



MEDIA REPORT

THIRD UN WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

SENDAI (JAPAN)
14 TO 18 MARCH 2015

COMPILED BY UNISDR BRIGITTE LEONI, WCDRR MEDIA MANAGER IN COLLABORATION WITH UN DPI TEAMS, ENB, JAPAN MOFA TEAMS AND THE UNISDR COMMUNICATION TEAM (DENIS MCCLEAN, JONATHAN FOWLER, ANDREW MCCELROY, SARAH LANDELLE, BERTA ACERO, HUMBERTO JAIME, ANN WARU, AURELIA BLIN)

23 MARCH 2015

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INTRODUCTION

The Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) took place from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan. It was covered by an unprecedented number of international and national media who produced more than 700 news items per day.

Compared to the last World Conference in Kobe, Japan, in 2005, the Sendai event attracted many more participants at all levels. More than 6,000 registered delegates, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, 25 Heads of State or Government, hundreds of ministers, parliamentarians, academics, NGO and other civil society representatives and 780 reporters from 51 countries took part.

Only 200 reporters had attended the Kobe conference, although there was a peak of 500 on the second day, when an extra early warning session was added to the agenda to discuss the aftermath of the Indian Ocean Tsunami.

The majority of the journalists at the WCDRR were Japanese, with an impressive deployment of 200 from NHK on the opening day alone, when Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko were in attendance. However, more than 150 foreign reporters covered the conference from start to finish -- right through to the last press conference held at 2:00 am on 19 March when the new Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was announced.

BBC, Al Jazeera and CNN were not physically present but did cover the WCDRR remotely, linking it to Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, which struck on the opening day when the Pacific nation's President Baldwin Lonsdale and members of his government were still in Sendai. UNISDR's communications team also brokered telephone and Skype interviews with President Lonsdale and leading international media.

Major other broadcasters such as TV5 and Euronews were also present at the conference, partly to the presence of French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius in Sendai. Together with all the main international wires -- AFP, AP, Reuters, EFE and Xinhua -- they stayed throughout the five days of the WCDRR.

Eighty reporters from major national and regional media -- such as Brazil's Globo -- also made the journey to Sendai with their national delegations to cover the WCDRR. In addition, a total of 25 reporters were sponsored by UNISDR and Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs drawn from all regions of the globe.

The 780 reporters produced more than 2,000 news articles in English, according to statistics from Factiva, plus 1,500 in Japanese, or an average of 700 print items per day of the conference. The figures do not include online news, radio and TV reports produced in other languages than English and Japanese. The 25 sponsored reporters filed more than 150 stories for their respective audiences, focusing on national issues.

The media covered the event in a very substantive manner and with great interest, demonstrating the growing impact of disaster risk reduction in current affairs and a better understanding of its connection with other major global issues such as migration, food shortage and health issues.

This excellent coverage could not have been achieved without:

- The dynamism and the good spirit of the small UNISDR team which alone produced 11 press releases; 18 news articles; 28 TV interviews with VIPs broadcast on UNTV and ABU; placed 11 opeds and 66 Blogs; managed 10 press conferences; facilitated more than 10 broadcast interviews with channels including CNN and the BBC about Cyclone Pam; placed 15 interviews with Special Representative of the Secretary-General Margareta Wahlström; and contributed to an average social media coverage of 62,000 tweets per day.*
- The excellent support of the team from the UN Department of Public Information, which produced and filed all the information regarding the conference, via UNTV and DPI New York; the active presence of other UN communication officers and NGOs; the good collaboration with the Japanese teams; and the active contribution of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin team who covered dozens of events and produced hundreds of reports.*
- The participation of the 25 sponsored reporters in situ, as well as four photographers and a video cameraman, and the smooth communication between the different information players on site.*
- The growing relevance of disaster reduction in the media, thereby ensuring the presence of reporters at the WCDRR until the very last moment, with journalists remaining for hours in front of the main committee room waiting for the final document.*

Overall the coverage was plentiful and positive considering the current media fatigue towards UN events, the non-central location of the event, and the volume of news competing for attention on the international agenda, such as the conflict in Syria or the economic crisis in Europe at the time of the conference.

MAIN FACTS AND UNISDR DELIVERABLES

18 NEWS ARTICLES



India to host first Asian Ministerial Conference of post-2015 era | 18 Mar 2015
The Government of India today announced that it will host the first Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction of the post-2015 era.



Inclusion builds resilience | 18 Mar 2015
'Inclusion builds resilience' is the clear message from persons with disabilities to the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.



DRR Champions ready for new challenge | 17 Mar 2015
UNISDR's team of champions from around the world today outlined how they are preparing to meet the challenge of implementing the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.



2015 – a year of opportunity on climate | 17 Mar 2015
Climate change is a clear and present danger, forcing countries to evolve their policies constantly to keep up, participants at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction said today.



Global broadcasters push for DRR in Sendai | 17 Mar 2015
Four broadcasting unions whose membership spans Africa, Arab states, the Asia-Pacific region and Europe have vowed to push for greater media involvement in disaster risk reduction, given their crucial role as a conduit of information to the public.



Thai floods a turning point for private sector | 16 Mar 2015
A UNISDR private sector champion today called for the high standards that are typically applied to major infrastructure projects to be the benchmark for the majority of urban areas that are residential and home to small businesses.



Egypt moves on slum resilience | 16 Mar 2015
Granting property rights to slum dwellers is a key tool for reducing the risk of disasters striking such communities, Egypt's Minister of State for Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements Laila Rashed Iskandar said today.



Vanuatu President fears the worst | 15 Mar 2015
In an irony of ironies, the President of Vanuatu, Baldwin Lonsdale, has found himself stranded at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction along with some of the country's top disaster management officials while a state of emergency has been declared back home.



Japan provides early warning example | 15 Mar 2015
Early warning systems have a proven track record of saving lives but even the most technically impressive systems "are useless" if people are not reached or do not understand the warning.



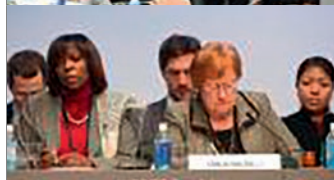
UN SG meets with global champions | 15 Mar 2015

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon paid tribute today to a group of former and serving politicians who are championing disaster risk reduction and thereby striving to save lives and prevent economic losses.



Health 'a must for HFA2' | 15 Mar 2015

The Mayor of Christchurch today said that inclusion of health "is an absolute minimum requirement" for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.



Japan backs women's leadership in DRR | 14 Mar 2015

Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Shinzo Abe today announced that boosting women's leadership in disaster risk reduction would be a key element of the country's new programme of international support.



Vanuatu tragedy marks WCDRR opening | 14 Mar 2015

The opening day of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was marked today by a stark reminder that disaster risk management is a matter of life and death.



Turkey's promise on school safety | 14 Mar 2015

Turkey has vowed to make all 80,000 of the country's schools disaster-proof by 2018, senior officials told the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction today.



IPU President calls for a success in Sendai | 13 Mar 2015

The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) today emphasized the importance of "a good start here in Sendai" as the world gears up for what he called "the year for sustainable development."



Sasakawa finalists 'shape the future' | 12 Mar 2015

The three finalists of the 2015 United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction have been short-listed because "they are shaping the future, not just reshaping the past".



Experts seek gender-inclusive framework for disaster risk reduction | 12 Mar 2015

Experts want gender to feature strongly in the final text of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, due to adopted at the looming Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.



Japan tsunami remembered on eve of World Conference on Disaster Risk | 11 Mar 2015

The Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Margareta Wahlström, today took part in the solemn remembrance ceremony in Tokyo for all those who died in the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami which occurred on March 11, 2011.

28 TV INTERVIEWS

OPENING AND DAY 1 - 14 MARCH 2015

Milton Henriquez, Minister of Internal Affairs, Panama

Laurent Fabius, Foreign Minister, France

Kristalina Georgieva, Vice President of the European commission for budget and human resources

Anthony Lecren, Minister for Land Development, Custom Ecology, Sustainable Development, Natural Resources of the Exclusive Economic Zone, New Caledonia

Eriko Yamatani, Minister of State for Disaster Management, Japan

Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Minister for Home Affairs, India

Hans Sy, President, SM Prime Holdings, Inc., The Philippines

DAY 2 - 15 MARCH 2015

Rachel Kyte, Group Vice President and Special Envoy, Climate Change Group, The World Bank

Aris Papadopoulos, Former Chief Executive Officer Titan, America

Loren Legarda, Senator, The Philippines

Laila Iskandar, Minister of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements, Egypt

Gerry Brownlee, Minister for Earthquake Recovery Minister of Defense, New Zealand

Ban Ki-moon discusses the goals of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Secretary General of United Nations

Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA

Joaquin Roa Burgos, Minister of National Emergencies, Paraguay

DAY 3 - 16 MARCH 2015

Anote Tong, President, Kiribati

H.R.H Princess Margriet of the Netherlands

Lic, Director of Security and Protection, Ministry of Tourism, Cuba

Jayne Macdougall, Hotel Director of Risk Management, Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort

Sandra Wu, UNISDR's Chair of Private Sector Partnership Group

DAY 4 - 17 MARCH 2015

Princess Abze Djigma, CEO of AbzeSolar, Burkina Faso

Michel Jarraud, Secretary General World Meteorology Organization

Elvira Sarieva, Education and Science Minister, Kyrgyz Republic

DAY 5 -18

Abdou Sane, Conseiller, Ziguinchor Department, UNISDR Champion for DRR – Senegal https://youtu.be/Ocmls_-z3Sw

Mauricio Xerinda, Director, National Institute for Disaster Management, Ministry of State Administration, Mozambique - <https://youtu.be/rzk3w1683N4>

Nelson Chege Kuria, Former Group CEO, CIC Insurance Group, Kenya - <https://youtu.be/zZJZWALeZMM>

Tumusiine Rhoda Peace Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union - <https://youtu.be/VccwwiDIJuM>

MARCH 2015

You can also find these UNISDR TV interviews on <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/>

62 000 TWEETS

Final twitter analytics: close to 62,000 tweets overall.

During opening day, 14 March there were about 8 tweets being issued per minute or more than 11,000 total for that day - our peak.

Surprisingly, we gained momentum again on 16 reaching 10,000 tweets after falling on the 15th (less than 9,000 tweets).

(Include format sent by JV)

THUNDERCLAP

A [Thunderclap campaign](#) was used as a pre-WCDRR promotional tool, with a February 14 release date. The slogan was: *On Valentine's Day, if you care about disaster impacts, then #LoveLife, #ChooseResilience and support the #WCDRR.* The use of the WCDRR hashtag helped draw social media users to the conference website and the associated Twitter feed. Take-up for the Thunderclap was good, with 313 individuals/organizations signing up, beyond the minimum target of 250. The social reach of the campaign was 10,767,809 -- a UNISDR record. That was achieved notably thanks to the support of @UN, with its 3.7 million followers, @UNICEF (3.6 million), @WFP (870,000), and @UNDP (621,000).

66 BLOGS

The WCDRR [blog](#) was launched in December, with the goal of creating a broad community of posters on DRR issues and offering an outlet for a wide range of perspectives. The initial target was to publish three posts a week, rising to a post a day in the two weeks before the WCDRR. While the three-post-per-week target was not met easily in the first few weeks of the blog's existence, the quantity and quality of posts rose rapidly thereafter, enabling us to surpass the post-per-day target from March 1 onwards. A total of 66 posts were published before the WCDRR began, and 38 during the conference. Submissions slowed, but nonetheless continued, after the WCDRR, taking the total number of published posts as of March 24 to 107.

Posters ranged from students and researchers, including from ODI, to NGO staff, notably from the IFRC, HelpAge and ADPC. There were good, numerous contributions from the World Bank, UNDP and IOM, among other international organisations, and one from The Elders, penned in the name of Mary Robinson and Gro Harlem Brundtland

11 OPED PLACED

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UNISDR DIRECT

Sustainability begins in Sendai – March 14, The Japan Times

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/03/14/national/sustainability-begins-sendai/#.VRPPiPnF9YQ>

How can the world prepare for natural disasters – March 12, World Economic Forum blog

<https://agenda.weforum.org/2015/03/how-can-the-world-better-prepare-for-natural-disasters/>

Sustainability begins in Sendai – March 12, Huffington Post

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/A-View-from-the-United-Nations-/sustainability-begins-in-sendai_b_6859902.html

A Call from Manila – February 24, Huffington Post

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nicolas-hulot/for-a-call-from-manila_b_6744608.html

Japan and HFA2 – February 12, The Asahi Shimbun

<http://www.asahi.com/articles/DA3S11597516.html>

The Year of Resilience – January 15, Project Syndicate (28.5k shares on FB)

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/un-conference-for-disaster-risk-reduction-sendai-hfa-by-margareta-wahlstr-m-2015-01>

The Pope and Tacloban – January 14, Huffington Post

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/A-View-from-the-United-Nations-/the-pope-and-tacloban_b_6473686.html

20 years after Kobe, world rethinks disaster risk – January 13, Alert Net/ Reuters

<http://www.trust.org/item/20150113090648-ar4lg/>

UNISDR INDIRECT

SG on WCRR – March 11, Project Syndicate

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/global-disaster-risk-strategy-by-ban-ki-moon-2015-03>

Helen Clarke on Typhoon Haiyan and the HFA2, December 30, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/philippines-natural-disasters-preparedness-by-helen-clark-2014-12>

ESCAP, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand endorse HFA: December 19., 2014

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/19122014-ten-years-indian-ocean-tsunami-walking-last-mile-together-early-warning-oped/>

OP-ED PLACEMENTS

[日本農業新聞](#) (The Japan Agricultural News)

[Food Tank](#) (USA)

[IPS](#) (International)

[La Stampa](#) (Italy)

[Philippines Inquirer](#)

[Today Online](#) (Singapore)

[Tribune de Genève](#) (Switzerland)

SELECTED NEWS CLIPPINGS

[In the wake of Cyclone Pam, UN launches humanitarian appeal for battered Vanuatu](#)

Pacific Island News Association – 24/03-15 06:23

[La agricultura es la mayor afectada por las desastres](#)

ABC Color – 23/03-15 15:27

[Urge proteger el agro](#)

El Mundo – 23/03-15 02:44

[Agriculture bears 22% of disaster impacts in developing countries – FAO](#)

Business Day – 22/03-15 01:22

[Impact des catastrophes naturelles:Le secteur agricole a subi près de 22% des dégâts, selon la Fao](#)

Le Soleil – 21/03-15 16:26

[Estudio de la FAO: La agricultura, la mayor afectada por los desastres](#)

La Tribuna – 20/03-15 01:23

[Damage in farm disasters expected to hit \\$300 billion every year](#)

Agweek – 19/03-15 16:56

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[Africa: Agriculture Bears Major Brunt of Disaster Impacts, New Report Says](#)

All Africa.com – 18/03-15 10:31

[Desastres naturales golpearon fuerte a la agricultura mundial](#)

El País – 18/03-15 05:50

[Farmers hardest hit during disasters: FAO](#)

The Jakarta Post – 18/03-15 01:01

[Farm sector is most at risk from natural disasters: FAO study](#)

Bloomberg – 18/03-15 00:43

[Farm Disaster Losses](#)

Economic Times (Bangalore) – 17/03-15 23:04

[UN: Agriculture bears much of damage from natural disasters](#)

The Des Moines Register – 17/03-15 20:19

[Agriculture bears major brunt of disasters](#)

Dhaka Tribune – 17/03-15 19:26

[Poor Farmers Bear The Brunt Of Natural Disasters. A New UN System Is Working To Better Protect Them](#)

The Huffington Post – 17/03-15 18:53

[Agriculture bears major brunt of disaster impacts, new report says](#)

The Telegraph – 17/03-15 16:43

[L'agriculture paie le plus lourd tribut aux catastrophes, selon un nouveau rapport de la FAO](#)

StarAfrica.com (FR) – 17/03-15 15:13

Fao: "L'agricoltura il settore più colpito dai disastri ambientali" - Repubblica.it

La Repubblica.it – 17/03-15 13:36

L'agriculture paie le plus lourd tribut aux catastrophes, selon un nouveau rapport de la FAO to build resilient livelihoods

