

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Water and Hazards', Issue 7 from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,
APMN team

News

[1] Earthquakes caused deadliest disasters in past decade

January 28, 2010

A United Nations report finds more people died from earthquakes in the past decade than from any other disaster. Data compiled by the Center for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters says earthquakes remain a serious threat for millions of people worldwide.

The report presents some staggering figures in terms of the number of deaths and economic losses caused by natural disasters during the past decade.

Source: <http://bit.ly/bLTpi4>

[2] ADB, UK study to help South Asia address climate change challenges

February 4, 2010

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Government of United Kingdom are financing a study to help South Asia analyze the costs and benefits of climate change adaptation actions.

South Asia is vulnerable to climate change. The impact of climate change can already be seen in the greater variability of the monsoon, increased frequency of tropical cyclones, and faster melting of the Himalayan glaciers.

Source: <http://bit.ly/aSbO5w>

[3] Disaster-prone Southeast Asia comes up with landmark pact

January 22, 2010

Center for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters says more than 780,000 people were killed in nearly 4,000 disasters. Name a natural disaster, any disaster, be it a typhoon, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide or tsunami all 10 countries that make up Southeast Asian bloc ASEAN have experienced them all.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9mLzTm>

[4] European Commission allocates almost €7.3 million to Central Asia for adaptation

February 1, 2010

The European Commission has allocated €7.295 million to help Central Asian countries reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters and to boost the coping capacities of the most affected populations. The funds will be channeled through ECHO, Commission's Humanitarian Aid department.

Source: <http://bit.ly/bl32fb>

[5] Record volume of water flows out of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau

February 1, 2010

Source of China's three main rivers, Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang rivers, last year recorded the largest volume of water outflow from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in three decades.

According to the provincial hydrological bureau of the northwestern Qinghai, the outflow of three rivers' headwaters, called Sanjiangyuan in Chinese, amounted to 77.63 billion cubic meters last year, a record high over the past 30 years or 26.6 percent more than the average level.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9LyWVM>

[6] Extreme cold triggers livestock disaster in Mongolia – UN

February 2, 2010

More than 20,000 families are at the risk of going hungry, as temperatures reaching as low as -50 degrees centigrade have killed nearly two million head of livestock in Mongolia, the United Nations agriculture agency reported today.

One third of the Asian nation's population leads nomadic lives and depend entirely on livestock for a living.

Source: <http://bit.ly/awsp9i>

[7] Climate change poses threat to wetlands

February 2, 2010

Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation today said the country's wetlands were facing problems as an impact of climate change and due to rampant encroachment.

The wetlands are the habitat of many endangered species. Experts say the change in climate could degrade the habitat of the species enlisted as endangered. The Wetland Inventory of Nepal 2009 states that about 45 per cent of the wetlands are in high altitudes, 34 per cent in mid-mountains whereas remaining 21 per cent lie in the Tarai region.

Source: <http://bit.ly/95Kom4>

[8] Pakistan: Drought fears for wheat farmers

January 28, 2010

Drought-like conditions across Pakistan in December and January are worrying wheat farmers who fear large-scale crop failure.

Wheat is the biggest staple food crop in Pakistan, with about 22 million tons consumed each year, according to official statistics. Since 2007 there has been a ban on wheat exports.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9HOxit>

[9] Avalanche kills 14 in China's icy Xinjiang

January 27, 2010

An avalanche in western China's snowbound Xinjiang region killed 14 people, state media reported on Wednesday, bringing the reported death toll from a fierce cold snap to at least 27.

The avalanche occurred Tuesday in Yili prefecture, an area along the border with Kazakhstan that is populated by large numbers of ethnic Kazakhs, China Radio International said.

Source: <http://bit.ly/bmJwzi>

[10] Snowstorm causes four deaths in Turkey, Bulgaria

January 24, 2010

A fourth person was found dead Sunday due to a fierce snowstorm that caused power outages in Turkey and traffic chaos in neighbouring Bulgaria, Anatolia press agency reported.

On Saturday the frozen body of Nuri Turhan, an 81-year-old Korean war veteran with Alzheimer's disease, was found in a mountainous region of Turkey's Aydin province, where he had become lost the day before, newspapers said.

Source: <http://bit.ly/bNGaL1>

Events

[1] Joint SAC/SEPA Biennial Conference 2010: Climate, Water & Soil: Science, Policy & Practice, 31 March - 01 April 2010, Edinburgh, UK

More at: <http://www.sac.ac.uk/news/forthcomingevents/sacsepaconf>

[2] Asia 2010 - The Third International Conference on Water Resources and Renewable Energy Development, 29 - 30 March, 2010, Kuching, Malaysia

More at: http://www.hydropower-dams.com/hd_73_0.htm

[3] The Second International Conference on Integrated Water Resources Management and challenges of Sustainable Development (GIRE3D), March 24 – 26, 2010, Agadir, Morocco

More at: <http://www.fsa.ac.ma/gire3d>

[4] 2010 International Disaster Management Conference, February 18 - 21, 2010, Orlando, FL

More at: <http://www.emlrc.org/disaster2010.htm>

[5] International Water Scarcity and Drought Conference, 18 - 19 February, 2010. Madrid, Spain

More at: http://www.conferenciasequia.es/web_en/

Announcements

[1] Call for Applications: 2010 Marie Curie Training Course on the Human Dimension of Global Environmental Change, Berlin, October 4 - 13, 2010

Deadline for application: April 6, 2010

More at: <http://www.berlinconference.org/2010/mariecurie/>

[2] Regional conference on "Appropriate Safe Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene(WASH) Solution to the Informal Settlements and Marginalised Communities", May 19 - 21, 2010 Kathmandu Nepal

Deadline for abstract: February 28, 2010.

More at: <http://www.nec.edu.np/delphe/conf/>

[3] Call for Applications: CAS in Sustainable Development and the Role of Technology (CSDRT), April 12th 2010 to May 21st 2010,

Deadline for application: February 21 2010

More at: <http://cooperation.epfl.ch/Jahia/site/cooperation/op/edit/pid/71655>

Resources

[1] FAO's Rural Water Livelihoods Index

Available at: http://www.fao.org/nr/water/docs/FAOW_RWLI_paper.pdf