

Dear Colleagues,  
Please find below periodic thematic digest on 'Water and Hazard', Issue 21 (04 April 2011), prepared for members of Mountain Forum and Mountain Partnership network.

Regards,  
Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) team

P.S: Compiled links to news, events, opportunities, and resources are regularly updated on our [del.icio.us](http://del.icio.us) page. Please add [apmn.media](http://apmn.media) to your network.

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**News form Regional Member Countries (RMCs)**  
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- 1. Myanmar: Deadly earthquake in the border area of Myanmar, Thailand and Laos**  
28 March 2011  
So far the official earthquake toll (Myanmar/Burma state-run media) still stands at 74 with 111 people injured. Unofficial but very precise local reports are mentioning 104 fatalities. On Sunday 27/03, unofficial reports are mentioning already more than 150 dead.  
Source: <http://bit.ly/eHirZh>
- 2. China: China checks food, water for radiation in 14 areas**  
27 March 2011  
Chinese health authorities say they are monitoring food and drinking water for radiation contamination in 14 provinces and cities in northeastern and coastal areas, after low levels of radioactive material were detected in the northeast.  
Source: <http://bit.ly/gPWYqD>
- 3. Bangladesh: WASA awaits approval of four projects for safe water supply**  
26 March 2011  
The Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) has taken up four key projects that will involve an aggregate cost of over Taka 100.00 billion, considering the growing demand for safe water, especially during the summer for over thirteen million people of the capital.  
Source: <http://bit.ly/gocE0z>
- 4. Pakistan: Death toll in Pakistan mine disaster rises to 45**  
21 March 2011  
The death toll after a series of gas explosions at a coal mine in western Pakistan on Sunday has risen to at least 45, local media reported on Monday.

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

**5. Myanmar: Burma earthquake: At least 75 people killed**

25 March 2011

The magnitude-6.8 quake struck near the Lao and Thai borders, and was felt as far away as the Thai capital Bangkok, and in the Vietnamese capital, Hanoi. At least 75 people are reported to have been killed and many more injured when a powerful earthquake struck north-eastern Burma on Thursday.

Source: <http://bbc.in/dV28aN>

**6. Myanmar: Dozens killed in Myanmar earthquake**

25 March 2011

The death toll from a powerful earthquake that hit Myanmar has gone up to 75, state media reported Friday. At least 111 people were injured, Myanmar Radio reported. The 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar on Thursday near its borders with China, Thailand and Laos, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

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

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**Global News**  
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**1. Japan: Japan isaster sparks social media innovation**

31 March 2011

Japan grapples with an unprecedented triple disaster--earthquake, tsunami, nuclear crisis--the Web has spawned creativity and innovation online amid a collective desire to ease suffering.

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

**2. USA: Low levels of radiation in Pennsylvania rain, but not drinking water**

28 March 2011

Low levels of radioactivity detected in Pennsylvania's rainwater on Friday are believed to have originated in Japan, the site of a nuclear accident caused by this month's earthquake and tsunami, Gov. Tom Corbett said today.

Officials believe there is no health hazard from the radiation, Corbett said on the 32nd anniversary of the nation's worst nuclear accident at Three Mile Island in Middletown, near Harrisburg.

Source: <http://bit.ly/ebmPI9>

**3. Yemen: Explosion at Ammunition Factory Takes 121 Lives**

28 March 2011

In the Abyan Province, a factory was being raided by local people after it had been acquired by insurgents on Sunday. As they were going through it looking for anything that interested them, there was an explosion. There were possible over 121 people killed and another 45 wounded in the explosion. It occurred on Monday in the southern parts of Yemen.

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

**4. Japan: Needs better tsunami infrastructure**

27 March 2011

As one of the world's most earthquake-prone countries, Japan is at the forefront of developing measures to lessen the impact of the waves, but more needs to be done.

More infrastructures spending by Japan could have lessened the impact of this month's deadly tsunami but the government has become too reliant on low-cost measures such as handing out warning maps, a prominent tsunami researcher said.