ReliefWeb – 17/03-15 10:54

Farmers 'bear brunt of disasters'

MSN.com – 17/03-15 03:48

Los daños mundiales en la agricultura por los desastres naturales suben del 13 al 22%

ABC.es – 17/03-15 03:15

UN report: Agriculture bears brunt of natural disasters

BBC News - Science & Environment – 17/03-15 02:39

Daily report of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) - Wednesday, 18 March 2015

PreventionWeb.net – 17/03-15 02:22

Farming absorbs 22% of cost of disasters in developing countries

The Guardian – 17/03-15 02:00

FAO: la agricultura sufre una cuarta parte de daños causados por desastres

Efe [ES] – 17/03-15 01:54

La agricultura sufre una cuarta parte de daños causados por desastres

La Estrella Online – 17/03-15 00:19

FAO: la agricultura sufre una cuarta parte de daños causados por desastres

LaVanguardia.com – 17/03-15 00:16

Poor farmers bear heavy burden from increased natural disasters - TRFN

Reuters US News – 16/03-15 21:01

FAO Reports Address Disaster Risk Management in Fisheries and Aquaculture

Climate Change Policy & Practice – 12/03-15 17:04

Disaster costs nearly \$300 billion annually suggests UN report

New Delhi Times – 12/03-15 13:47

Disaster damage expected to hit \$300 billion yearly as events intensify

Reuters.co.uk – 10/03-15 15:11

Disaster damage expected to hit \$300 billion yearly as events intensify - TRFN

Reuters.com – 10/03-15 14:44

TEN PRESS CONFERENCES, ONE WITH UNSG

See all :

<http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/conferencessummits/3rd-un-world-conference-on-disaster-risk-reduction-14-18-march-2015-sendai-japan/>

PHOTOS

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/isdr>

UNISDR VIDEOS

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/eRK5QES0eig?autoplay=1&rel=0>

<http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/conferencessummits/3rd-un-world-conference-on-disaster-risk-reduction-14-18-march-2015-sendai-japan/interviews-and-other-videos/watch/5-days-in-sendai/4118188480001>

HFA SUCCESS STORIES

A total of 96 HFA Success Story videos -- submitted by countries and civil society organisations alike -- were posted on a dedicated YouTube feed. The videos' length ranged from just over a minute to more than 25 minutes. Given that the total running time of the feed was more than seven hours, and for technical reasons, the videos were broken down into regional, thematic and language blocks and burned onto eight DVDs.

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The DVDs were broadcast over the course of the conference in the auditorium of the Sendai City Museum, with the day's schedule announced in each Daily Journal, along with a link to the full screening schedule and film titles. The screenings were staffed by volunteer ushers who monitored viewer-numbers. Take-up was disappointing, with no more than five viewers per session. However, as part of holding moves on the final day of the WCDRR, the videos were broadcast in a loop, generating numerous requests from delegates for links. After the WCDRR, the eight DVDs were given to GETI for future training use.

UN PRESS KIT

15 UN organizations met regularly and jointly prepared a UN press kit that was delivered to media.

<http://www.wcdrr.org/media/mediakit>

MEDIA COVERAGE

AT GLANCE

Reporters wrote nearly 2000 articles in English according to the 25 March Factiva report. These figures do not include the Japanese media coverage in Japanese, and the overall TV and radio coverage which are still difficult to monitor at this stage.

NUMBER OF REPORTERS IN SENDAI

Media badges:

Approved 1030

Issued 788 (150 Foreign press)

Not issued 242

(Source MALU)

Factiva report 23 March 2015

All (1,933)

Publications (869)

Web News (1,051)

Blogs (13)

MAIN HEADLINES

JAPAN PROMISES \$4BLN IN AID TO COMBAT DISASTERS OVER 4 YEARS

Sat, 14 Mar 2015 14:29 GMT

PRESIDENT OF CYCLONE-HIT VANUATU URGES GLOBAL ACTION ON DISASTERS

Sun, 15 Mar 2015 09:58 GMT

HEALTH A FRESH PRIORITY IN DISASTER PLAN, TALKS SNAGGED ON AID

Tue, 17 Mar 2015 14:38 GMT

187 countries agree on a new Sendai Framework for Action

Wed, 18 Mar 2015 14:38 GMT

FACTIVA REPORT

Editorial: 'Betty,' 'Pam,' and climate change

[Manila Bulletin](#), 19 March 2015 17:00, 501 words, (English)

Tropical storm "Betty" is expected to bring rains this weekend to Northern and Central Luzon, after moving west-southwest across the Pacific with 75-kilometer-per-hour winds. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical...

Japan should play more active role at U.N. to promote world peace 6:56 pm, March 17, 2015 The United Nations faces an array of challenges, such as conflict resolution, antiterrorism measures and aid to developing countries, in this year that marks the 70th anniversary of its founding. Jap...

[Daily Yomiuri](#), 17 March 2015 10:56, 722 words, (English)

The Yomiuri Shimbun The United Nations faces an array of challenges, such as conflict resolution, antiterrorism measures and aid to developing countries, in this year that marks the 70th anniversary of its founding. Japan, holding fast to...

Africa: Gender Equality Remains 'Humanity's Biggest Project,' Declares UN Official

[All Africa](#), 17 March 2015 10:57, 1,570 words, (English)

Twenty years ago in Beijing, countries signed on to a comprehensive global blueprint for gender equality and women's empowerment, and achieving that goal remains "humanity's biggest project," according to senior United Nations official...

Community-Based Antidisaster Efforts Spreading in Japan

[Jiji Press English News Service](#), 16 March 2015 03:51, 293 words, (English)

Sendai, Miyagi Pref., March 16 (Jiji Press)--Efforts by local communities to develop disaster management plans on their own are spreading in Japan.

Kyodo news summary -10-

[Kyodo News](#), 18 March 2015 22:53, 788 words, (English)

NEW YORK, March 18 -- -----

Indonesia probes video showing kids trained by IS militants

JAKARTA - Authorities are investigating video footage that appears to show Indonesian children being trained as combatants by the Islamic State...

UPDATE1: Activists discuss nuclear accident as Japan gov't remains reluctant

[Kyodo News](#), 16 March 2015 15:08, 437 words, (English)

SENDAI, March 16 -- Activists and academics from around the globe on Monday discussed risks of nuclear accidents, criticizing the Japanese government's reluctance to share its experience in the nuclear crisis in Fukushima during a U.N...

Zimbabwe: We Won't Kneel to West - President

[All Africa](#), 16 March 2015 08:44, 804 words, (English)

Sendai — JAPAN is warming up to Zimbabwe after slightly over a decade of frosty relations, President Mugabe said yesterday. The President, who is attending the United Nations 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction here, said Japan...

Editorial: Bracing for global warming damage across gov't bodies

[The Mainichi](#), 18 March 2015 09:11, 622 words, (English)

If global warming progresses at the current rate, Japan's average temperatures will rise by up to 4.4 degrees Celsius toward the end of the 21st century, with precipitation from heavy rain increasing by at least 20 percent, according to an...

Kyodo news summary -6-

[Kyodo News](#), 17 March 2015 09:46, 563 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 17 -- -----

Pacific islands say financial support needed to reduce disaster risks

SENDAI - Three Pacific Island nations said Tuesday international financial support is necessary to protect the countries facing increasing...

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Head of Fukushima nursing home suggests waiting before evacuation

[The Mainichi](#), 17 March 2015 09:33, 575 words, (English)

SENDAI -- Nursing home users shouldn't necessarily be evacuated right after a nuclear disaster, the head of facility near the Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant told participants at a U.N. conference here on March 17.

Kyodo news summary -2-

[Kyodo News](#), 17 March 2015 04:08, 462 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 17 -- -----

Michelle Obama to visit Kyoto, meet Cambodian students on Asia trip

WASHINGTON - A visit to a Buddhist temple and Shinto shrine in Kyoto and a meeting with students in Siem Reap will feature in U.S. first lady...

Kyodo news summary -8-

[Kyodo News](#), 17 March 2015 14:15, 429 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 17 -- -----

Toyo Tire urged to expedite checks on anti-quake equipment

TOKYO - The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism has urged Toyo Tire & Rubber Co. to report by the end of this month the findings...

Vanuatu struggles to account for cyclone damage, deaths

[FOXNews.com](#), 16 March 2015 01:08, 865 words, (English)

WELLINGTON, New Zealand – The official death toll from a massive cyclone that tore through Vanuatu has risen to four, with fears it could jump significantly, officials from the tiny South Pacific archipelago said Monday.

Vice President Amissah-Arthur Arrives in Tokyo, Japan [press release]

[All Africa](#), 18 March 2015 15:04, 199 words, (English)

Mar 18, 2015 (Government of Ghana/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The Vice President, Mr K. B. Amissah-Arthur, has arrived in Tokyo, Japan for the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. He is accompanied by his wife, Mrs...

Russian Emergency Situations Ministry took 580,000 tonnes of humanitarian cargo to 110 countries in ten years - Puchkov

[Interfax: Russia & CIS Military Newswire](#), 16 March 2015 11:57, 168 words, (English)

SENDAI (Japan). March 16 (Interfax) - Russia has effectively fulfilled the plan outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) to reduce disaster losses, Russian Emergency Situations Minister Vladimir Puchkov said.

Environment: Vietnam Expects Japan's More Support for Natural Calamity Control

[Vietnam News Brief Service](#), 16 March 2015, 189 words, (English)

Vietnam expects Japan to provide more support for natural calamity control programs in the Southeast Asian country, Vietnamese Vice President Nguyen Thi Doan said at a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a UN conference on...

Smart Tunnel for state?

[New Straits Times](#), 16 March 2015, 511 words, (English)

SENDAI (Japan): THE government is looking into setting up a project similar to the Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel, better known as the Smart Tunnel, in Kelantan.

Participants in U.N.forum interested in cost of decommissioning Fukushima plant

[The Mainichi](#), 17 March 2015 10:05, 504 words, (English)

FUKUSHIMA -- The Fukushima Prefectural Government and the Resources and Energy Agency of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry led foreign government officials on a tour of the crippled Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant on March 16...

DepEd firm on K-12 despite legal challenge

[The Philippine Star](#), 17 March 2015, 572 words, (English)

MANILA, Philippines – Education Secretary Armin Luistro remains steadfast in pushing for the full implementation of the K to 12 program starting next year despite a pending legal challenge before the Supreme Court (SC).

World must cooperate in monitoring space risks - Russian emergencies minister

[Interfax: Russia & CIS Military Newswire](#), 16 March 2015 11:55, 125 words,(English)

SENDAI, Japan. March 16 (Interfax) - Russian Emergency Situations Minister Vladimir Puchkov said the space monitoring and emergency situations forecasting know-how must be perfected in international cooperation projects.

Kyrgyzstan,Russian Federation:KYRGYZSTAN and RUSSIA discuss establishment of joint center for humanitarian response

[Gulf Times](#), 17 March 2015, 195 words, (English)

Heads of the emergency departments of Kyrgyzstan and Russia discussed creation of a joint center for humanitarian response.

On March 16, 2015 a bilateral meeting of Minister of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic Kubatbek Boronov...

13

U.S. and Central American organizations simulate earthquake in Puerto Rico

[EFE News Service](#), 16 March 2015, 302 words, (English)

San Juan, Mar 16 (EFE).- More than 1,000 soldiers and some 20 U.S. and Central American organizations gathered Monday for the first day of exercises in a large-scale simulation of an earthquake in Puerto Rico to test methods of coordination...

Hong Kong students, academicians welcome to do research in Malaysia: DPM

[New Straits Times](#), 17 March 2015 11:44, 287 words, (English)

HONG KONG: Malaysia welcomes students and researchers from Hong Kong to conduct their research in higher learning institutions in Malaysia, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

2ND LEAD Cyclone death toll doubles to 24, weakened storm hits New Zealand By Benita van Eyssen and Cheryl Norrie, dpa

[dpa International Service in English](#), 16 March 2015 21:13, 535 words,(English)

Sydney/Wellington (dpa) - International relief work was underway Monday in the island nations of Vanuatu and Tuvalu, where the worst tropical cyclone on record in the South Pacific has claimed at least 24 lives.

[Press Release] ROK Government to Offer US\$500,000 to Cyclone-hit Vanuatu (Mar 16. 2015)

[Maeil Business Newspaper](#), 17 March 2015, 250 words, (English)

1. The government of the Republic of Korea has decided to provide 500,000 US dollars in emergency assistance to the south Pacific country of Vanuatu, where super cyclone 'Pam' on March 13 caused many casualties and extensive property...

Ban Ki-moon presses Prayut on democracy

[Bangkok Post](#), 16 March 2015, 113 words, (English)

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed hope that Thailand's roadmap towards democracy will be realised within its time-frame, said government spokesman Yongyuth Mayalarp.

'Sendai Framework' must realize reduction of global disaster risks 6:54 pm, March 23, 2015 Reducing 'substantially' the global disaster mortality and the number of people affected by 2030 was the focus of the 'Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, a set of intern...

[Daily Yomiuri](#), 23 March 2015 10:54, 705 words, (English)

The Yomiuri Shimbun Reducing ‘substantially’ the global disaster mortality and the number of people affected by 2030 was the focus of the ‘Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, a set of international disaster...

[West Africa: ‘Health At Very Center of Disaster Risk Reduction,’ Say UN Agency Officials in Sendai](#)

[All Africa](#), 23 March 2015 08:38, 585 words, (English)

Africa: Going Cold Turkey - African Migrants...

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa, powerful storms in the Asia-Pacific region and ongoing conflicts in Syria and elsewhere are all stark reminders that health and stronger health system...

Africa: Unicef Welcomes New Sendai Framework Securing Children’s Role in Shaping Disaster Risk Reduction

[All Africa](#), 23 March 2015 10:41, 134 words, (English)

Africa: Ebola One Year On - Hearts and Homes...

New York — UNICEF welcomes the new Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted at the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. The 2015-2030 framework recognizes the vital...

Africa: UN Conference Adopts New, People-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy

[All Africa](#), 19 March 2015 12:28, 928 words, (English)

Death, destruction and displacement wrought by natural disasters would be significantly reduced by 2030 under a new framework adopted by countries attending the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, in Sendai,...

Africa: What You Need to Know About DRR

[All Africa](#), 19 March 2015 09:36, 1,452 words, (English)

Nairobi — A new global plan to prepare for future natural and climate-linked disasters agreed in Sendai, Japan today has been condemned by development NGOs as lacking in ambition and short-changing poorer countries that are most at risk.

Africa: UN Chief Urges Global Solidarity to Strengthen Disaster Resilience, Boost Development

[All Africa](#), 16 March 2015 10:18, 1,253 words, (English)

With global leaders gathered in Sendai, Japan, to agree a new framework for managing disaster risk which will reduce mortality and curb economic losses, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today declared that responding to the world’s growing...

14

Japan opts for massive, costly sea wall to fend off tsunamis

[SF Gate](#), 22 March 2015 13:50, 1,601 words, (English)

In this March 5, 2015 photo, a Shinto shrine gate remains standing on a hill as sea walls are being built in the waterfront area in Rikuzentakata, Iwate Prefecture, northeastern Japan. Four years after a towering tsunami ravaged much of...

[Africa: World Conference Adopts New International Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction After Marathon Negotiations](#)

[All Africa](#), 19 March 2015 09:24, 479 words, (English)

Rwanda: Rwanda’s ‘Sixth Province’ - Going...

First major agreement of the Post-2015 development agenda reached at landmark UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

[Africa: Critical Role of Women in Building Disaster Resilience Focus of Event At UN Conference](#)

[All Africa](#), 16 March 2015 10:19, 990 words, (English)

Spotlighting the positive actions of women in planning and decision-making to make their communities safer before, during and after disasters strike, senior United Nations, Government and civil society representatives today emphasized that...

Viet Nam calls for UN help to tackle disasters

[Vietnam News](#), 16 March 2015 02:55, 1,209 words, (English)

SENDAI, JAPAN (VNS) — Viet Nam has high hopes that the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will help reach a new global framework on mitigating the risks to better tackle natural catastrophes and global warming, Vice President...

