Nations agencies are mobilizing to provide longer-term recovery aid to a raft of countries in Asia and the Pacific, where a relentless barrage of tropical storms, earthquakes and tsunamis have hit millions of people in recent days.

"Within hours after the catastrophes hit, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) began working in support of national authorities to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs in these countries," said UN Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark in Bangkok, where she is holding meetings.

Source:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32429&Cr=&Cr1>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/ylnadft>

[9] Remote mountain villages devastated in Vietnam, as full extent of Typhoon Ketsana destruction is revealed

October 3, 2009

The full impact of Typhoon Ketsana is only now beginning to emerge, says Save the Children, as its aid workers travelled deep into the previously inaccessible mountain areas of central Vietnam. Covering the final several kilometres on foot as landslides and mudslides had made roads impassable, Save the Children workers found villages totally devastated by flash floods.

Source:

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/AMMF-7WGQ8Y?OpenDocument>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yl76zqp>

[10] Asia: Disasters underline urgent need for more groundwork

October 2, 2009

This week's disasters in Asia underscore the need for greater disaster preparedness, experts say; while countries are making progress, there are still gaps to be filled.

At least 1,100 people have been killed, with thousands more feared dead, in Indonesia after earthquakes struck off Western Sumatra and the city of Padang on 30 September. On 29 September, the Pacific islands of Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga were battered by a tsunami after an earthquake struck, leaving at least 136 dead.

Source:

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/f99346912f46d25fae39595cd8365d14.htm>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yh2c85r>

[11] Floods a wake-up call for climate change

September 29, 2009

The massive floods that inundated the Philippine capital were a chilling reminder of the need to seriously address climate change, experts said, warning that the lives of millions were at stake.

More rain fell on Manila and surrounding regions in nine hours on Saturday than the amount Hurricane Katrina dumped on New Orleans in 2005.

Source:

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/nation/view/20090929-227496/Floods-a-wake-up-call-for-climate-change>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/y9saehh>

[12] Nepal: Kathmandu faces worsening water crisis

September 24, 2009

Fetching drinking water is a daily ordeal for schoolgirl Sumitra Maharjan, who queues from dawn for hours to access a local public tap.

Most of Kathmandu's drinking water comes from the Bagmati river system, which has seven streams in Kathmandu valley. However, the supply is insufficient for the city, which has a chronic water shortage. The government blames changing weather patterns - the country is counted as one of the most vulnerable to climate change - and a growing urban population.

Source:

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?Reportid=86273>

OR

<http://tinyurl.com/yJg4wv>

Events

[1] Livelihood Seminar: Disaster Risk Reduction and Community-based Adaptation, December 2009, London, UK

More information:

http://www.climategovernance.org/livelihood_seminar_disaster_risk_reduction_and_cl.html

[2] 2nd International Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction to Cultural Heritage: 14 - 17 Nov 2009, Acre, Israel

More information: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/610>

[3] International disaster and emergency resilience (IDER) 2009: 20-21 Oct 2009, Karlstad (Sweden)

More information: <http://www.unisdr.org/english/events/v.php?id=10256>

[4] 10th Regional Training Course on Flood Disaster Risk Management: 12-23 Oct 2009, Thailand (Bangkok)

More information:

<http://www.adpc.net/v2007/TRG/TRAINING%20COURSES/REGIONAL%20COURSES/Default-REGIONAL.asp>