Source: <http://reut.rs/ifcOPP>

**5. Uruguay: Natural disasters can benefit rural communities**

25 March 2011

In developing countries, natural disasters caused by climate events can bring to rural populations a 'window of opportunity' to improve their quality of life and protect against future tragedies. The experiences of a Honduran community suggest that climate-related disasters can contribute to an improved quality of life for poor people.

Source: <http://bit.ly/fKs5Nm>

**6. USA: Simple model could predict rare 'tsunami earthquakes'**

21 March 2011

Tsunami alert systems may soon benefit from a simple computer model that predicts more accurately those earthquakes that can potentially cause large, destructive, tsunamis.

Source: <http://bit.ly/hu9E82>

**7. Brazil: Banana peel can purify water, say scientists (Scidev.net)**

17 March 2011

Banana peels can be used to purify drinking water contaminated with toxic heavy metals such as copper and lead, according to a study. Researchers from the Bioscience Institute at Botucatu, Brazil, said that the skins can outperform even conventional purifiers such as aluminum oxide, cellulose and silica. These have potentially toxic side effects and are expensive.

Source: <http://bit.ly/i6wkWd>

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**Events**  
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**1. 18-20, May 2011**

**South Asia Media Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation, Kathmandu, NEPAL**

The workshop is open to journalists from any media in eight South Asian countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Complete application requires CV and two clippings/links to relevant published news or other works (printed, audio-visual, online etc).

Deadline: 8 April 2011

Contact: [youthmedia@icimod.org](mailto:youthmedia@icimod.org).

Event website: <http://bit.ly/fqTcHI>

**2. 22 – 24, June 2011**

**Food Security, Health and Impact, Call for conference papers and posters, Leeds, UK**

Registrations are invited from national and international research organisations, development agencies, donors, civil society and the private sector working on food security, nutrition and human health.

Deadline: 18 April 2011  
Contact: ccafs@life.ku.dk  
Event website: <http://bit.ly/goT2cc>

**3. July 31 – August 4, 2011**

**International Watershed Workshop Beijing Normal University, Call for Abstracts, CHINA**

The aim of this workshop is to discuss and present lessons learned on sustainable, ecologically-based watershed management from around the world as they apply to China. Abstracts are being accepted for oral presentations or virtual participation for case studies on successful, ecologically-based watershed management from around the world.

Deadline: 21 April 2011  
Contact: watershed-wrkshp@cornell.edu  
Event website: <http://bit.ly/eHEBAS>

**4. 19 -21, September 2011**

**International Congress Natural Cataclysms and Global Problems of the Modern Civilization  
GEOCATACLYSM - 2011, Istanbul, TURKEY**

Our mission is to bring together leading scientists, experts, representatives of international organizations and governments to develop a plan of joint actions for reducing risks and mitigating negative consequences of natural cataclysms.

Contact: Elmar Ahmadov [admin@geo-change.org](mailto:admin@geo-change.org)  
Deadline: 31 May 2011  
Event website: <http://bit.ly/hHdSA5>

**5. 25-29, September 2011**

**Climate change, extreme events and alpine ecosystem responses; Call for Abstract, Avila, SPAIN**

The aim of the session is to discuss alpine ecosystem responses to long-term climate trends and explore the role of extreme weather/climate events by using historical information, results of repeat surveys and experimental manipulation to better interpret past, present, and future climate change impacts.

Deadline: 30 April 2011  
Contact: Leyre Jiménez-Eguizábal, [info@aeet.org](mailto:info@aeet.org)  
Event website: <http://bit.ly/emxa1>

**6. 07-12, November 2011**

**Worldwide online Climate Conference CLIMATE 2011, Call for Papers, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, GERMANY**

CLIMATE 2011 is being organized in cooperation with UNEP, IPCC, WMO, the Sahara and Sahel Observatory and further world bodies. Building on the success of the previous online conferences in 2008, 2009 and 2010 with many million visitors and hundreds of peer-reviewed scientific papers, this year's interactive, free of charge online event will specifically focus on "Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management".