[Africa: Governments Fall Short At World Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction](#)

[All Africa](#), 19 March 2015 14:57, 534 words, (English)

Africa: Improving Nutrition Isn’t Just About...

Africa: Digital Certificates to Boost Control...

Africa: Japan Donates U.S.3.2 Million to AU...

Africa: Why Culture Needs to Shape Responses to Disasters and Crises?

[All Africa](#), 16 March 2015 10:14, 712 words, (English)

As world leaders come together in Sendai, Japan for the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction conference (WCDRR), IDS research argues that culture must be at the heart of a new approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR). It is hoped...

Africa: UN Heads Call for Collective Action to Tackle Disaster Risk in Sendai

[All Africa](#), 16 March 2015 12:07, 490 words, (English)

Africa: Ban Praises Japan's Earthquake Recove...

Mr. BAN-Ki Moon, highlighting the importance of linking disaster risk reduction to sustainable development and efforts to tackle climate change.

Poor countries are the weakest link in resilience

[The Jakarta Post](#), 16 March 2015 19:42, 652 words, (English)

Global policy makers should team up to help disaster-prone developing countries manage and anticipate disaster risks as mounting financial losses triggered by disasters will severely hamper their development sustainability, a newly launched...

Africa: Academic Who 'Puts His Feet On the Ground and Works With People' Wins 2015 UN Award for Disaster Risk Reduction

[All Africa](#), 18 March 2015 13:10, 1,469 words, (English)

A researcher who describes his work as "a life project of teaching, research and dissemination of ideas" has won the 2015 United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Africa: Ban Praises Japan's Earthquake Recovery As Model for Turning Tragedy Into Sustainable Future

[All Africa](#), 16 March 2015 11:10, 637 words, (English)

Integrating disaster risk reduction into development can save lives and livelihoods, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said as he toured Sendai, Japan, which was devastated four years ago by an earthquake and tsunami but which...

India taking lead role to make 'disaster risk reduction' a success

[The Times of India](#), 19 March 2015 14:31, 422 words, (English)

SENDAI (Japan): India was among 187 UN member countries that on Wednesday signed a new protocol, replacing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-15, committing to a new development model, a far reaching new framework for disaster risk...

Kenya: President Kenyatta's Speech - 3rd UN World Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction

[All Africa](#), 16 March 2015 10:45, 919 words, (English)

Special Representative on Disasters and Risks Reduction,

Mayor of the City of Sendai,

I am honoured to have been invited to join in these deliberations at this Third Review Conference on Disasters and Risks Reduction. It is a pleasure, too,...

New framework adopted at U.N. disaster event 10:29 pm, March 19, 2015 SENDAI "A U.N. disaster management conference closed in Sendai late Wednesday night after adopting new global criteria for disaster risk control, featuring a seven-point set of international goals..."

[Daily Yomiuri](#), 19 March 2015 14:29, 220 words, (English)

The Yomiuri Shimbun SENDAI "A U.N. disaster management conference closed in Sendai late Wednesday night after adopting new global criteria for disaster risk control, featuring a seven-point set of international goals to be pursued by the...

India ranks 28 on UN's Disaster Risk and Age Index

[The Times of India](#), 16 March 2015 06:27, 589 words, (English)

SENDAI: A Disaster Risk and Age Index launched at the United Nations' third world conference on disaster risk reduction here has ranked India 28th among 190 countries that are worse on most parameters of providing their elderly a secure...

Africa: Countries Turn to Ecosystems to Reduce Risk Amid Concerns Over More Disasters

[All Africa](#), 17 March 2015 10:53, 862 words, (English)

Sendai — Strong commitments to ecosystem-based approaches for disaster risk reduction at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

U.N. disaster risk conference to wrap up final day in Sendai 10:00 pm, March 18, 2015 SENDAI (Jiji Press) "Officials from 186 countries will conclude five days of talks on disaster risk reduction measures in the northeastern Japan city of Sendai on Wednesday. The participants are..."

[Daily Yomiuri](#), 18 March 2015 14:00, 167 words, (English)

Jiji Press SENDAI (Jiji Press) "Officials from 186 countries will conclude five days of talks on disaster risk reduction measures in the northeastern Japan city of Sendai on Wednesday.

Malaysian students at WCDRR Children and Youth Conference

[Business Times](#), 19 March 2015 07:09, 441 words, (English)

SENDAI (Japan):Four Malaysian youth, who participated in the third United Nations World Conference Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) Management representing Malaysia at the Children and Youth Forum, believes Malaysia still has a long way to...

Africa: How to Make Women Safer in Disasters? Attack Inequality

[All Africa](#), 16 March 2015 10:57, 787 words, (English)

Sendai — Women's vulnerability to disasters is a sign not of weakness but of inequality, and barriers to women taking the lead in protecting themselves must be removed, top politicians and officials told a U.N. conference on Saturday.

Women are key in tackling disaster: UN officials

[The Economic Times](#), 16 March 2015 08:55, 701 words, (English)

Women are far more exposed to disasters than men given their frontline roles in the home and in healthcare, the United Nations says. SENDAI, JAPAN: Women are far more exposed to disasters than men given their frontline roles in the home and...

Africa: Health a Fresh Priority in Disaster Plan, Talks Snagged On Aid

[All Africa](#), 18 March 2015 13:26, 850 words, (English)

Sendai, Japan — A new global plan to reduce the risk of disasters, due to be adopted at a U.N. conference in Japan on Wednesday, will give more prominence to health issues as the world struggles to stamp out the Ebola outbreak in West...

World Bank, UK to help poor nations hit by natural disasters

[The Economic Times](#), 16 March 2015 07:34, 535 words, (English)

The fund will help developing countries design and implement ground-breaking solutions to overcome problems they face assessing disaster risks.

[Africa: Agriculture Bears Major Brunt of Disaster Impacts, New Report Says](#)

[All Africa](#), 18 March 2015 10:28, 1,100 words, (English)

Sendai — FAO launches facility aimed at channeling technical expertise, financial resources towards resilience building Nearly a quarter of damages wrought by natural disasters on the developing world are borne by the agricultural sector...

[Rajnath Pushes for International Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction](#)

[The Times of India](#), 16 March 2015 17:43, 784 words, (English)

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, who is currently on a tour to Japan to attend the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction being held in Sendai, on Monday pushed for greater international cooperation for both...

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Africa: Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction: UNICEF Statement

[All Africa](#), 19 March 2015 12:06, 727 words, (English)

Sendai — UNICEF expresses solidarity and sympathy with the governments and people of Vanuatu and Tuvalu as they address the aftermath of Cyclone Pam. UNICEF has been doing what we can to help people cope, and we will continue to do so. Document WCAFNWS020150319eb3j0010k

[India to Host First Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction](#)

[The Times of India](#), 17 March 2015 15:29, 315 words, (English)

NEW DELHI: India will host the first Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction of the post-2015 era, union home minister Rajnath Singh announced on Tuesday. The minister made the statement during the 3rd UN World Conference on...

Farmers 'bear brunt of disasters'

[BBC](#), 17 March 2015 02:39, 639 words, (English)

Farmers in developing nations bear the "major brunt" of natural disasters yet only receive a small percentage of post-disaster aid, says a UN report.

INSIGHTS into the World / Human security more important than ever 4:00 am, March 24, 2015 There is a notion called 'human security'. The concept has often been referred to, but some readers may find the term somewhat vague. In February, the Cabinet adopted the Development Cooperation...

[Daily Yomiuri](#), 23 March 2015 20:00, 1,394 words, (English)

By Akihiko Tanaka / Special to The Yomiuri Shimbun There is a notion called 'human security'. The concept has often been referred to, but some readers may find the term somewhat vague.

UN disaster meet criticised for lack of targets

[The Economic Times](#), 19 March 2015 10:26, 476 words, (English)

The conference had opened on a grim note as Severe Cyclone Pam swept through Vanuatu, destroying villages and leaving thousands homeless.

Love visual aspect of news? Enjoy this exclusive slideshows treat!

Africa: Feature - 'Rebuilding Sichuan' Takes Top Film Prize At UN Event On Disaster Resilience

[All Africa](#), 16 March 2015 13:48, 722 words, (English)

A film chronicling the monumental effort of the engineers and designers to rebuild entire new cities from scratch following the devastating 2008 earthquake in China's Sichuan Province, took the top prize at the first United Nations...

Risky neighbourhood: Pacific disasters and Australia

[The Sydney Morning Herald](#), 20 March 2015 14:15, 825 words, (English)

Vanuatu is no stranger to cyclones. Two or three normally blow through its waters during the hot, wet months between November and April. That's why Vanuatu has consistently been ranked No. 1 on the World Risk Index, which calculates how...

Disaster risk reduction, aiding women's groups high on agenda in Vanuatu

[Deutsche Welle](#), 16 March 2015 14:54, 837 words, (English)

As recovery efforts gain pace in Vanuatu after Cyclone Pam tore across the archipelago, there are lessons to be learned about disaster preparedness and the welfare of women. Jack Fisher reports from Sydney.

Relief teams head to Vanuatu's cyclone-hit outer islands

[SF Gate](#), 17 March 2015 10:40, 1,656 words, (English)

Damage to houses in Port Vila, Vanuatu is seen from the air in the aftermath of Cyclone Pam Monday, March 16, 2015. Vanuatu's President Baldwin Lonsdale said Monday that the cyclone that hammered the tiny South Pacific archipelago over the...

Tohoku University to host center for global disaster data 10:30 pm, March 16, 2015 Tohoku University will establish a center next month that will collect and analyze disaster-related statistics from all over the world and compile proposals based on that information to reduce damage...

[Daily Yomiuri](#), 16 March 2015 14:30, 331 words, (English)

The Yomiuri Shimbun Tohoku University will establish a center next month that will collect and analyze disaster-related statistics from all over the world and compile proposals based on that information to reduce damage from disasters.

Africa: Unicef - On Disaster Resilience, 'We Must Listen to Those Who Know Their Communities'

[All Africa](#), 17 March 2015 15:08, 485 words, (English)

Children and youth are a major part of community-level responses to disasters and must play an important role in risk reduction, United Nations officials said today in Sendai, Japan, with the head of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)...

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Vanuatu president says storm-wrecked country must 'start anew' following monster storm

[FOXNews.com](#), 16 March 2015 03:04, 568 words, (English)

SENDAI, Japan – The Pacific island nation of Vanuatu has lost years of development progress and must "start anew" following a powerful cyclone that destroyed or damaged 90 percent of the buildings on the main island of Port Vila, the...

Going the last mile for children caught up in disasters

[The Nation](#), 16 March 2015 19:00, 929 words, (English)

The devastating cyclone in Vanuatu offers yet another reminder that the future belongs to those who prepare for it today - preparation and vulnerability reduction can save you when a disaster strikes.

Africa: How Disasters Drive Displacement - and What Should Be Done

[All Africa](#), 16 March 2015 10:57, 770 words, (English)

London — The risk of people being displaced by natural disasters has quadrupled in the last 40 years and, unless governments adopt national and global plans to address the main drivers of displacement, increasing numbers of people will lose...

Climate change, migration burdening urban areas in Bay of Bengal

[The Economic Times](#), 17 March 2015 12:12, 471 words, (English)

KOLKATA: Rising urban population following forced migration from rural areas is a result of climate change and poses a burden upon urban risk-reduction efforts, aver experts from Bay of Bengal countries.

Exposed: Why Vanuatu is the world's most 'at-risk' country for natural hazards

[Deutsche Welle](#), 17 March 2015 10:57, 967 words, (English)

Vanuatu is the world's most at-risk country for natural hazards, according to a UN University WorldRiskIndex. And it's not just storms, earthquakes, volcanoes or tsunamis that are the Problem.

Malaysia to study Japanese model for its proposed disaster management council

[Business Times](#), 16 March 2015 09:01, 395 words, (English)

TOKYO: The government will study the Japanese disaster management model as part of its plan to set up a council, specifically tasked with coordinating the handling of calamities in the country.

Editorial: 'Betty,' 'Pam,' and climate change

[Manila Bulletin](#), 19 March 2015 17:00, 501 words, (English)

Tropical storm "Betty" is expected to bring rains this weekend to Northern and Central Luzon, after moving west-southwest across the Pacific with 75-kilometer-per-hour winds. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical...

Japan should play more active role at U.N. to promote world peace 6:56 pm, March 17, 2015 The United Nations faces an array of challenges, such as conflict resolution, antiterrorism measures and aid to developing countries, in this year that marks the 70th anniversary of its founding. Jap...

[Daily Yomiuri](#), 17 March 2015 10:56, 722 words, (English)

The Yomiuri Shimbun The United Nations faces an array of challenges, such as conflict resolution, antiterrorism measures and aid to developing countries, in this year that marks the 70th anniversary of its founding. Japan, holding fast to...

Africa: Gender Equality Remains 'Humanity's Biggest Project,' Declares UN Official

[All Africa](#), 17 March 2015 10:57, 1,570 words, (English)

Twenty years ago in Beijing, countries signed on to a comprehensive global blueprint for gender equality and women's empowerment, and achieving that goal remains "humanity's biggest project," according to senior United Nations official...

Zimbabwe: We Won't Kneel to West - President

[All Africa](#), 16 March 2015 08:44, 804 words, (English)

Sendai — JAPAN is warming up to Zimbabwe after slightly over a decade of frosty relations, President Mugabe said yesterday. The President, who is attending the United Nations 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction here, said Japan...

Vanuatu struggles to account for cyclone damage, deaths

[FOXNews.com](#), 16 March 2015 01:08, 865 words, (English)

WELLINGTON, New Zealand – The official death toll from a massive cyclone that tore through Vanuatu has risen to four, with fears it could jump significantly, officials from the tiny South Pacific archipelago said Monday.

Stable Emissions Show Growth and Mitigation Possible, Envoy Says

[Bloomberg](#), 16 March 2015 09:19, 276 words, (English)

(Bloomberg) -- A report showing that global emissions were unchanged last year shows economic growth is possible amid the fight against climate change, a World Bank official said. Carbon-dioxide emissions were stable at 32.3 billion metric...

Hong Kong students, academicians welcome to do research in Malaysia: DPM

[New Straits Times](#), 17 March 2015 11:44, 287 words, (English)

HONG KONG: Malaysia welcomes students and researchers from Hong Kong to conduct their research in higher learning institutions in Malaysia, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Prayut discusses rail plans and agriculture trade with Abe

[The Nation](#), 15 March 2015, 500 words, (English)

The Sunday Nation

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha yesterday met with his Japanese counterpart, PM Shinzo Abe, to discuss cooperation on rail development and agricultural trade, during his visit to Japan.

New guide to shape future development strategy

[The Jakarta Post](#), 15 March 2015, 583 words, (English)

World leaders attending the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) are underlining the importance of upcoming guidelines for disaster risk reduction to coordinate long-term global strategies for managing climate change...

Phl to share experiences in disaster risk reduction

[The Philippine Star](#), 14 March 2015, 171 words, (English)

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippines would share its experiences in disaster risk reduction and emergency response in an international conference that opens today, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said.

[MMDA chief, 14 mayors off to Tokyo](#)

[The Philippine Star](#), 14 March 2015, 168 words, (English)

MANILA, Philippines – Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Francis Tolentino will be leading a group of at least 14 city mayors for an observation tour in Tokyo from March 15 to 19.

South Pacific island of Vanuatu assesses cyclone damage

[dpa International Service in English](#), 15 March 2015 00:16, 386 words,(English)

Sydney (dpa) - Relief workers were Sunday assessing the damage in the Vanuatu archipelago ravaged by the worst tropical cyclone on record in the South Pacific.

[Aid workers say 8 people confirmed dead in Vanuatu cyclone](#)

[Denver Post](#), 14 March 2015 22:16, 734 words, (English)

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — At least eight people were confirmed dead in Vanuatu after a massive cyclone tore through the tiny South Pacific archipelago, and the death toll is likely to rise much higher once communications are restored...

