



Contribution to the Asia Pacific Water Summit
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Climate Change, Water, and Disasters

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United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)

www.unisdr.org

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)

Launched in 2000 by UN General Assembly Resolution A/54/219 as successor of the International Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction – IDNDR, 1990-1999:

The ISDR aims at building **disaster resilient communities** by promoting increased awareness of the importance of disaster reduction as an integral component of sustainable development, with the goal of reducing human, social, economic and environmental losses due to natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters.



ISDR Main functions

Policy and Coordination

Guide & monitor the implementation of HFA, Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Report to the UN General Assembly

Advocacy

Annual awareness campaign, publications

Information Management & Networks

website, Living with Risk, Prevention Web

Partnerships, outreach

support to regional partners & countries (national platforms and action plans- policy, advocacy, information

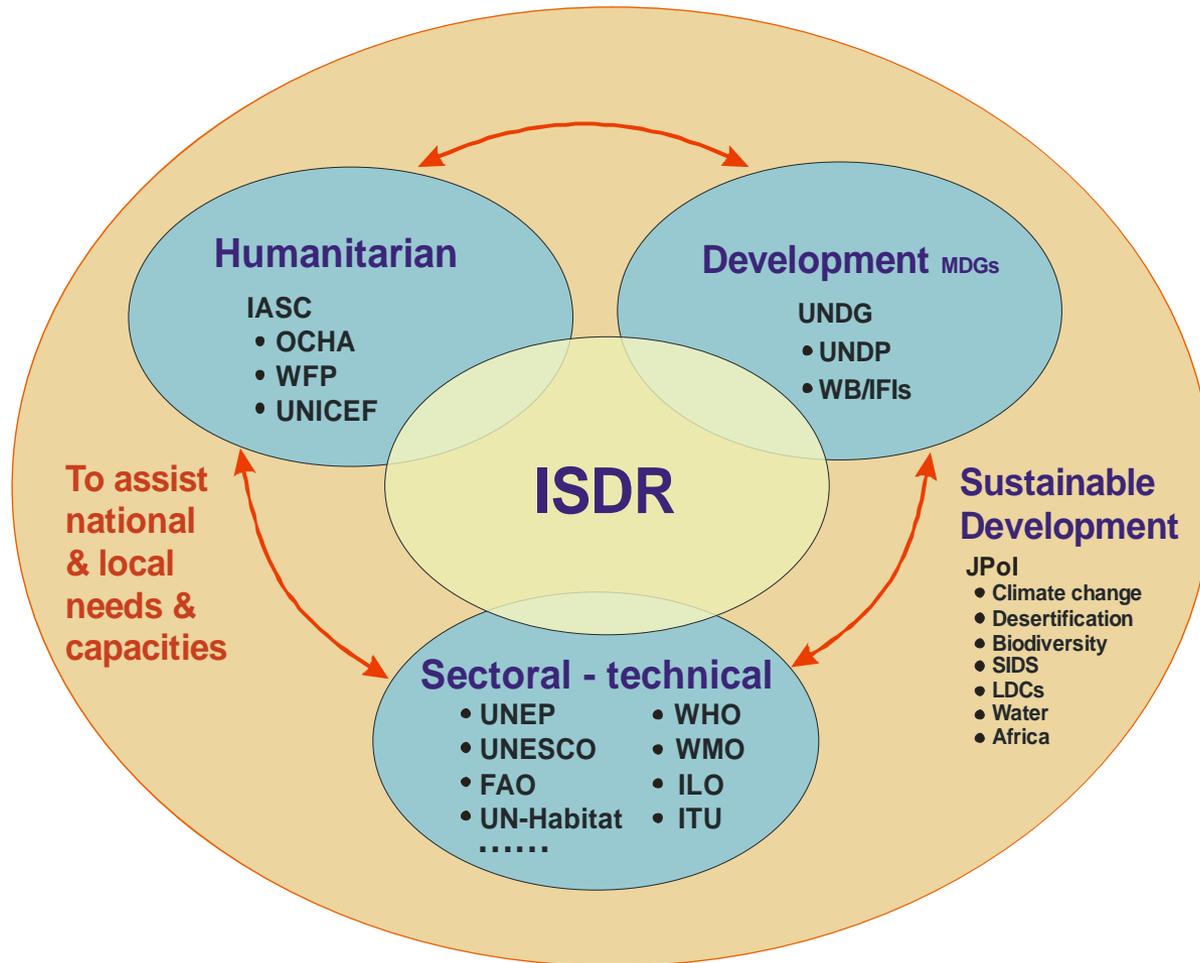
ISDR system and resource mobilization



ISDR secretariat and the ISDR System

- **Headquarters** in Geneva
- **Regional offices** Panama - Americas; Nairobi - Africa; Bangkok and Kobe – Asia; Dushanbe - Cent. Asia; Cairo - WANA
- **Thematic Platforms** (Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning in Bonn, Germany; International Recovery Platform in Kobe, Japan; CIIFEN – El Nino in Guayaquil, Ecuador; Global Wildland Fire Network in Freiburg, Germany)
- **Partner Networks and Regional Centres:** (ADPC, ADRC, ASEAN, SAARC, ECO, SOPAC, CEPREDENAC, CDERA, ACS, CAPRADE, AU/NEPAD, SADR, ECOWAS, IGAD, CoE, CIS, etc.)
- **UN agencies and Governments**