Deadline: 15 April 2011  
Contact: [info@klima2011.net](mailto:info@klima2011.net)  
Event website: <http://bit.ly/hrondX>

**7. 01-08, December 2011**

**International Conference on Geology Geo-technology, and Mineral resources of INDOCHINA, GEOINDO 2011, THAILAND**

The technical session will cover a broad range of topics from geology, mineral resources, geotechnical engineering, engineering geology, geomechanics, petroleum, mining, geothermal, groundwater, hydrogeology, geophysics, environmental geology, geochemistry, tectonics, earthquake, geohazards, Geographic Information System (GIS), to remote sensing. The post-conference excursion includes a 5-day trip from Khon Kaen to Luang Prabang City (World Heritage), Laos PDR and back.

Deadline: Rolling

Contact: Mr. Natthawiroj Silarattana, [geoindo2011@gmail.com](mailto:geoindo2011@gmail.com)

Event website: <http://bit.ly/iiAz9P>

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**Opportunities**  
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**1. Vacancy: Climate Change Specialist at Practical action, Nepal**

The position of Climate Change Specialist is currently vacant with the Practical Action Consulting, for which applications are invited.

Deadline: 22 April 2011

Contact: [recruitment@practicalaction.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@practicalaction.org.uk).

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

**2. Vacancy: Assistant professor of seismology, USA**

Applications are invited for a tenure track faculty position in seismology at the assistant professor level. Completion of the Ph.D. is required. Candidates of extraordinary ability and potential for innovation and leadership in research and teaching in any area of seismology are encouraged to apply.

Deadline: 16 Apr 2011

Contact: rof. Kenneth A. Farley, [marcia@gps.caltech.edu](mailto:marcia@gps.caltech.edu)

More at: <http://bit.ly/eGEku4>

**3. Vacancy: Disaster risk reduction adviser, UK**

To coordinate CAFOD's DRR work and act as a specialist resource on DRR across the organisation.

Deadline: 4 Apr 2011

Contact: [applications@cafod.org.uk](mailto:applications@cafod.org.uk)

More at: <http://bit.ly/e7zyZt>

**4. CGIAR: Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security (CCAFS), Call for grant Application**

CCAFS is searching for women scientists who are interested in conducting research on gender issues related to the climate change, agriculture, and food security nexus. In order to fund research on gender and climate change, CCAFS will award women scientists enrolled in a PhD program or interested in a post doctoral opportunity, and who are citizens of and affiliated with an institution in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Bangladesh, India, or Nepal to a research grant of \$35,000.

Deadline: 1 May 2011

Contact: [ccaafs@life.ku.dk](mailto:ccaafs@life.ku.dk)  
More at: <http://bit.ly/gNGXJ4>

**5. Water Security for Policy Makers and Practitioners, 23-27 May 2011; University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK**

The course is designed for entry and mid-level water and development policy-makers and professionals in government, donor, NGO or implementing agencies. The course will provide policy-makers with comprehensive background knowledge relevant to the increasingly important policy challenge of 'water security'

Contact: [devc.train@uea.ac.uk](mailto:devc.train@uea.ac.uk)  
More at: <http://bit.ly/eatlwm>

**6. Training: Summer School on Participatory Methods in Social Sciences for the Analysis of Water, Land use and Climate Change; 03-10, July 2011, Aosta,, Italy**

The 2011 ICREES Summer School will address the participatory methodologies available to social researchers to analyze environmental change, specifically in the fields of water, land and climate (common pool resources). The school will explore what methodological and conceptual tools can be used to integrate multidisciplinary research on complex social-ecological system.

Contact: Ms. Marcela Olmedo [m.olmedo@icrees.org](mailto:m.olmedo@icrees.org)  
Deadline: 30 April 2011  
More at: <http://bit.ly/eHJ8kT>

**7. Training: Climate Change and Development Short Course: 31 August – 13 September 2011**

International Development UEA is offering this short course the purpose of which is to equip non-specialists with a broad understanding of what climate change may mean for low-income populations and what the scope and prospects are for adapting to change and contributing to emissions reduction in the context of development issues and poverty reduction.