PH to share Yolanda experience at disaster risk confab

[Manila Bulletin](#), 14 March 2015, 392 words, (English)

Tokyo - Armed with the experiences and lessons learned from typhoon "Yolanda" (Haiyan), the Philippine delegation is hoping to make a resounding voice during the third United Nations (UN) World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR)...

In the News / Takashi Yamamoto / Making U.N. Sendai meeting accessible

[The Japan News](#), 14 March 2015, 387 words, (English)

Volunteer activist Takashi Yamamoto has opened pubfo sendai, a search site to help ordinary citizens attend public events on the sidelines of the Third U.N. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, to be held in that city...

Natural disasters cost the world over \$300 billion per year on average

[Deutsche Welle](#), 14 March 2015 18:36, 531 words, (English)

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius has endorsed early warning and risk reduction systems for the world's vulnerable nations. At a UN conference in Japan, he said two thirds of disasters stemmed from climate change.

U.N.disaster conference to begin in Sendai

[The Japan News](#), 14 March 2015, 378 words, (English)

The third U.N. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction begins in Sendai on Saturday amid growing international awareness of disaster prevention and preparedness.

Japan Sees Need to Spend in Antidisaster Measures

[Jiji Press English News Service](#), 15 March 2015 05:21, 174 words, (English)

Sendai, Miyagi Pref., March 15 (Jiji Press)--Japanese land minister Akihiro Ota stressed the need Sunday to spend in anti disaster measures as lessons his country learned from past massive earthquakes.

Dozens feared killed in Vanuatu by 'catastrophic' Cyclone Pam

[The Sydney Morning Herald](#), 14 March 2015 20:30, 577 words, (English)

A terrifying tropical cyclone which smashed into Vanuatu has wreaked widespread devastation, aid agencies say, raising fears that dozens may have died in what may be one of the South Pacific's worst weather disasters.

U.N.forum calls for action on climate change to reduce disaster risks

[Kyodo News](#), 15 March 2015 08:11, 339 words, (English)

SENDAI, March 15 -- Representatives from countries across the world at a U.N. conference on disaster risk mitigation on Sunday underscored the urgent need of addressing the issue of climate change to reduce the impact of disasters and...

U.N.Chief Says He Was Moved by Fukushima Students

[Jiji Press English News Service](#), 15 March 2015 07:53, 267 words, (English)

Sendai, Miyagi Pref., March 15 (Jiji Press)--U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Sunday that he was impressed by high school students in Fukushima Prefecture when he visited the disaster-hit northeastern Japan prefecture four years...

Abe pledges \$4 billion for disaster prevention 8:46 pm, March 14, 2015 SENDAI *Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged \$4 billion in disaster prevention aid, mainly for developing countries, at the third U.N. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which began Saturday in Sendai. At the conference, convened to set new international guidelines for disaster risk redu...*

[Daily Yomiuri](#), 14 March 2015 12:46, 539 words, (English)

The Yomiuri Shimbun SENDAI *Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged \$4 billion in disaster prevention aid, mainly for developing countries, at the third U.N. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which began Saturday in Sendai.*

UPDATE 1-Japan promises \$4bln in aid to combat disasters over 4 years - TRFN

[Reuters News](#), 14 March 2015 15:29, 638 words, (English)

(Adds details of Japanese aid, comments from Ban Ki-moon and Vanuatu president)

By Megan Rowling

SENDAI, Japan, March 14 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Japan will provide assistance amounting to \$4 billion in the coming four years to reduce...

Disaster prevention framework tops agenda 10:00 pm, March 14, 2015 With the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction opening on Saturday in Sendai, which saw significant damage from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, the major focal point will be a new f...

[Daily Yomiuri](#), 14 March 2015 14:00, 647 words, (English)

By Junpei Monma and Shinichiro Matsuda / Yomiuri Shimbun Staff Writers With the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction opening on Saturday in Sendai, which saw significant damage from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, the...

Cyclone Pam: Vanuatu death toll rises as Australia pledges \$5m in aid – as it happened

[The Guardian](#), 15 March 2015 11:28, 8,555 words, (English)

Latest updates as emergency response teams head to the Pacific island chain to assess the damage wrought by devastating storm block-time published-time 9.27pm AEST

Vanuatu president appeals for 'lending hand' after Pacific cyclone

[The Times of India](#), 14 March 2015 17:26, 246 words, (English)

SENDAI, Japan: The president of Vanuatu appealed for international assistance on Saturday after his island nation was hit by a terrifying tropical cyclone in what may be one of the region's worst weather disasters.

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Japan, China Praise Each Other's Antidisaster Efforts

[Jiji Press English News Service](#), 15 March 2015 08:39, 196 words, (English)

Sendai, Miyagi Pref., March 15 (Jiji Press)--Japanese Disaster Management Minister Eriko Yamatani and her Chinese counterpart, Li Liguo, Sunday praised each other country's antidisaster efforts and agreed to continue them.

As Vanuatu suffers, more urgency needed on climate: World Bank

[Agence France Presse](#), 15 March 2015 11:54, 647 words, (English)

Despite ominous predictions of mass devastation in cyclone-wrecked Vanuatu, policymakers at a UN disaster meeting in Japan do not seem to understand the pressing need to tackle climate change, the World Bank warned Sunday.

Kyodo news summary -2-

[Kyodo News](#), 15 March 2015 09:54, 413 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 15 -- -----

Japan faces critical test this year, says China's premier

BEIJING - Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Sunday urged Japan to squarely face its past militarism and said this year, the 70th anniversary of the end of...

World must cooperate in monitoring space risks - Russian emergencies minister

[Interfax](#): Russia & CIS General Newswire, 14 March 2015 18:36, 138 words,(English)

SENDAI, Japan. March 14 (Interfax) - Russian Emergency Situations Minister Vladimir Puchkov said the space monitoring and emergency situations forecasting know-how must be perfected in international cooperation projects.

TASS daytime roundup 08:00-19:00

Russian Emergency Situations Ministry took 580,000 tonnes of humanitarian cargo to 110 countries in ten years - Puchkov

[Interfax](#): Russia & CIS General Newswire, 14 March 2015 16:49, 181 words,(English)

SENDAI (Japan). March 14 (Interfax) - Russia has effectively fulfilled the plan outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) to reduce disaster losses, Russian Emergency Situations Minister Vladimir Puchkov said.

CORRECTED- President of cyclone-hit Vanuatu urges global action on disasters - TRFN

[Reuters News](#), 15 March 2015 11:41, 725 words, (English)

(Corrects confirmed death toll at 8, not 10)

By Megan Rowling

SENDAI, Japan, March 15 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Governments meeting in Japan to adopt a new global plan to reduce the risk of disasters should heed the devastation caused...

Tackling Disasters Vital to End Poverty - World Bank Chief

[All Africa](#), 15 March 2015 12:09, 747 words, (English)

Sendai, Mar 15, 2015 (Thomson Reuters Foundation/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- In the past 30 years, the world has lost more than 2.5 million people and almost \$4 trillion because of natural disasters, the president of the World...

Japan, Cambodia Agree to Boost Economic Ties

[Jiji Press English News Service](#), 15 March 2015 09:49, 176 words, (English)

Sendai, Miyagi Pref., March 15 (Jiji Press)--Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Cambodian counterpart, Hun Sen, Sunday agreed to strengthen economic relations between the two countries.

Vanuatu appeals for aid in wake of devastating cyclone

[Al Jazeera English](#), 14 March 2015, 570 words, (English)

At least eight people are confirmed dead after Category 5 storm Pam smashes the small Pacific island nation.

The president of Vanuatu has appealed for international assistance after his island nation was hit by a terrifying tropical cyclone...

Kyodo news summary -5-

[Kyodo News](#), 14 March 2015 14:35, 530 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 14 -- -----

New Hokuriku Shinkansen bullet train service starts

TOKYO - A new Shinkansen bullet train service linking Tokyo with the Hokuriku region on the Sea of Japan coast began Saturday, more than 40 years after it was...

UN head urges better safeguards for climate disasters

[SF Gate](#), 14 March 2015 11:01, 536 words, (English)

SENDAI, Japan (AP) — The president of the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu appealed to a U.N. disaster conference Saturday for help as a powerful cyclone swept across his archipelago, driving painfully home the rising risks from extreme...

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Ban highlights climate risks as Vanuatu counts dead from Cyclone Pam

[Deutsche Welle](#), 14 March 2015 16:28, 617 words, (English)

UN chief Ban Ki-moon has again urged help for low-lying nations exposed to climate change risks as Vanuatu counts its dead from Cyclone Pam. Experts fear it could be one of the Pacific region's worst weather disasters.

How to make women safer in disasters? Attack inequality

[Reuters News](#), 14 March 2015 15:22, 781 words, (English)

SENDAI, Japan (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Women's vulnerability to disasters is a sign not of weakness but of inequality, and barriers to women taking the lead in protecting themselves must be removed, top politicians and officials told...

UPDATE3: U.N.forum calls for more investment to reduce disaster risks

[Kyodo News](#), 14 March 2015 11:34, 673 words, (English)

SENDAI, March 14 -- Amid growing concern that climate change may bring more natural calamities, the international community highlighted the need to boost measures and investment for disaster risk reduction at a U.N. conference that began...

Russia Sent 580,000 Tonnes of Humanitarian Aid to 110 Countries Over Decade - Minister

[Sputnik News Service](#), 14 March 2015 13:06, 225 words, (English)

SENDAI, March 14 (Sputnik) - Russia has delivered over 580,000 metric tons of humanitarian cargo to 110 countries in past ten years, Russian Emergencies Minister Vladimir Puchkov said Saturday.

Kyodo news summary -3-

[Kyodo News](#), 14 March 2015 10:27, 420 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 14 -- -----

U.N. forum calls for more investment to reduce disaster risks

SENDAI - Amid growing concern that climate change may bring more natural calamities, the international community highlighted the need to boost...

UN disaster meeting opens in tsunami-hit Japan

[Agence France Presse](#), 14 March 2015 09:24, 655 words, (English)

Policymakers gathered for a ten-yearly meeting on disaster risk reduction Saturday, with hopes high that the conference in tsunami-hit Japan might provide a springboard for efforts to tackle natural disasters and costly climate change.

Vanuatu President Appeals for Global Assistance After Deadly Cyclone Battered Country

[Sputnik News Service](#), 14 March 2015 16:54, 226 words, (English)

MOSCOW, March 14 (Sputnik) - The President of the South Pacific Ocean's Republic of Vanuatu addressed the global community Saturday to support the island nation after tropical cyclone Pam devastated the country.

Kyodo news summary -4-

[Kyodo News](#), 14 March 2015 12:34, 464 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 14 -- -----

Japan, France to cooperate at key U.N. climate talks

SENDAI - The Japanese and French foreign ministers agreed Saturday to cooperate in seeking a new international framework for fighting climate change at a key...

Kyodo news summary -3-

[Kyodo News](#), 15 March 2015 12:40, 457 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 15 -- -----

Japan, China agree to keep cooperating over disaster management

SENDAI - The Japanese minister in charge of disaster management and her Chinese counterpart agreed Sunday to continue to cooperate in tackling...

Cyclone Pam: Why Japan is a leader in disaster relief

[The Christian Science Monitor](#), 14 March 2015 06:00, 695 words, (English)

On this image provided by UNICEF Pacific, people on a dock view yachts damaged in Port Vila, Vanuatu, Saturday, March 14, 2015, in the aftermath of Cyclone Pam. Winds from the extremely powerful cyclone that blew through the Pacific's...

France Fabius urges Japan to submit greenhouse gas goal by June 9:11 pm, March 14, 2015 Visiting French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius urged Japan to submit its greenhouse gas reduction target by June, ahead of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Cli...

[Daily Yomiuri](#), 14 March 2015 13:11, 396 words, (English)

The Yomiuri Shimbun Visiting French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius urged Japan to submit its greenhouse gas reduction target by June, ahead of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Climate Change...

Japan, Singapore look to expand training for disaster experts

[Kyodo News](#), 14 March 2015 14:02, 220 words, (English)

SENDAI, March 14 -- Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and his Singapore counterpart K. Shanmugam agreed Saturday to consider expanding bilateral cooperation in training experts on reducing risks from natural disasters in Southeast Asia...

Japan Offers 4-B.-Dollar Aid for Reducing Disaster Victims

[Jiji Press English News Service](#), 14 March 2015 06:50, 543 words, (English)

Sendai, Miyagi Pref., March 14 (Jiji Press)--Japan will provide assistance worth a total of 4 billion dollars over the four years from 2015 to help developing countries improve antidisaster measures, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said at a U.N...

(Update) Abe Seeks Women's Leadership in Antidisaster Efforts

[Jiji Press English News Service](#), 14 March 2015 12:46, 230 words, (English)

Sendai, Miyagi Pref., March 14 (Jiji Press)--Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe underlined the importance of women's leadership in anti-disaster efforts, at a high-level U.N. meeting in the northeastern Japan city of Sendai on Saturday.

U.N.disaster forum calls for mobilizing women's leadership

[Kyodo News](#), 14 March 2015 12:58, 313 words, (English)

SENDAI, March 14 -- Activists and politicians on Saturday underlined the importance of promoting gender equality and mobilizing women's leadership in the context of disaster risk reduction, calling on national governments to take concrete...

Kyodo news summary -2-

[Kyodo News](#), 14 March 2015 06:21, 571 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 14 -- -----

Japan-S. Korea rift hurting U.S. national interests: ex-diplomat

WASHINGTON - A former senior U.S. diplomat for Asia expressed concern Friday that strained ties between Washington's two East Asian allies -- Japan...

SIDEBAR UN chief urges action against climate change disasters

[dpa International Service in English](#), 14 March 2015 14:25, 206 words,(English)

Tokyo (dpa) - It is "everybody's business" to prevent natural disasters, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said Saturday, urging rich countries and businesses to help the poorest and most vulnerable people deal with the rising threat from...

Africa: Sendai - UN Disaster Risk Reduction Conference Key to Future Sustainable Development Agenda

[All Africa](#), 13 March 2015 11:32, 898 words, (English)

Government and civil society leaders from around the world are gathering in the Japanese city of Sendai for a United Nations conference that will take stock of ten years of global work to better prepare for and curb the impact of disasters,...

3rd United Nations Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction begins in Sendai, Japan

[New Straits Times](#), 14 March 2015 05:19, 371 words, (English)

The third United Nations Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction started here today officiated by United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki-moon.

India ready to help nations in disaster response: Home Minister Rajnath Singh

[The Economic Times](#), 14 March 2015 14:24, 418 words, (English)

Rajnath said India was committed to work with other countries in Asia Pacific region and beyond in building resilient nations and communities, against disasters.

UPDATE3: Japan offers \$4 bil. aid to global disaster-control efforts

[Kyodo News](#), 14 March 2015 07:53, 328 words, (English)

SENDAI, March 14 -- Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Saturday Japan will offer \$4 billion in aid for global efforts to enhance disaster management over four years through 2018, including support for building infrastructure in developing...

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Japan vows to support cyclone-hit Vanuatu "by all means possible"

[Kyodo News](#), 14 March 2015 13:53, 196 words, (English)

SENDAI, March 14 -- Prime Minister Shinzo Abe vowed on Saturday to provide assistance to Vanuatu, the South Pacific archipelago which was ravaged by a powerful cyclone overnight.

Japan, Indonesia agree to cooperate in fighting Islamic extremism

[Kyodo News](#), 14 March 2015 12:11, 423 words, (English)

SENDAI, March 14 -- Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Indonesian Vice President Muhammad Jusuf Kalla agreed Saturday to work together in fighting Islamic extremism, Japanese officials said.

Prayut urges acceleration of rail works

[Bangkok Post](#), 14 March 2015 07:46, 378 words, (English)

Prayut, Abe, rail, water, United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 3WCDPR

SENDAI, JAPAN — Thai and Japanese leaders have agreed to speed up their cooperation on the Thai rail system and in other areas.

UN to hold disaster meeting in tsunami-hit Japan

[Bangkok Post](#), 14 March 2015 05:44, 610 words, (English)

TOKYO - The UN will hold a once-in-a-decade meeting on disaster risk reduction this weekend, with policymakers gathering in tsunami-struck Japan after warnings that the cost of climate change-related calamities could bankrupt future...

