

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Water and Hazards', Issue 10 from the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN).

Regards,
APMN team

News

[1] NASA satellite captures images of site of Colorado's worst natural disaster

April 29, 2010

It was 1976 and the nation was celebrating its bicentennial and Colorado was celebrating its centennial. What should have been a quiet summer day quickly turned disastrous as the big Thompson flood killed more than 100 people. NASA satellites recently took new images of the site of Colorado's worst natural disaster in history.

Source: <http://bit.ly/aIV2hR>

[2] Murky waters flow from Peruvian Andes

April 29, 2010

The Olmos megaproject, which will divert water from the Huancabamba River through a trans-Andean tunnel to desert land along Peru's northern coast, is being presented as a catalyst for farm development, but disputes are heating up over land, crops and water.

Source: <http://bit.ly/9DNwu5>

[3] Disaster response mechanism on hold

April 28, 2010

A natural disaster rapid response mechanism treaty for the SAARC region will not be signed in the upcoming summit with SAARC member states yet to reach a consensus on it.

Online media reports state bilateral diatribe between some of the neighbouring nations for failure to reach a consensus.

Source: <http://bit.ly/asg5zG>

[4] Mountain villagers told to descend

April 28, 2010

Thousands of villagers in the city's mountainous areas must leave home in October to live down in the valleys.

Started in 2005, the mountainous villager relocation project has already moved 50,000 villagers, meaning 221 villages have disappeared off the map of the city, according to the Beijing Daily.

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

[5] Glaciergate: A pyrrhic victory for climate skeptics

April 26, 2010

Melting glaciers are the most visible impacts of global warming. Their slow disappearance will affect freshwater reserves for hundreds of millions of people .

In 2009, Chinese scientists went on an expedition to the so-called 'Third Pole', an area in the Tibetan Himalayas with thick ice cover. The Tibetan plateau has more than 45,000 glaciers. But instead of a winter wonderland they found dried-up lakes, deserts, and desperate farmers.

Source: <http://bit.ly/ai8Zme>

[6] China steps up epidemic prevention in quake zone

April 25, 2010

China's health authorities have stepped up measures in preventing epidemics in northwest China's Qinghai Province where at least 2,192 people died since the April 14 quake, the provincial government said Sunday.

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

[7] Disaster management team rescues flood-hit Assam

April 21, 2010

Authorities in Assam summoned teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF NDRF National to rescue stranded residents in flood hit areas of Guwahati.

Incessant pre-monsoon showers, which continued for the third successive day on Tuesday lashed several parts of the State, affecting normal life.

Source: <http://bit.ly/c0XZi9>

[8] Dilemma in drought zones: To move or not

April 21, 2010

Getting drinking water has become a daily chore for residents of Dahuangdi village in Yunnan. Residents fear that relocation from the water-scarce region may cause problems, not solve them. Peng Yining and Li Yingqing report from Yunnan.

Source: <http://bit.ly/8XMHP4>

[9] Earthquake preparedness in Nepal: Develop plans that can help

April 15, 2010

No one can prevent the earthquakes from happening, but preventive measures may be taken to mitigate the severity and save lives and properties. Establishment of the Disaster Preparedness Plan and Disaster Relief Plan makes a huge difference in the earthquake-prone regions, when the catastrophes do occur. This is observed in the two Latin American countries: Haiti and Chile. By comparing these countries to Nepal and taking a closer look at Nepal's situation, it is evident that Nepal is in dire need of a solid mitigation plan.

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

[10] It is getting harder to find safe drinking water

April 12, 2010

The task of providing decent water where it is needed is becoming increasingly difficult all across the world. Countries have, in recent decades, been making investments in infrastructure designed to alleviate water shortages.

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

Events

[1] 9th earthquake vulnerability reduction course (EVRC-9), 10-21 May 2010, Thailand
More at: <http://bit.ly/bxzgrT>

[2] World environmental & water resources congress 2010, 16-20 May 2010, United States
More at: <http://bit.ly/9t3Q6Y>

[3] 1st International conference on sustainable built environment: Enhancing disaster prevention and mitigation, 27-29 May 2010, Indonesia
More at: <http://bit.ly/aAsSZx>

[4] 3rd International disaster and risk conference, 29 May - 03 Jun 2010,
More at: <http://bit.ly/aO7kUV>

[5] Course: Application of Public Domain Models for Water, Food and Climate Studies Wageningen, Netherlands, 31 May- 4 June 2010
More at: <http://bit.ly/atCCwT>

Announcements

[1] 2010 UNU International course - optional course in global change and sustainability, 10 May - 18 Jun 2010, Japan (Tokyo)

More at: <http://bit.ly/bRoyhK>

[2] Water Security for Policy Makers and Practitioners, 24 - 28 May 2010, UEA, London

For registration: j.donaldson@uea.ac.uk

More at: <http://bit.ly/bjMkJc>

[3] UNITAR/WTI e-learning course on Trade and Climate Change (31 May to 25 June 2010),

Contact: andreas.schmalz@unitar.org

More at: <http://bit.ly/dsu4tZ>

[4] Innovations in Science and Technology in Developing Countries, TWAS, the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World

Abstract submission deadline: 31 May 2010

More at: <http://bit.ly/a5Ud3H>

[5] International Law and Transboundary Freshwaters Symposium and Workshop 2010, 21 - 24 June, 2010, University of Dundee, Scotland UK

Registration deadline: Open

Contact: d.gilbert@dundee.ac.uk

More at: <http://bit.ly/aDuE9i>

Resources

[1] Good practices and tools on disaster risk reduction in education in Central Asia: compendium

Available at: <http://bit.ly/a0E6EV>

[2] Guidelines for Reducing Flood Losses, ISDR

Available at: <http://bit.ly/cyqLaf>

[3] Land and water resources management for upland farms in Southeast Asia: some lessons learned, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), 2010

Available at: <http://bit.ly/cn1DQt>

[4] Natural catastrophe risk insurance mechanisms for Asia and the Pacific, ADB

Available at: <http://bit.ly/cQ7bLR>

Some organisations working on Water and Hazard issues

[1] Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre

URL: <http://www.adpc.net/v2007/>

[2] Asian International Rivers Center

URL: <http://www.lancang-mekong.org>

[3] Helvetas Nepal

URL: <http://www.helvetasnepal.org.np/>

[4] Institute of Mountain Hazards And Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences

URL: <http://english.imde.cas.cn/>

[5] The International Centre for Water Hazard (ICHARM)

URL: <http://www.pwri.go.jp/icharm/info/link.html>

[6] International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Asia & Pacific

URL: <http://www.unisdr.org/asiapacific/>

[7] International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

URL: <http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/>

[8] Mekong River Commission

URL: <http://www.mrcmekong.org>

[9] Natural Hazards.org

URL: <http://www.naturalhazards.org/hazards/wind/index.html>

[10] National Weather service, Climate Prediction Centre

URL: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/fews/SASIA/rfe.html>