Deadline: Rolling  
[devco.train@uea.ac.uk](mailto:devco.train@uea.ac.uk)  
More at: <http://bit.ly/cYqf4J>

**8. Fulbright-EQC Graduate Award in Natural Disaster Research - Fulbright New Zealand**

The Fulbright-EQC Graduate Award in Natural Disaster Research is for a promising graduate student to undertake postgraduate study or research at a US university in the area of natural disaster research. Studying in the US is an opportunity to explore America, share your culture and make friends with students from around the world. The quality of teaching, facilities and resources is renowned worldwide.

Deadline: 01 August 2011  
Contact: Ron Mitchell - [ron@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:ron@fulbright.org.nz)  
More at: <http://bit.ly/fNy0kc>

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**Organisations working on Water and Hazard**

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**1. Water for People, CANADA**

Water for People–Canada is a charitable, nonprofit, international humanitarian organization dedicated to the development and delivery of clean, safe water and sanitation solutions in developing nations.

URL: <http://bit.ly/i4ZGwK>

**2. Global Water, USA**

Global Water is an international, non-profit, humanitarian organization founded in 1982. We're focused on creating safe water supplies, sanitation facilities and hygiene-related facilities for rural villagers in developing countries.

URL: <http://bit.ly/FTZcWr>

**3. Australian Tsunami Warning System, AUSTRALIA**

The Australian Tsunami Warning System provides tsunami warning services for Australia based on seismic information from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre, Japanese Meteorological Agency and Geoscience Australia on earthquakes.

URL: <http://bit.ly/g7Vab9>

**4. Partners in Technology, INDONESIA**

The objective of Partners in Technology International (PACTEC) is to support any nation's effort to build communications capacity in case of an emergency. It provides assistance to establish or improve two-way communications where reliable telephone service is unavailable. PACTEC purchases, installs, and maintains HF/VHF radio networks and satellite communications connectivity.

URL: <http://bit.ly/hpG67f>

**5. National Environment Agency (NEA), SINGAPORE**

With a vision to be an enterprising meteorological centre of excellence, MSD is expanding its capacity to enhance its multi-hazard warning services and building up its expertise in Climate Science.

URL: <http://bit.ly/hutXgU>

**6. American Water Relief, USA**

AWR's activities, aside from helping fund the construction of drinking water and waste disposal systems, also include water source protection, water user training and hygiene education.

URL: <http://bit.ly/gO1D6M>

**7. Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), JAPAN**

Its activities focus on information sharing, capacity building and cooperation. It has developed several successful capacity building programmes with its member countries.

URL: <http://bit.ly/gM0MUi>

**8. Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, THAILAND**

ADPC is a non-profit organization supporting the advancement of safer communities and sustainable development through implementing programmes and projects that reduce the impact of disasters upon countries and communities in Asia and the Pacific.

URL: <http://bit.ly/a4j1tD>

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**Resources**  
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1. **Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan's Tohoku Region: Rapid Damage Assessment and Need Survey (Survey Report)**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/ho4Rcw>
2. **Sign of resilience - pictorial journey**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/dFmgV3>
3. **Elements of disaster resilience: lessons from Bangladesh**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/eP4KpS>
4. **South Asia Disaster Report - Special Copenhagen issue**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/efY348>
5. **Country Report Nepal 1999, Asian Disaster Reduction Center, Japan by MB Poudyal Chhetri**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/g5gTV2>
6. **Japan earthquake – Most complete summary of the Fire and Police damage statistics**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/iHyPGD>
7. **Japan's horror reveals how thin the edge we live on by Bill McKibben** <http://bit.ly/eMM3eg> is  
URL: <http://bit.ly/ifSPM8>
8. **Myanmar Disaster latest info**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/dV2nlu>
9. **Myanmar - Disaster Statistics**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/hOUMid>
10. **Asian Tsunami Disaster News**  
URL: <http://bit.ly/FTuODG>

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