LEAD South Pacific islands of Vanuatu and Tuvalu assess cyclone damage By Benita van Eysen, dpa

[dpa International Service in English](#), 15 March 2015 12:00, 527 words,(English)

Sydney (dpa) - Relief workers were assessing the damage caused by the worst tropical cyclone on record in the South Pacific in the Vanuatu archipelago and its tiny neighbour Tuvalu on Sunday.

Drive for sustainability to start in Sendai 12:00 pm, March 14, 2015 In the ruins of the mega-disaster that struck Japan four years ago this month, I found a lesson in global solidarity: countries of the world, so accustomed to accepting help from Japan, rushed to off...

[Daily Yomiuri](#), 13 March 2015 16:00, 805 words, (English)

By Ban Ki Moon / Special to The Yomiuri Shimbun In the ruins of the mega-disaster that struck Japan four years ago this month, I found a lesson in global solidarity: countries of the world, so accustomed to accepting help from Japan, rushed...

UN Secretary General Urges More Investment Into Disaster Risk Reduction Projects

[Sputnik News Service](#), 14 March 2015 07:03, 353 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 14 (Sputnik) - UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called on the international community Saturday to invest into projects reducing the risk of disasters to help scale down the "price tag" of destruction that he estimated at over...

Malaysia will have more robust disaster management agencies and better alert system

[New Straits Times](#), 14 March 2015 09:10, 472 words, (English)

SENDAI: Malaysia is reshaping its disaster management agencies to be more robust while integrating the country's early warning systems in preparation for possible future major calamities.

Japan, Thailand to speed up talks on railway development

[Kyodo News](#), 14 March 2015 08:40, 435 words, (English)

SENDAI, March 14 -- Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Thai counterpart Prayut Chan-o-cha agreed Saturday to speed up bilateral talks on developing high-speed railway in the Southeast Asian country.

Japan, Pacific Island nations agree to ensure success of May summit

[Kyodo News](#), 15 March 2015 12:46, 253 words, (English)

SENDAI, March 15 -- Japan and leaders of Pacific Island nations agreed Sunday to cooperate in ensuring the success of a summit involving Japan and the 16-member Pacific Islands Forum in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture, in May, Japan's Foreign...

Africa: Sendai - World Leaders Gather for UN Conference On Managing Disaster Risk

[All Africa](#), 13 March 2015 20:56, 277 words, (English)

West Africa: Huge Step Forward in Tackling...

Ads by Google

World leaders are gathering for a United Nations conference in Sendai, Japan, to agree on a new framework for managing disaster risk which will reduce mortality and economic losses.

Cyclone Pam devastates Vanuatu amid fears of large death toll

[Deutsche Welle](#), 14 March 2015 07:32, 549 words, (English)

Relief workers are set for a large-scale relief operation after huge Cyclone Pam wrought havoc in the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu. Officials say the storm may have been one of the worst ever in the region.

World leaders to launch new disaster guide

[The Jakarta Post](#), 14 March 2015, 518 words, (English)

World leaders are gathering in the northern Japanese city of Sendai to attend the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), in which they will collectively establish new international guidelines for disaster risk...

UN head urges better safeguards for climate linked disasters

[The New Zealand Herald](#), 14 March 2015 04:25, 153 words, (English)

SENDAI, Japan (AP) " U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is urging better help and more safeguards for the world's poorest and weakest people as the threat from climate-related disasters grows.

Russia, China exchange information on natural, manmade threats - emergency situations minister

[ITAR-TASS World Service](#), 14 March 2015 08:17, 231 words, (English)

SOCIETY: RUSSIA-CHINA-UN-CONFERENCE

Russia, China exchange information on natural, manmade threats - emergency situations minister

SENDAI /JAPAN/, March 14. /TASS/. Cooperation between Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry and China's...

REFILING: Abe, Ban agree to cooperate over development, climate change

[Kyodo News](#), 14 March 2015 05:37, 304 words, (English)

SENDAI, March 14 -- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon agreed Saturday to continue their cooperation in efforts to map out the post-2015 Development Agenda and address climate change ahead of crucial...

Sendai readies English guidebook, city tour for U.N. disaster confab

[Kyodo News](#), 13 March 2015 07:34, 277 words, (English)

SENDAI, March 13 -- Local volunteers of the northeastern Japanese city of Sendai have compiled an English guidebook recommending local places and food and detailing a plan for a city walking tour, and are aiming to hand it out during the...

Muhyiddin to share Malaysia's experience on disaster management at UN World Conference in Sendai

[New Straits Times](#), 13 March 2015 05:14, 278 words, (English)

TOKYO: Malaysian delegates at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which starts here tomorrow, will contribute the country's input for a new international framework of cooperation in the handling of major...

Abe Seeks Results in U.N. Reforms

[Jiji Press English News Service](#), 14 March 2015 04:32, 129 words, (English)

Sendai, Miyagi Pref., March 14 (Jiji Press)--Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Saturday that the United Nations needs to achieve certain results in its Security Council reform efforts as the world body marks its 70th anniversary...

Japan pledges \$4B for global disaster risk reduction initiatives

[Manila Bulletin](#), 15 March 2015, 236 words, (English)

Sendai, Japan--The Japanese government has pledged US\$4 billion to boost cooperation efforts among governments, including training government officials and local leaders of other countries, particularly developing ones, on disaster risk...

Russia, Turkey Agree to Boost Cooperation on Turkish Stream Project – Emergencies Minister

[Sputnik News Service](#), 14 March 2015 06:06, 276 words, (English)

SENDAI (Japan), March 14 (Sputnik) – Russian Emergencies Minister Vladimir Puchkov and Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the sphere of infrastructure safety, particularly in...

Sendai meeting is key chance to build Asia's disaster resilience

[The Jakarta Post](#), 14 March 2015, 821 words, (English)

Bindu N. Lohani, Manila

When global leaders convene in Sendai, Japan, on March 14-18, they have possibly the biggest-ever opportunity to build the infrastructure and other defenses the world needs to withstand the worst ravages of typhoons,...

ENVIRONMENT - In disasters, women are the backbone of resilience

[Bangkok Post](#), 13 March 2015, 650 words, (English)

The rising frequency and impact of natural disasters is a clear sign of our changing world. It is also a warning for us to better prepare to reduce the risks that people might face. We need better management of land and the environment and...

UPDATE1: U.N. chief Ban calls for ambitious plans at Japan antidisaster confab

[Kyodo News](#), 12 March 2015 05:50, 597 words, (English)

NEW YORK, March 12 -- U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon on Wednesday expressed hope that an upcoming multilateral conference in Japan will produce a "strong and ambitious" framework to curb disaster risks, calling it essential for...

International collaboration vital in reducing impact of natural disasters

[The Guardian](#), 13 March 2015 08:00, 859 words, (English)

A landmark UN conference in Sendai, Japan, will discuss the creation of a forum to share scientific advances in disaster prediction. The third world conference on disaster risk reduction, which begins on Saturday in Sendai, north Japan, is a ...

Japan tsunami remembered on eve of World Conference on disaster risk

[Vietnam News](#), 12 March 2015 08:51, 659 words, (English)

TOKYO (VNS) — The Japanese imperial couple, prime minister and representatives of bereaved family members and international communities yesterday attended a memorial ceremony in Tokyo to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the Great East...

Tax delay no surprise

[Bangkok Post](#), 14 March 2015 00:13, 2,082 words, (English)

It's with great regret, but no surprise, to hear the proposed land tax has been shelved (BP, March 13). We are famously a tax-avoidance nation, and Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha buckled predictably to intense lobbying by the rich landed...

Helen Clark: Taking sustainable development beyond band-aid solutions

[Nikkei Report](#), 11 March 2015, 797 words, (English)

The last time the international community came together at a world conference to address the impact of disasters was in Kobe, Japan, in 2005, only weeks after the Indian Ocean tsunami killed over 230,000 people. I was Prime Minister of New...

Fatemi to attend UN moot on Disaster Risk Reduction

[Business Recorder](#), 15 March 2015, 157 words, (English)

Syed Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs arrived in Sendai, Japan on March 14, 2015 for a three-day official visit to lead Pakistan's delegation to the 3rd World UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction...

Abe to declare 'knowledge sharing' at U.N. disaster summit in Sendai

[The Japan News](#), 13 March 2015, 199 words, (English)

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was to declare Japan's intention to create a strong, flexible society in cooperation with the international community by sharing Japan's knowledge and technology as a nation well experienced in preventing disasters...

United Nations - Prayut shares disaster trials at Japan talk

[Bangkok Post](#), 13 March 2015, 307 words, (English)

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha will travel to Japan to share Thailand's tsunami and flooding experiences at the national disaster risk reduction (DRR) conference this weekend.

Loren pushes women's role in disaster risk reduction

[The Philippine Star](#), 15 March 2015, 377 words, (English)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda chaired yesterday the High Level Multi-stakeholder Partnership Dialogue on Mobilizing Women's Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Sendai, Japan.

Different ideas not always a 'conspiracy theory'

[The Nation](#), 14 March 2015, 622 words, (English)

With the anniversary of the mysterious disappearance of Flight MH370, we seem to have settled into accepting that the plane turned back. If it did so, then why haven't Malaysia and Indonesia produced their radar records to confirm this...

U.N. Disaster Conference to Start in Sendai on Saturday

[Jiji Press English News Service](#), 12 March 2015 10:05, 355 words, (English)

Tokyo, March 12 (Jiji Press)--The third U.N. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will begin in the northeastern Japan city of Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, on Saturday, bringing together leaders or ministerial-level officials from...

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Kyodo news summary -6-

[Kyodo News](#), 13 March 2015 08:42, 567 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 13 -- -----

Sendai readies English guidebook, city tour for U.N. disaster confab

SENDAI - Local volunteers of the northeastern Japanese city of Sendai have compiled an English guidebook recommending local places and food and.

EXCLUSIVE: Sendai Draft Wants Every Policy to Weigh Disaster Reduction

[Jiji Press English News Service](#), 11 March 2015 02:30, 265 words, (English)

Tokyo, March 11 (Jiji Press)--The upcoming U.N. antidisaster conference in Sendai, northeastern Japan, is expected to adopt a joint statement highlighting the need to reflect disaster reduction perspectives in all policies at both national...

A challenge to development

[The Nation](#), 13 March 2015 19:00, 173 words, (English)

Re: "A key chance to build Asia's disaster resilience", Opinion, March 13.

The very informative article by Bindu N Lohani deserves to be completed with some assessments and projections generated by the recent United Nations-led Regional...

EDITORIAL / Make use of grave lessons learned from disaster to minimize damage

[The Japan News](#), 13 March 2015, 671 words, (English)

By learning lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake, we should reaffirm the importance of undertaking measures to reduce the risk of disaster damage.

DIARY - Political and General News Events From March 13

[Reuters News](#), 13 March 2015 11:07, 1,139 words, (English)

Reuters will issue this diary daily at around 1000 GMT.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13 ** SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is expected to meet with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to discuss...

World Bank chief welcomes China-led Asian infrastructure bank

[Kyodo News](#), 13 March 2015 10:37, 256 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 13 -- World Bank President Jim Yong Kim on Friday welcomed the establishment of the China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, saying many emerging and low-income countries are in need of investment for infrastructure.

U.N.Chief Hopes for Japan Role in Disaster Reduction

[Jiji Press English News Service](#), 12 March 2015 07:22, 276 words, (English)

New York, March 11 (Jiji Press)--U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed hope on Wednesday that Japan will play a major role in disaster reduction based on lessons learned from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

Rajnath Singh to attend international meet on disaster in Japan

[The Economic Times](#), 11 March 2015 17:57, 337 words, (English)

Home Minister Rajnath Singh will attend an international conference on disaster risk reduction in Japan beginning March 14. The Home Minister will present the official country statement on March 14 at the plenary meeting of the five-day...

Fed, U.K. Budget, Israel Vote, Iran, F1: Week Ahead March 14-21

[Bloomberg](#), 12 March 2015 21:48, 2,809 words, (English)

(Bloomberg) -- The Federal Open Market Committee will release its policy statement after debating the timing of the first U.S. interest-rate increase since 2006. Fed Chair Janet Yellen will hold a press conference following the meeting...

DIARY - Political and General News Events From March 11

[Reuters News](#), 11 March 2015 12:13, 1,130 words, (English)

President Kenyatta Departs for Official Visit to Japan [press release]

[All Africa](#), 12 March 2015 12:44, 290 words, (English)

Nairobi, Mar 12, 2015 (Kenya Presidency/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- President Uhuru Kenyatta has jetted out of the country for a five day official visit to Japan.

EU commissioner hopes for close cooperation with Japan on disasters

[Kyodo News](#), 12 March 2015 09:26, 385 words, (English)

BRUSSELS, March 12 -- The EU commissioner for humanitarian aid and crisis management has demonstrated eagerness to see close cooperation in disaster risk reduction and international relief activities between Brussels and Tokyo.

Kyodo news summary - 10-

[Kyodo News](#), 10 March 2015 15:43, 339 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 10 -- -----

Cambodia, Japan leaders to meet on sidelines of conference in Sendai

PHNOM PENH - Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said Tuesday he will hold bilateral talks with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe this weekend...

Prayut to meet UN secretary general in Sendai

[The Nation](#), 12 March 2015 11:08, 59 words, (English)

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha will meet the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon when the two attend the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, on Friday and Saturday.

A key chance 'to build Asia's' disaster resilience

[The Nation](#), 13 March 2015, 829 words, (English)

Bindu N Lohani

Special to The Nation

As global leaders convene in Sendai, Japan, they have possibly the biggest-ever opportunity to build the infrastructure and other defences the world needs to withstand the worst ravages of typhoons,

Mugabe Now a Burden to the Fiscus

[All Africa](#), 13 March 2015 17:11, 781 words, (English)

Mar 13, 2015 (Zimbabwe Independent/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe, who left the country on Tuesday for Japan via Singapore, is spending more time shuttling to the Far East for medical treatment at a huge cost...

Africa: Helen Clark - Speech At the Opening of the 59th Commission On the Status of Women

[All Africa](#), 10 March 2015 22:22, 819 words, (English)

I am delighted to be at the opening of the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in this twentieth anniversary year of the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which remains as relevant for gender equality...

Africa: Lessons From Japan Tsunami Vital to New Disaster Risk Reduction Agreement, Says UN Official

[All Africa](#), 12 March 2015 11:56, 460 words, (English)

Africa: Meet Nigeria's Golden Athletes, Who...

Ads by Google

Three days before the opening of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the head of the United Nations office dedicated to dealing with the threat posed by disasters...

Kenya: Uhuru in Japan for Trade, Disaster Management Talks

[All Africa](#), 12 March 2015 15:03, 320 words, (English)

President Uhuru Kenyatta is in Tokyo, Japan for a five-day first official visit aimed at boosting bilateral and trade relations.

The visit is also aimed at enhancing the technical and development cooperation between the two countries.

Cambodia, Japan leaders to meet on sidelines of conference in Sendai

[Kyodo News](#), 10 March 2015 12:59, 176 words, (English)

PHNOM PENH, March 10 -- Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said Tuesday he will hold bilateral talks with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe this weekend in Sendai, where both will be attending an international conference on disaster...

Japan to extend yen loans to Kenya for health projects

[Kyodo News](#), 13 March 2015 15:53, 129 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 13 -- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe conveyed to his Kenyan counterpart Uhuru Kenyatta on Friday that Japan intends to strengthen bilateral ties and, as part of its economic cooperation, extend yen loans to Kenya for health...

Make use of grave lessons learned from disaster to minimize damage 6:52 pm, March 12, 2015 By learning lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake, we should reaffirm the importance of undertaking measures to reduce the risk of disaster damage. On Wednesday, a memorial ceremony to mark t...

[Daily Yomiuri](#), 12 March 2015 10:52, 712 words, (English)

The Yomiuri Shimbun By learning lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake, we should reaffirm the importance of undertaking measures to reduce the risk of disaster damage.