UN landscape: scope for mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction



Inter-Agency Task Force on DR to Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Global Risk Trends - Disasters are NOT “Natural”

Natural and human-induced hazards

Climate change and variables
(global warming ...)

Socio-economic: poverty,
unplanned urban growth, lack of
awareness and institutional capacities...

Physical: insufficient land use planning,
housing, infrastructures located in hazard
prone areas...

Environmental degradation
ecosystem degradation; coastal,
watershed, marshland..., etc.



**HAZARDS +
EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS**



VULNERABILITY

Natural hazard

X

Vulnerability

=

Disaster Risk

Disaster Risk Reduction – An Agenda in Progress

1989: IDNDR 1990-1999 – *promotion of disaster reduction, technical and scientific buy-in*

1994: Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action – *first blueprint for disaster reduction policy guidance (social & community orientation)*

2000: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) - *increased public commitment , linked to sustainable development, enlarged networking and partnerships.*

Mechanisms: IATF/DR, ISDR secretariat, UN Trust Fund

2002: Johannesburg Plan of Implementation - WSSD *Includes new section on “An integrated, multi-hazard, inclusive approach to address vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management...”*

2005: WCDR - Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015
Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters

2007: Global Platform *The ISDR Movement*

UN/ISDR's message to the AP Water Summit and G8 Summit

Climate Change Water Disaster Risk Reduction

These three words need to be spelled out together

Because
the impacts of climate change appear
as disasters

Hydro-meteorological disasters

The scientific evidence is clear

- 4th IPCC Assessment: temperatures rising, loss of glaciers and polar ice, rainfall patterns change, rising sea levels, more drought, stronger tropical cyclones
- Vulnerable areas: Africa, mega-deltas of Asia, small island developing states, and the poor everywhere

The ISDR underlines that to reduce the risk of extreme climate events, action is required on twin policies: to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change, and to reduce the vulnerability of societies to inevitable climate change impacts.

Both MITIGATION and ADAPTATION approaches are important!

Strengthening tropical cyclones

Hurricane Katrina in 2005

Cyclone Sidr in 2007

We cannot conclude these strong tropical cyclones are due to the effects of ongoing climate change, but we need to be well prepared for such tropical cyclones in the near future!



[A Cyclone Sidr Victim in Bangladesh](#)

We are here to serve for a person like her

Are we ready for strengthening tropical cyclones in the near future?