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Miyagi Nogyo High School to Hold an Augmented Reality Tour for Natori City, Miyagi, Japan - One of the Most Tsunami-Stricken Areas

[Press Association National Newswire](#), 11 March 2015 16:00, 534 words, (English)

The Idea That Won the Grand Prize in the Kanko Koshien Tourism Award Has Come True

Philanthropy Writers, Business Editors, Technology Writers

Uhuru in Japan for Trade, Disaster Management Talks

[All Africa](#), 12 March 2015 16:31, 196 words, (English)

Mar 12, 2015 (The Star/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- President Uhuru Kenyatta is in Tokyo, Japan for a five-day first official visit aimed at boosting bilateral and trade relations.

Ahead of Major Risk Reduction Conference, UN Review Finds 87 Per Cent of Disasters Climate-Related

[All Africa](#), 09 March 2015 13:28, 427 words, (English)

Mar 09, 2015 (UN News Service/All Africa Global Media via COMTEX) -- The United Nations office dedicated to disaster risk reduction today appealed to world leaders ahead of a major gathering in northern Japan next week to provide clear...

Kyodo news summary -4-

[Kyodo News](#), 12 March 2015 06:50, 497 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 12 -- -----

Gov't resumes base relocation site survey drilling in Okinawa

NAHA, Japan - The Defense Ministry on Thursday resumed an offshore boring survey in Okinawa Prefecture for the construction of a U.S. base replacement...

UN to hold disaster meeting in tsunami-hit Japan

[Agence France Presse](#), 12 March 2015 04:40, 531 words, (English)

The UN will hold a once-in-a-decade meeting on disaster risk reduction this weekend, with policymakers gathering in tsunami-struck Japan after warnings that the cost of climate change-related calamities could bankrupt future generations.

[Daily Yomiuri](#), 13 March 2015 04:23, 196 words, (English)

Jiji Press Seven Bank unveiled on Wednesday its revamped mobile automated teller machine, mainly designed to offer services after disasters.

INTERVIEW: World Bank to Work with Japan on Disasters

[Jiji Press English News Service](#), 10 March 2015 12:05, 386 words, (English)

Washington, March 9 (Jiji Press)--The World Bank will work more closely with Japan to improve disaster risk management around the world, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said Monday.

U.N. Secretary General Ban to attend disaster conference in Sendai

[Kyodo News](#), 09 March 2015 07:53, 131 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 9 -- U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and U.N. General Assembly President Sam Kutesa will attend the upcoming U.N. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in the northeastern Japanese city of Sendai starting later this...

Vice President meets with Yangon Region leader

[Vietnam News](#), 13 March 2015 02:00, 335 words, (English)

YANGON (VNS) — As part of her visit to Myanmar, Vice President Nguyen Thi Doan met with Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe on March 12 to enhance ties between the city and Viet Nam.

Hard-won experience: Japan to share disaster wisdom with the world

[Nikkei Report](#), 11 March 2015, 238 words, (English)

TOKYO -- Japan will help other countries train experts on disaster management and prevention under an initiative to be unveiled at an upcoming United Nations conference.

Visionary leadership needed for disaster resilience

[Business Times Singapore](#), 11 March 2015, 929 words, (English)

WORLD leaders and decision-makers from more than 100 countries will gather later this month in Sendai, Japan, to finalise a new global framework for disaster risk reduction which will replace the 2005 Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). The...

Main events scheduled for Saturday, March 14

[Kyodo News](#), 13 March 2015 03:41, 39 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 13 -- -- U.N. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai through March 18.
-- Japan, France foreign ministers to hold strategic dialogue in Tokyo.

DIARY - Political and General News Events From March 10

[Reuters News](#), 10 March 2015 11:07, 1,034 words, (English)

Reuters will issue this diary daily at around 1000 GMT.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10 ** ATLANTA - U.S. President Barack Obama delivers remarks at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Disaster prevention: Combine short- and long-term benefits

[The Christian Science Monitor](#), 10 March 2015 06:00, 1,112 words, (English)

BARCELONA, Spain — Tucked away beneath courts for playing the bowling game pétanque, its entrance part-concealed by hanging plants, lies a cavernous concrete tank for collecting floodwater.

Africa: 8 Facts On Disasters, Hunger and Nutrition

[All Africa](#), 09 March 2015 10:31, 312 words, (English)

Disasters disproportionately affect the world's poorest people and communities, significantly increasing hunger and malnutrition. Hunger and malnutrition increase people's exposure to risk. Because of this, disaster risk reduction is a

World Bank hopes for Japan's continued help in disaster prevention

[Kyodo News](#), 10 March 2015 12:11, 408 words, (English)

WASHINGTON, March 10 -- The chief of the World Bank expressed hope Monday that Japan will keep cooperating with the Washington-based lender in projects aimed at helping developing countries enhance disaster prevention measures.

Kyodo news summary -7-

[Kyodo News](#), 12 March 2015 09:57, 393 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 12 -- -----

EU commissioner hopes for close cooperation with Japan on disasters

BRUSSELS - The EU commissioner for humanitarian aid and crisis management has demonstrated eagerness to see close cooperation in disaster risk...

Three of five top central ministers out of India nobody designated to take charge of govt

[Hindustan Times](#), 11 March 2015 20:38, 352 words, (English)

In a first for the NDA government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his top two ministers will be out of the country on Friday and Saturday, with nobody designated to take charge of the government in their absence.

Disaster damage expected to hit \$300 billion yearly as events intensify - TRFN

[Reuters News](#), 10 March 2015 14:44, 432 words, (English)

ROME, March 10 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Investing in insurance programmes for poor farmers today could save tens of billions of dollars in coming decades as climate change upsets growing patterns and makes harvests fail, U.N. . .

Africa: Elderly's Vulnerability to Disasters to Be Highlighted in New Index

[All Africa](#), 11 March 2015 12:05, 439 words, (English)

London — A major charity is launching a new index to measure the risks faced by the elderly during natural disasters and urge governments to take their needs into account when planning ways to reduce the impact of disasters.

Japan to Decide 2016 Summit Venue by June: Abe

[Jiji Press English News Service](#), 10 March 2015 13:43, 242 words, (English)

Tokyo, March 10 (Jiji Press)--Japan will decide on the venue of the summer 2016 summit of major nations by the time Germany hosts this year's Group of Seven summit on June 7-8, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Tuesday.

U.N. disaster summit to seek support for developing countries

[The Japan News](#), 07 March 2015, 378 words, (English)

Having developed nations provide financial and technical support for developing nations will be one of the key goals in new guidelines to be adopted at the third U.N. World Conference in Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai from . . .

Kyodo news summary -5-

[Kyodo News](#), 09 March 2015 08:00, 463 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 9 -- -----

Tokyo shares fall on U.S. rate-hike expectations, weaker Japan GDP

TOKYO - Tokyo shares fell Monday after a robust U.S. jobs report added to expectations of an early interest rate hike by the Federal Reserve and . . .

Int'l experts discuss protection of cultural assets from disasters

[Kyodo News](#), 11 March 2015 05:54, 187 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 11 -- About 100 experts discussed how to protect cultural heritage from natural disasters and boost global cooperation to that end at a three-day international meeting in Tokyo that opened Wednesday.

30

Kyodo news summary -5-

[Kyodo News](#), 11 March 2015 07:03, 415 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 11 -- -----

Int'l experts discuss protection of cultural assets from disasters

TOKYO - About 100 experts discussed how to protect cultural heritage from natural disasters and boost global cooperation to that end at a . . .

Japanese agency, Unesco to implement flood warning system

[Dawn](#), 11 March 2015, 523 words, (English)

The Japanese government and Unesco have agreed to implement a project worth \$4.05 million to improve Pakistans flood warning and management capacity.

Kyodo news summary -1-

[Kyodo News](#), 07 March 2015 04:16, 545 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 7 -- -----

FEATURE: Antinuclear workshop still going strong 4 years after Fukushima

TOKYO - With preparations underway to restart Japan's nuclear power plants, writer Keiko Ochiai has pledged to continue beyond the fourth . . .

Seven Bank unveils mobile ATM for withdrawals after large disaster

[Kyodo News](#), 11 March 2015 10:53, 211 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 11 -- Seven Bank unveiled on Wednesday a mobile automated teller machine that enables people to withdraw or deposit money in the event that regular ATMs are rendered useless in a large disaster.

UPDATE2: Japan marks 4 years since quake, tsunami, nuclear disasters

[Kyodo News](#), 11 March 2015 05:46, 595 words, (English)

TOKYO, March 11 -- Japan marked the fourth anniversary Wednesday of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that devastated the country's northeastern region, left more than 18,000 people dead or missing and triggered the continuing Fukushima . . .

France's Fabius hopes Japan will come up with emission cut target

[Kyodo News](#), 07 March 2015 01:22, 277 words, (English)

RIGA, March 7 -- French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius on Friday called on Japan to come up with its own target for greenhouse gas emission cuts for a conference in Paris later this year where a post-2020 framework for combating climate...

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Reuters

We don't need adults to protect us from disasters, children say

Source: Thomson Reuters Foundation - Thu, 19 Mar 2015 09:40 GMT

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ActionAid International- India - Fri, 13 Mar 2015 12:32 GMT

Author: Harjeet Singh

Japan promises \$4bln in aid to combat disasters over 4 years

Source: Thomson Reuters Foundation - Sat, 14 Mar 2015 14:29 GMT

By Megan Rowling

President of cyclone-hit Vanuatu urges global action on disasters

Source: Thomson Reuters Foundation - Sun, 15 Mar 2015 09:58 GMT

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Health a fresh priority in disaster plan, talks snagged on aid

Source: Thomson Reuters Foundation - Tue, 17 Mar 2015 14:38 GMT

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ers often respond to crises without proper briefing, training and equipment and wages are often not paid. He says governments all over the world are well aware of these challenges but do nothing about them.

3 min

WCDRR-Voxies

Delegates attending the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which concludes yesterday in Sendai Japan say they hope that policies agreed on there will result in tangible solutions for countries prone and dealing with disasters. Studies have found that even where countries have developed policies and institutional systems for disaster risk reduction, they are challenged to address risk accumulation on the ground. This consequently challenges governments' ability to accurately account for disaster risk in investment and development decisions. Member states of the UN Office for disaster are expected to adopt a guideline known as the Hyogo Framework 2, that will pave the way for the coming ten years on how countries should integrate multi-disciplinary approaches in their disaster risk reduction measures. This is what some of them had to say

2 min

Women DRR

Women on the African continent have joined other women around the world to find ways in dealing with the effects of disasters. Because of the existence of problems in social structures particularly in Africa, when disasters strike, from a gender perspective - various inequalities and distortions become apparent. Also often seen as primary sustenance providers, African women have identified ways of reducing the incidence and impact of small scale, current disasters that compromise the food security of poor communities. Joyce Nangori is a Project Manager for the Slum Women's Initiative for Development in Uganda. On the side lines of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan, she and members of her network demonstrated how they've come together to reduce women's vulnerability and promote community resilience:

9 min

24

MAR

Disaster Migration

Disaster experts say that millions of people are displaced by climate-related disasters each year, and this trend is expected to increase as climate change accelerates. They say this raises important questions about how well existing instruments actually protect people driven from their homes and countries by climate change and natural disasters. The Nansen Initiative, an organisation whose main aim is to fill gaps in this space says national and international responses to this challenge are insufficient and protection for affected people remains inadequate. More from Professor Walter Kaelin, Envoy for the initiative.

34

4 min

Post Tsunami

Japan is still recovering from the Tsunami that hit parts of that country in March 2011. The city of Sendai in particular, which is one of the mostly affected areas, is now constructing multiple defence measures. This includes a combination of coastal breakwaters, coastal prevention forests, evacuation roads and many other operations. On the side lines of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction currently underway in Sendai, journalists were taken on a tour to witness the scars left by the disaster.

2 min

Disaster Communities

The United Nations office for disaster risk reduction, UNISDR, estimates that over 3 hundred billion dollars is lost every year as a result of natural disasters across the world. The organisation says this loss is mostly incurred in poor communities who have little or no resources to mitigate and reduce the risk of disasters. At the official opening of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in the city of Sendai in Japan over the weekend, Secretary General of the UN Ban Ki Moon called for international solidarity in response to the needs of poor- disaster prone communities.

5 min

WCDRR Preview

A large African delegation will be participating at this year's World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction hosted in the city of Sendai, Japan. The third WCDRR under the theme "building resilience of nations and communities against disasters" comes at a time when a number of African nations are just recovering from the effects of the floods that started in December last year. As of January 2015, 135-thousand people had been affected in Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar and Zimbabwe. Also worth noting is the persistent drought and consequent hunger in the horn of Africa and the Sahel region. The conference seeks to adopt a new framework for tackling these issues and other disasters affecting the globe. Roda Peace, African Union Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Economy elaborates...

3 min

Tsunami Remembered

It is just over four years ago since the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami hit that country. The people of that region are still picking up the pieces. According to disaster management thought leaders, the catastrophe which claimed thousands of lives is a reminder of the importance of disaster risk reduction. The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR, joined in the world last week to remember those who died and

suffered that day. The organisation says learning from that tragic event has helped in the development of a robust new agreement on disaster risk reduction which will be adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction currently underway in Japan's city of Sendai. Yokono Kichiro, Director of the city's Post Disaster Reconstruction Bureau, who spoke through an interpreter - says he remembers that day vividly.

KENYA

NATION MEDIA GROUP (NATION TV)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZrhC9cMDpo>
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MALAWI

MALAWI BROADCASTING CORPORATION

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kkn5kc_a04E
<http://www.mbc.mw/index.php/local-news/item/4272-new-international-disaster-framework-adopted>
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MYANMAR

MYANMAR TIMES

Disaster training centre planned

By Aye Sapay Phyu | Tuesday, 17 March 2015

Myanmar will open a disaster management training centre in Hinthada, Ayeyarwady Region, in September, delegates at a world conference in Sendai, Japan, were told yesterday.

UN chief urges world leaders to up disaster reduction investment

By Aye Sapay Phyu | Monday, 16 March 2015

The United Nations secretary general has urged countries to invest more in disaster risk reduction. Speaking at the World Disaster Risk Reduction Conference in Sendai, Japan, on March 14, Ban Ki-moon said climate change had caused more extreme weather events. Investing in disaster risk precautions was "smart investing".

PHILIPPINES

THE INQUIRER

UN conference on DRR opens in Sendai

By Jerry E. Esplanada

SENDAI, Japan - "Disaster risks are everybody's business."

This was stressed anew by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction during the opening of the five-day World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in this northeastern Japanese city, which is recovering from the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011.

On that day, Sendai and neighboring coastal areas were hit by the most powerful quake ever recorded in this north Asian country, along with a tsunami of a magnitude seen only once in a thousand years, leaving thousands of people dead or missing in the Tohoku region.

No less than Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko graced the WCDRR's opening rites at the Sendai International Center here, "proof that this gathering is really very important," said a fellow journalist covering the conference.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe welcomed the 7,000-plus delegates to the March 14 to 18 event, which aims to adopt the successor to the 2005 Hyogo agreement on DRR.

Most, if not all of the 193 UN member-countries - including the Philippines - are expected to be represented in the conference.

The Philippine delegation is jointly headed by Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman and Senator Loren Legarda, who is tasked to deliver the country's statement on DRR on behalf of President Aquino.

They were joined by National Disaster and Risk Reduction executive director Alexander Pama, also Office of Civil Defense head; Public Works and Highways Secretary Rogelio Singson, National Economic and Development Authority head Arsenio Balicasan, Philippine Institute of Volcanology

and Seismology director Renato Solidum, and Representatives Rufus Rodriguez (Cagayan de Oro) and Mel Senen Sarmiento (Sarmiento), among others.

In a statement, the Geneva-based UN agency said "the post-2015 DRR framework will provide a formula for reducing the level of existing risks and preventing the creation of new ones."

It will be «forward-looking and action oriented as requested by the UN General Assembly, centered on proven actions which delivered results, reducing further the loss of lives from disaster events and preventing economic losses.»

"The new framework will apply to the risks of small- and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow onset disasters caused by natural or man-made disasters, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks," it also said.

The WCDRR "will encourage both public and private investment strategies to shift from reactive to proactive approaches that manage disaster risks. This will reduce the vulnerability and exposure of people and assets to natural hazards."

Both the conference and the new framework "will recognize the central role of the private sector in reducing disaster risks. Private investment largely determines disaster risks in most economies worldwide."

Ban Ki-moon said he was "looking forward to a successful and productive conference."

During the conference, "the implementation of the Hyogo Framework Agreement will be reviewed to be followed by the adoption of a post-2015 framework agreement on DRR."

In a statement, he said the course towards global sustainability "will definitely start in Sendai for three major reasons - disaster risk reduction inherently involves forward planning; investments in this area advance both sustainable development and climate action; and the vision for development and climate action is a universal one."

"We are working for a life of dignity for all," he asserted. "That means helping the poorest and most vulnerable people and countries to manage disaster risks. When we do that, we honor our pledge to leave no one behind."

He noted that low-income countries were almost always hit the hardest by disasters and risked losing five times as much of their building stock as richer countries, stressing the «staggering price tag» adversely affected the ability of governments to provide basic services to their already vulnerable citizens.

"Sustainability starts in Sendai and continues in Addis (Ababa), New York and Paris. This is our journey to reach a life of dignity for all," he added.

For her part, Margareta Wahlstrom, Ban's special representative on disaster risk reduction and head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, warned, «if we do not address risk reduction, future losses from disasters will increase and this will impact countries' capacity to invest in other areas, such as education and health.»

Wahlstrom, who had repeatedly cited the Philippines for its DRR initiatives, said "if we do not take the necessary measures now, it will be difficult to achieve development, let alone sustainable development."

Legarda, meanwhile, told her fellow delegates: "Let the lessons of disasters be lessons well learned and the calls for action that reverberate following every calamity be transferred into meaningful change - change in the way we live and change in the way we pursue the development and the future we long for, for all of humanity."

"Let us all become champions of change for the future that we want. Let us all become victors instead of victims in this only living planet that we call home. . . . As conscientious leaders of our respective nations, let us ensure effective risk governance and strict implementation and enforcement of all laws on the environment, climate change adaptation and DRR," she said.

The senator, one of the UN agency's 12 DRR champions worldwide, added, "we must all act now not just with a sense of great urgency but with a sense of great emergency. The Philippines has all to gain and nothing to lose in DRR."

The other day, Legarda told fellow parliamentarians: "We have the mandate to introduce change. We can create the enabling policy environment for effective disaster risk reduction."

"We can urge our respective governments to develop risk reduction strategies supportive of national development agenda. We can also lay the foundation for increased investment in risk reduction to safeguard development gains," she said.

But beyond legislation, she pointed out "the greater challenge is to ensure that laws work and are fully implemented down to the community level."

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PH still has a long way to go in DRR, says Sen. Legarda

By **Jerry E. Esplanada**

SENDAI, Japan - The Philippines may have gotten a high ranking of "between 6 and 7" - with 10 being the highest - from the United Nations Office on Disaster Risk Reduction on the level of its preparedness in handling natural disasters.

But for Senator Loren Legarda, one of the leaders of the 61-strong Philippine delegation to the five-day UN 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), which opens today (March 14) in this northeastern Japanese city, "it's only a 3," as far as the country's making DRR a household word.

"I'll be very strict about it. I will not be liberal. I think we have a long way to go," she told the INQUIRER.

At the Senate alone, "gusto kong magpa-test ng DRR," the legislator quipped.

But she was quick to add, "it's hard to gauge because some (of my co-senators) are more engaged (in other advocacies)."

"What's important is we have the building blocks because we have the laws, and you have me," she noted.

Legarda expressed optimism "in due time, other members of the Senate will see its importance and embrace it as their advocacy, too."

"It's good in the (House of Representatives), Congressmen Rufus Rodriguez and Mel Senen Sarmiento (of Cagayan de Oro and Samar, respectively) are there," she pointed out.

She lamented that "sometimes, people forget (about DRR) and slide back. So constant reminder is needed."

"That's why, I always stand at the floor every time there's a chance, every quarter, every month. But is that not the way a media campaign goes?"

Is that not the way when you're selling a brand in advertising?" she asked.

She emphasized, "when selling a brand, why is (Tide) on our mind since we were young? Because we saw it every 30 minutes, if not seconds on TV that time?"

"So I've been pushing for DRR for more than 10 years. It's a brand people must understand because it's the greatest humanitarian challenge of our times. It cannot be" she said.

When interviewed, Legarda confided she was "happy to have SM taipan Hans Sy as DRR partner."

"Maybe there are many other Hans Sys in small and medium enterprises in the Philippines," she wondered.

According to the senator, she plans to "tap all the local Chinese chambers of commerce, the Makati Business Club and even the SMEs down the line, regional, provincial and city levels."

"So like Hans, the UN agency's first private sector DRR champion in the Philippines, there'll be champions in every city or town, businesses who believe in preparing for hazards and doing DRR because it makes good business sense," she said.

Meanwhile, Legarda was scheduled to deliver during the WCDRR the Philippine government's statement on the event, attended by over 6,000 delegates from most, if not all of the 193 UN member-states.

Aside from the senator, other members of the 61-strong Philippine delegation include Representatives Rufus Rodriguez and Mel Senen Sarmiento, as well as Cabinet Secretaries Dinky Soliman (DSWD), Rogelio Singson (DPWH) and... (NEDA), NDRRMC Executive Director Alexander Pama, and Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum, among others.

According to Legarda, the statement is a "declaration of our commitment to DRR. We share with the world how amid our vulnerability, the Philippines has been undertaking serious efforts to building resilience by adhering to the 2005 Hyogo Framework Agreement."

"As nations chart a new course for the sustainable and resilient future of a climate change-altered planet, typhoon battered Philippines will take a proactive role," she said.

The senator, who authored and sponsored many laws, including the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 and the Climate Change Adaptation Act of 2009, called "the Philippine presence at the WCDRR an opportunity to convey the lessons of past disasters and share best practices in the world forum and help define both local and global actions to reduce disaster losses in the next decade or so."

The Philippines, she noted, is "actively participating in the drafting the successor framework to the HFA."

She recalled that during the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR, held in June 2014 in Bangkok, the country "contributed to the Asia-Pacific input documents for the post-2015 framework for DRR for a "more equitable distribution of responsibility to both government and other stakeholders since DRR should be everybody's business."

"We may be vulnerable but we are not helpless. We are working towards managing and reducing disaster risks to address vulnerability. We are grateful for the world's support, especially in the aftermath of Supertyphoon "Haiyan," which had actually strengthened the Philippine government's resolve to enhance the concept of building back better," she said.

Legarda added, "we will do our share to make the post-2015 framework an effective DRR blueprint for the next decade."

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NDRRMC no Harry Potter in fighting storms

By **Jerry E. Esplanada**

SENDAI, Japan - "We at the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) are not like Harry Potter who has a magic wand that can make typhoons and other bad things go away anytime he wants to."

That notwithstanding, NDRRMC executive director Alexander Pama has claimed «on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest, I'm giving the agency around 7.5 in more or less having a good feel of how to address a disaster.»

«But the mastery is more attuned or focused on typhoons,» he told the INQUIRER.

Pama, also chief of the Office of the Civil Defense, said he was happy with the citations the NDRRMC has received from the Geneva-based United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for hurdling the biggest challenges in dealing with an average of 20 typhoons a year.

"But that also troubles me. Because we have raised the level. We have raised the bar of excellence in disaster risk reduction. And we cannot go anywhere else but higher, not lower. We can slip, can have some humps. But the perception now rightly is we have hurdled the biggest DRR challenges," he noted.

The former Navy chief said matter-of-factly «the Philippines is now showing the world that DRR can be done, as well as how it should be done.»

«That is why, I think isa tayo sa mga bida dito sa Sendai,» he quipped, referring the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) that this northeastern Japanese city is hosting from March 14 to 18.

Over 6,000 delegates from most, if not all of the 193 UN member-states - including more than 60 from the Philippines - are attending the once-in-a-decade conference, which aims to adopt a new 10-year DRR blueprint replacing the 2005 Hyogo Framework for Action.

Aside from Pama, other members of the country's delegation include Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson, National Economic and Development Agency Secretary Arsenio Balicasan, Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum, as well as Senator Loren Legarda and Representatives Rufus Rodriguez and Mel Senen Sarmiento, among others.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, who chairs the NDRRMC, «can't make it because he needs to attend a meeting of Association of Southeast Asia Nations defense ministers.»

The WCDRR is «big deal» for the Philippines, said Pama.

«This is a good opportunity for us to show the world our recurring experience with natural disasters... And marami na tayong DRR best practices that we can share to the world,» he also said.

Citing the Philippine experience with Supertyphoon "Yolanda" in November 2013, which left over 6,000 people, mostly in Eastern Visayas, dead, he said "the least we can do is show the world na 'di nasayang all the help that they gave us."

"And that Filipinos are by nature resilient and have the capacity to rise immediately. These are two of the messages that we will bring to Sendai,"

he emphasized.

For her part, Sen. Legarda said “the Philippine experience, including its vulnerability to natural hazards, strengths and best practices, as well as ongoing DRR programs are valuable inputs that we must share to make the successor framework an effective DRR blueprint for the next decade.”

In a statement, she also said «we head to Sendai with a global perspective, with the realization that even if there are countries that are more vulnerable, we are all exposed to natural disasters.»

«Beyond our respective countries, the world must act more swiftly, more wisely and more decisively to reduce disaster risks more effectively,» she stressed.

Legarda, also the UN Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for Asia-Pacific, said «our concern now is how to effectively reduce disaster risks as they become more complex given the frequency, intensity and uncertainty of extreme hazard events.»

«We need to rethink approaches for DRR and sustainable development. The successor to the HFA should be able to effectively guide nations and communities in managing risks and preventing the creation of new risks,» she said.

The Philippine participation in the WCDRR, she pointed out, is «an opportunity for the country to help define both local and global actions to reduce disaster losses in the next decade.»

«The Philippines should convey the lessons of past disasters and share resilience efforts and best practices to make the post-2015 framework an effective DRR blueprint for the next decade,» she added.

At the WCDRR, Legarda will deliver the Philippine statement on behalf of President Aquino, co-chair with Japanese Minister of Internal Affairs Sanae Takaichi a high-level multistakeholder partnership dialogue on mobilizing women’s leadership in DRR, take part in a panel discussion on improving DRR legislation and participate in a TV panel debate on DRR issues.

Meanwhile, Margareta Wahlstrom, head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, said “the learning from the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011 has helped in the development of a robust new agreement on DRR which will be adopted at the WCDRR.”

«It will be a fitting tribute to all those who have lost their lives in disasters over the last 10 years to have it adopted here in Sendai where thousands will gather this weekend to debate it,» she also said.

Wahlstrom, also UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s special representative on DRR, disclosed «a new focus of the new framework for DRR will be on reducing mortality and economic losses by agreeing on measures to bring down existing levels of risk and to avoid the creation of new risk.»

One of the committee meetings «will place a strong emphasis on tackling the underlying drivers of risk, such as poverty, climate change, ecosystem decline, bad urban planning, land use and risk governance,» she added.

Earlier, Wahlstrom lauded the Philippines as one of the most disaster-prone countries in Asia that have made “striking paradigm shifts” in disaster risk reduction and management.

She also cited the country’s handling of Typhoon «Ruby» late last year, saying the government did an «excellent job» of putting into action the lessons learned from Yolanda.

“The Philippine government’s zero casualty approach to managing Ruby was further evidence of Asia’s leadership role in reducing mortality and tackling economic losses from disasters,» she added.

FIJI

PAC NEWS

Articles submitted by Makereta Komai, PACNEWS Editor in Sendai, Japan

Website: www.pina.com.fj

Global disaster conference in Japan opens with a message of sympathy for victims of TC Pam in Vanuatu

SENDAI, 14 MARCH 2015 (PACNEWS) --- The global conference on disaster risk reduction opened in the Japanese northern city of Sendai Saturday, with a message of condolence and sympathy for the people of Vanuatu, whose lives have been drastically impacted by Tropical Cyclone Pam.

Echoing the sympathies of over 190 countries present in Sendai, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki Moon said he met with the President of Vanuatu, Baldwin Lonsdale on the margins of the conference to convey a message of ‘hope and solidarity’ for the people of Vanuatu, during this national tragedy.

“I conveyed to him the condolences of the United Nations and assured him of the strong commitment of solidarity in supporting the people of Vanuatu, said Ban Ki Moon.

“While we are here in Sendai, the 260,000 people in the island of Vanuatu in the Pacific are being battered by a category five cyclone overnight. It’s not yet clear what the impact of the cyclone but there is fear of great damage and destruction.

“The natural disaster in Vanuatu is a ‘very real’ situation that the Sendai meeting is trying to help nations prepare for, to lessen the impact and losses for governments and its people.

“Vanuatu has already been suffering from the adverse effects of climate change, and storms such as Pam only exacerbate the challenges that the country faces.

The Secretary-General noted that Vanuatu’s situation further highlighted the importance of the Sendai conference, as well as the urgent need for ambitious action on both disaster risk reduction and on climate change.

He expressed his full support and that of the UN system to Vanuatu, adding that the organization stands ready to help in any way that it can.

“I have instructed my people with UNESCAP and UNDP to help in the assessment of the damage from TC Pam and provide whatever assistance they can to help the people get back to normality.”

"The cost of disasters is \$300 billion annually.

"We need global solidarity to make the world a safe place, said Ban Ki Moon.

President Lonsdale was among the first few world leaders to address the Third World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction here in Sendai. In his address, President Lonsdale made an impassioned plea to the global community, especially development partners and donors to 'give a lending hand' to the plight of his people.

"I speak to you with a heavy heart today as I do not know yet the impact of TC Pam on my nation and my people. All I can say is that the people of Vanuatu appeal to your good conscience to give a lending hand to assist my nation rehabilitate after this major calamity, said the President. Unofficial media report put the death toll at 44 from TC Pam that packed winds of up to 330 per hour, struck the island nation on Friday, The category five cyclone has been described as the worst ever for Vanuatu... PACNEWS

Japan backs women's leadership in DRR

SENDAI, 16 MARCH 2015 (UNISDR) --- Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe announced Saturday that boosting women's leadership in disaster risk reduction would be a key element of the country's new programme of international support. Prime Minister Abe said: "Today I announced Japan's new cooperation initiative for disaster risk reduction. Under this initiative, over the next four years, Japan will train 40,000 officials and people in local regions around the world as leaders who will play key roles in disaster risk reduction and reconstruction. "One of the major projects that will be undertaken through this initiative is the launch of the Training to Promote Leadership by Women in Disaster Risk Reduction. Furthermore, at the World Assembly for Women in Tokyo to be held this summer, one of the themes will be 'Women and Disaster Risk Reduction.'" Prime Minister Abe praised the "wisdom and knowledge" of women. He illustrated the point by quoting a group of women from the Iwakiri District, of the host City of Sendai, who had sprang into action after the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011: "No matter how much the ground shakes, we will remain calm in our hearts." The Prime Minister's address came at the start of the High-level Partnership Dialogue: Mobilizing Women's Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction on the opening day of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. "Women possess the wisdom and knowledge needed to protect their families from disasters. Furthermore, they are capable of providing attentive physical and psychological care for the victims of the disaster, who have to face up to many different challenges following the disaster," Prime Minister Abe said. "The power of women is absolutely indispensable for restoring communities that have been devastated by disasters, and each time I visit the disaster-affected areas, I meet women who are working hard to promote local activities, despite being victims of the disaster." The Prime Minister revealed significant progress in inclusive disaster risk governance in Japan over the period of the Hyogo Framework for Action. "A decade ago, in about half of the Prefectural Disaster Management Councils, there were no women participating. However, now women are represented in all of the Prefectural Disaster Management Councils," Prime Minister Abe said. "We are currently creating a structure in which women will be participating in the decision-making processes regarding disaster risk reduction even in ordinary times. We are also seeing an increase in the participation by women in local firefighting organisations." The Prime Minister said "we are launching concrete projects in nations around the world" and would build on existing efforts to promote women's leadership in disaster risk reduction in such partner countries as Fiji, Solomon Islands, and other Pacific island nations. "We have dispatched experts in the field of community disaster risk reduction to conduct training focusing on women over a three-year period ... Now these women have become leaders and are carrying on their own activities to spread knowledge about disaster risk reduction to other women in their communities," he said Prime Minister Abe concluded his remarks with a rallying call for a greater leadership role for women in disaster risk reduction: "In order for us to create a society that is truly resilient and able to withstand natural disasters, it is essential that we make women the driving force behind such efforts. This is something that I think we all need to bear in mind and focus on." According to the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, while progress has been made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA), it is widely recognised that serious gaps in delivering on gender equality and women's rights in disaster risk reduction efforts. Engagement and leadership of women as change agents in their societies are still often overlooked in disaster risk management, where women are often categorized as a vulnerable group. WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin underscored that the "global reset" beginning today in Sendai must include steps to place women at the centre of disaster risk reduction efforts. Without those steps, none of the proposed ambitious goals would be met.