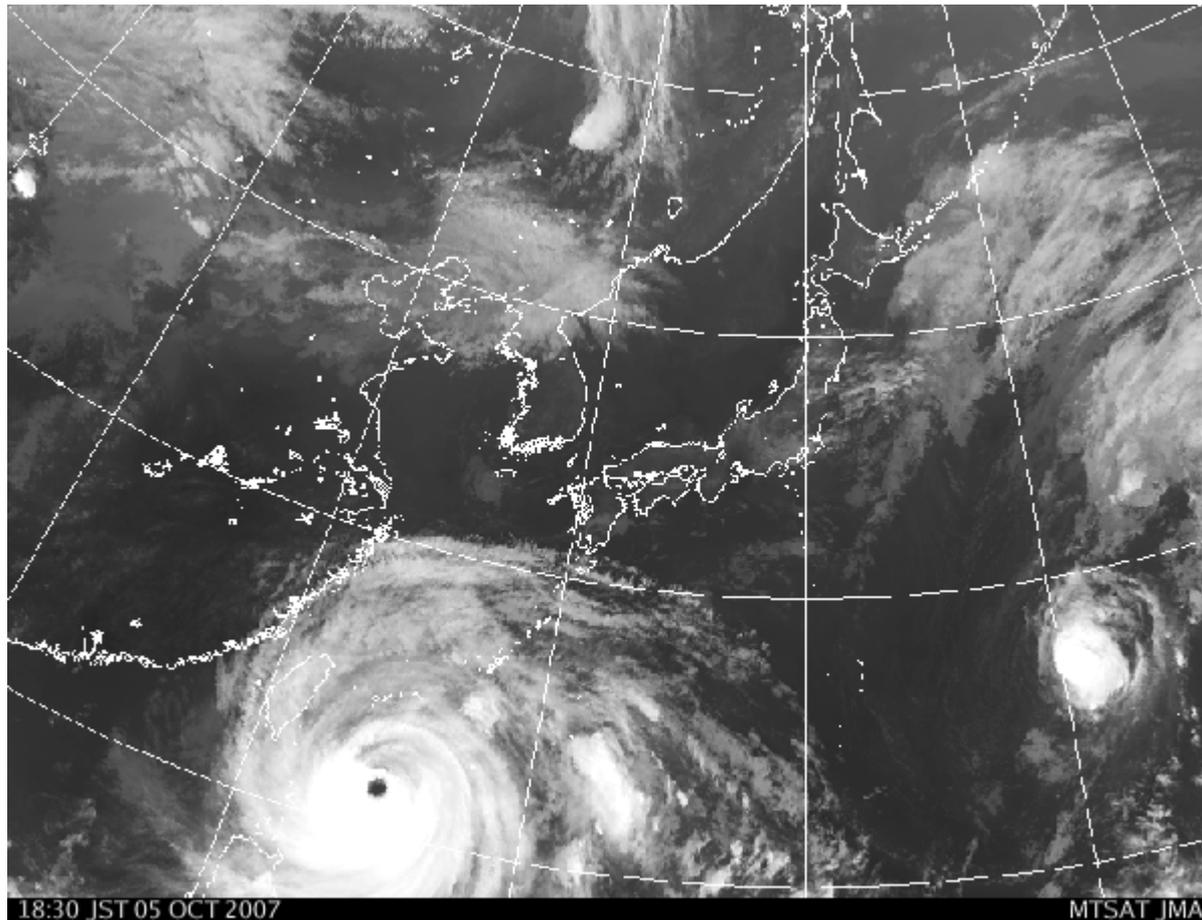


Image by JMA - 5 October 2007

- Climate Change is a new challenge
- We need a new strategy
- We need to identify new resources

What should be done?

- Country-level and basin-level assessment based on sound science such as the IPCC report and other reliable reports is important as a first step
- Yet, global-scale work does not help country to make a strategy – dependable country-scale impacts scenario is needed
- Make a national strategy to cope with climate change – identification of needs – is important

Review the existing strategy to see if that works for the new situations and make a new one if necessary

Practical solutions may be:

- to construct new dams and reservoirs to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change by increasing the capacity of water management
- to practice community-level or household-level water harvesting
- and many more (both structural and non-structural measures)

- UN/ISDR welcomes efforts to reduce water-related risks by water-related sectors (governments, UN and other agencies)
- UN/ISDR expects the International Flood Initiatives (IFI) to be a **thematic platform** to link with the Global Platform for DRR mechanism

Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005-2015 is
considered effective for
climate change adaptation

Global Framework for Disaster Risk
Reduction is already there

We need to implement the Framework
based on specific hazard, region with
different socio-economic and cultural
situations

World Conference on Disaster Reduction

168 Governments, 78 regional and int'l orgs, and 161 NGOs attended

- Integrate disaster risk reduction into policies, plans and programmes of sustainable development and poverty reduction
- Recognize risk reduction as both a humanitarian and development issue – in the context of sustainable development

Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015

Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters

- ✓ **3 Strategic goals**
- ✓ **5 Priorities for action**
- ✓ **Cross-cutting issues**
- ✓ **Implementation and follow-up**
- Focus on national and local implementation, with bilateral, multilateral, regional and international cooperation
- Targets and indicators to be developed according to needs

Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015

Three strategic goals

- **The integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning.**
- **The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards.**
- **The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.**

Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (continued)

Five priorities for action

1. **Governance:** ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with strong institutional basis for implementation
2. **Risk identification:** identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning
3. **Knowledge:** use knowledge, innovation and *education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels*
4. **Reducing the underlying risk factors:** mainstreaming in various sectors (environment, health, social support, insurance and risk transfer, critical infrastructure and construction, etc.)
5. **Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response.**

Brainstorming to enhance climate change adaptation

- For some countries, it is very difficult to regulate the amount of carbon emission at this moment.
- Maybe, we should seek a way to create an option – carbon emission reduction substituted by investing on climate change adaptation (disaster risk reduction, etc.)

“Climate change is expected to cause more severe and more frequent natural hazards. As our cities and coasts grow more vulnerable, these hazards can lead to disasters that are far worse than those we have seen to date. We have a moral, social and economic obligation to build resilience by 2015. Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action will also help us reach the Millennium Development Goals.”

**Ban Ki-moon,
Secretary-General of the
United Nations**