Cousin said disasters indeed exacerbated pre-existing barriers and inequalities that women faced, putting them at greater risk of injury and death. Cousin said it is time cast aside the restrictive view of women as vulnerable and merely accepting aid. Indeed women must be recognized for who they are and the roles they undertake, which are central pillars of disaster response and recovery.

UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, said the Sendai Conference offers a new opportunity for the world to galvanize around a common disaster risk reduction agenda and commit to collective actions that put women at its centre. What is needed is requisite political will to make ensure that women's voices were enhanced and participation ensured. All such efforts must bolster women's rights, included sexual and reproductive health rights, he said. Mayor Emiko Okuyama Sendai recounted the experience of the Great East Japan earthquake in 2011. "We realized that the people making decision for disaster preparations on day-to-day basis are mostly men. It reminded us that women need to be part of every decision-making forum with regards to disaster risk reduction and be active leaders in the area," she said... PACNEWS

Japan pledges new US\$4 billion to Sendai Cooperation Initiative

SENDAI, 6 MARCH 2015 (PACNEWS) --- Japan has pledged US\$40 billion to support implementation of the "Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction" over the next four years. The pledge was announced by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in his opening statement at the Third World conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, currently underway in the northern city of Sendai in Japan.

"Disaster risk reduction is the most important challenge for both developed and developing countries. For developing countries in particular, where 90% of disaster victims are concentrated." The assistance package will focus on the development of disaster-proof infrastructure, the promotion of global and regional cooperation and the training of 40,000 government officials and local leaders to play a leading role in national efforts for disaster risk reduction. Japan will make its expertise and knowledge available. The French Foreign Minister, Laurent Fabius, made an appeal at the Conference opening for the creation of a worldwide early warning system for Climate Disasters - "Climate Disaster Warning" - as he stated that 70% of disasters are now linked to climate change, double the number of twenty years ago. He said the

objective was to provide the most vulnerable countries, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with access to real-time weather and climate updates, information and communications technology and to support a SMS-based alert system.

Fabius is incoming President of COP21, the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change which will take place December in Paris. He said that disaster risk reduction and the struggle against climate change are totally linked.

"It is necessary to tackle these problems together and not separately." The Conference attended by 186 governments will adopt a new post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction on March 18 in place of the current Hyogo Framework for Action adopted ten years ago at the last World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Kobe, Japan... PACNEWS

Japan's Tohoku region hopes to rebuild itself to what it was before the March 11, 2011 disaster

SENDAI, 16 MARCH 2015 (PACNEWS) --- Four years ago, Japan's Tohoku region was devastated by the deadly tsunami that was generated from 9.0 earthquakes that struck the island nation. Today, the region including its city of Sendai has rehabilitated itself to become a model for disaster rehabilitation for the world.

The Great East Japan earthquake struck on March 11, 2011 followed by a savage tsunami that overwhelmed and claimed 18,000 lives in the Tohoku region.

From that day, the road to recovery started. That recovery is still continuing, four years later.

Days after the earthquake, volunteers flowed into the disaster affected areas from across the nation while extensive disaster relief started from around the globe. Volunteers helped locals remove rubble and debris to help develop a foundation for the restoration of basic lifeline and infrastructure.

"This was the first step in the long and arduous Tohoku recovery process, according to specialized reconstruction agency tasked with the role of overseeing the rehabilitation that followed.

By 31 March, 2014, the removal of debris was completed in 231 municipalities in 12 prefectures. However, the removal of disaster debris from certain areas of Fukushima is ongoing.

Hundreds of thousands of people in the Tohoku region lost their worldly possessions in the disaster including their homes. The national and local governments are making the utmost efforts to develop residential and public housing for the evacuees.

In each of the prefectures of Iwate and Miyagi and Fukushima, approximately 29,000 homes and private residential land properties are scheduled to be developed by 31 March 2016.

Another initiative now pursued by local and national authorities is the relocation of homes to higher grounds, as new hometowns are planned.

At the end of last year, 34 percent of relocation have been completed and 95 percent of construction is now in progress.

"Taking their ideas and needs into close consideration, the local governments have carefully developed a master plan for each area for restoration of public infrastructure and the creation of a safe environment, said the reconstruction agency.

The rehabilitation process also took into account the health and mental support for evacuees. Certified social workers and social welfare co-ordinators have been assigned to disaster affected areas to provide local residents with welfare services.

To date, the number of people moving to permanent housing from temporary housing has steadily increased, lowering the number of evacuees from 470,000 to 230,000 in January this year.

Part of the successful rehabilitation programme in the Tohoku region is to eventually bring life back to normal for its people. Local authorities are reviving the once robust fishery, agriculture and tourism industries to ensure the region becomes an inviting place to live.

At the same time, the national and local governments are rebuilding their places of work through a variety of support systems.

It is the general hope of the people of Tohoku after the reconstruction that the region will return to the way it was before the disaster and make it an 'ideal' to live in Japan.

During the five day United Nations world conference for disaster risk reduction, delegates were taken on excursion visits and tours to see first-hand the reconstruction and rehabilitation carried out in many communities in the Tohoku region... PACNEWS

Q&A with the deputy Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Ms Cristelle Pratt

PACNEWS Editor, Makereta Komai caught up with Ms Pratt in Sendai, Japan at one of the sessions where she presented on Risk Governance and Development Planning. She discusses the role of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management.

Cristelle Pratt: The reason I was invited was to provide the transboundary risk governance perspective from the Pacific. In my presentation, I highlighted two things – one, the Forum Compact provides a very strong regional instrument for countries to strengthen their national finance and planning systems. Disaster risk management is a development and sustainable development issue for all our governments in the Pacific. A lot of work has been done under the Forum Compact since 2009. All of the countries have been peer reviewed. The next phase is to look at how we strengthen these national systems, to take it down to sector levels. For example within the health sector, if there is a review of policies, it must look at some of the disaster risk reduction as well as climate change considerations within those sector budgets. The second instrument is the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Programme (SDRP) in the Pacific. I highlighted that in the Pacific, we already have a regional mechanism that integrates disaster risk reduction and climate change. At the centre of this regional mechanism is sustainable development, making sure that development is resilient to climate disaster risks as well as future changes to the climate.

Makereta Komai: The private sector and civil society are included in the proposed SDRP?

Cristelle Pratt: They have been involved in the preparation of the strategy. They are obviously co-benefits for the programme and its implementation. We recognise the importance of engaging them from the outset. SDRP is the first of its kind in the world. It will be approved and ready for implementation in a few months' time. Another key element of the strategy is that it recognises the importance of political leadership and commitment. As well as the important role of central agencies, the ministries of finance and economic planning as key actors in addressing

climate disaster resilience development outcomes. It doesn't take away from the fact the technical agencies – in the case of governments – the departments of environment, the national disasters management offices will not be important. Most of the actual results will need to be delivered by the various sector ministries. At the regional level, a decision has been taken that the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) will co-ordinate the implementation of the strategy for climate (SRDP). It doesn't take away the fact that the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPEP) and other regional and international agencies and development partners will continue to deliver the technical support to deliver this resilient development outcomes

Makereta Komai: You are integrating at the regional level – at the national level, is that happening in terms of policies, stakeholders etc?

Cristelle Pratt: This has been national-led initiatives. Over the last years, since Hyogo Declaration, many of our countries have developed what's called the Joint National Action Plans (JNAPs), which called for disaster risk management and climate change. The region, in a way is following the steps of national initiatives. The difference between SRDP is that is quiet overt in its articulation about risk prevention and therefore about sustainable development. Many of these JNAPs are also quiet similar. The opportunity of the SRDP is the recognition of the role central agencies play in financial and planning purposes.

Makereta Komai: Do governments in the region need to legislate DRR plans as a show of their political commitment?

Cristelle Pratt: There is a need for certain legal frameworks. What has been interesting in this conference is that – while legislations are extremely important, if you don't have rules, codes and regulations, you can't ensure enforcement, then the effectiveness of those legislations goes begging. But it is not to say that we should not be encouraging a streamlining of our legislations as they are relate to DRR and CC. But in saying that there are specific areas like disaster management law where some countries have done considerable work already and those laws do in fact make it more efficient in the way they respond and recover from disastrous events.

Makereta Komai: The focus seems more on disaster prevention than disaster risk management

Cristelle Pratt: Disaster risk management is evolving. Risks can both be adverse as well as opportunities. The main idea to embrace an 'all risk management approach, in the case of our region, the integrated climate change and disaster risk management framework allows us to be able to make decisions that integrates a resilience lenses from the outset. While there will always be extreme natural hazard events that will lead to disaster, what we want to do is lessen the economic costs of disasters. I think we have done really well in the Pacific over the years. We have seen through our disaster preparedness responses that there is a reduction in the number of victims of natural hazards. But overall we have seen a reduction – however what we have not seen is the reduction in the economic costs of disasters. Those events really erode and undo some of the economic gains to achieve for our small countries.

Makereta Komai: How is the region placed in terms finding support for another new plan like SDRP?

Cristelle Pratt: There seems to be some thinking that there will be a need for additional resources. However the SRDP is different in that what it sets to do is integrate climate and disaster resilient development imperative into other regional policies and action plan. For example if we take the region's framework on coastal fisheries, it may well be that those plans would actually consider climate disaster risk resilient dimensions to the activities that they do. If they were to build a small wharf, the SRDP will infuse the climate disaster resilient risk into the plan. Any initiative whether they be infrastructure must be risk sensitive. The actual additional resources do not need to be significant but how we designing things in the future – development decisions we make in the future, and ensuring that each of those interventions considers climate disaster resilient risks. So that we can reduce the costs of disasters in the future.

Makereta Komai: Vulnerable groups like women, children, people with disabilities – are they included in the SRDP?

Cristelle Pratt: They are. The SRDP is very multi-stakeholder in its nature and reach. Most definitely those key stakeholder groups are considered. In fact while they are often referred to as vulnerable groups, they have huge contributions to make to the way in which we implement the SRDP. We want these key stakeholders to significantly contribute to the SRDP implementations. I think it's the way in which Seta Macanawai from the Pacific Disability Forum expresses it in those terms – "while we are vulnerable, we have significant contributions to make."

Makereta Komai: Is the SRDP similar to what is being referred to in the conference as the 'Whole of Society Approach'?

Cristelle Pratt: It's the whole of society approach but you will hear at this conference is that many countries and regions are looking at that principle of inclusivity but only around disaster risk management. The biggest difference for us in the Pacific is that not only are we looking at disaster risk management but also climate change. We are looking at integrating those and we are also looking what that integrations means in terms of sustainable development and building our resilience. In fact we are quite advance when you think of it in those terms. Really the region is a 'trail blazer' – taking this courageous and bold step to look at this integration. We will have to work hard together in the region to implement it effectively and will take all stakeholders to work very closely together to implement the strategy to achieve sustainable development... PACNEWS

Solomon Islands counting the costs of damage from TC Pam

SENDAI, 16 MARCH 2015 (PACNEWS) --- Unlike the extent of damage in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands is also counting its costs from Tropical Cyclone Pam. And, Solomon Islands Permanent Secretary for Climate Change and Disaster Management, Dr Melchior Mataki says his country was 'lucky' to escape the wrath of the category five cyclones that severely damaged 90 percent of homes in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Dr Mataki told PACNEWS in Sendai that his team at the Meteorological Services was spot on with the predictions on the path of Tropical Cyclone Pam last week.

"My director of meteorology hinted the developing system would be very strong, accompanied by heavy rain. He said that it would form close to us but may drift away from the main island. It happened exactly as he predicted, said Dr Mataki.

Because of the prediction from the national meteorological office, the disaster management office activated cyclone advice via the radio and sent messages via mobile telephone to warn our people. As a result most of the people took precautions.

"I think people have been listening to the radio and following our advice. The sms messages through our Telecom services have also proven to be an effective way to warn the masses. Our challenge is that these messages via sms are reaching only areas that have mobile telephone coverage. In Solomon Islands, Tropical Cyclone Pam peaked between categories two and three when it made landfall in the eastern and northern parts of the islands.

"Since the system was a big one, its impact was felt throughout the country, especially with high seas and heavy rainfall. We've had reports that some communities in coastal areas have had their homes blown over, gardens and fruit trees have been destroyed.

"We are currently doing our assessments. With the assistance of the Australian Government, our team flew over the eastern part of Solomon Islands – over Tikopia, Anuta, Reef Islands and Santa Cruz. The aerial assessment indicated that it is not as bad as what we anticipated. If it lingered a bit longer, it would have been devastating for us too, said Dr Mataki.

Dr Mataki is here in Sendai with his director of disaster management office, Loti Yates. They have been getting daily briefs from Honiara on the assessment of the damage inflicted by TC Pam.

"We are meeting here in Sendai, discussing issues around disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction and the situation at home is just timely for us to reflect on what to do to try and prevent and reduce costs of these hazards. It's a timely reminder of what the global community can do.

"For us, the key messages here are, one the people need to take the warnings seriously. They have to take measures to reduce the risks. If warnings are received, people need to move to areas that are safe. They need to prepare, tie down loose roofing irons. These are small steps at the individual level.

"People need to take responsibility. There has to be a chain of accountability from the government to the people and back to government. The government can do its part and the people also need to do their part. Disaster risk reduction and management is everyone's responsibility. "Disaster preparedness has to be an ongoing daily issue that people have to take on board. Now in Solomon Islands we are beginning to see the responses from the people in the event of a natural disaster, said Dr Mataki.

The Democratic Coalition for Change (DCC) government led by Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare has also taken political leadership to ensure the costs of disasters are reduced and build a safe and secure environment for the people of Solomon Islands.

"The government is strengthening and prioritizing its focus on disaster risk reduction and climate change because of the costs of the economic and development challenges that disasters bring to the country. There is seriousness in government to see that it is addressed. The key point is that we really have to work in partnership with provincial government, churches, civil societies and communities, said Dr Mataki... PACNEWS

42 **Vanuatu delegation cut short Sendai meeting, head back home to deal with national crisis**

SENDAI, 16 MARCH 2015 (PACNEWS) --- The six member Vanuatu delegation at the 3rd World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, led by President Baldwin Lonsdale have cut short their attendance of the conference to go back home and deal with the national crisis caused by Tropical Cyclone Pam.

The delegation also included the country's minister for climate change, James Bule.

PACNEWS was reliably informed that multilateral donors and Australia came to the rescue of the Vanuatu delegation and paid for their return airfares to Port Vila.

"We are saddened that we have to leave the conference early but it's proper that we go back and be with our people who are suffering from the devastation of Tropical Cyclone Pam, President Lonsdale told the media in Sendai before his departure.

He confirmed that six people have died and 90 percent of buildings in the capital Port Vila have been damaged or destroyed. Over 1,000 people are now living in evacuation centres because they have no home to go to.

"Our immediate need now is humanitarian assistance. We are pleased with the responses from the international community and multilateral donors to our plea that was launched by UNISDR at the beginning of the conference here in Sendai, said President Lonsdale.

"We urgently need basic food, clothing, tarpaulins, water canisters, constructions tools and cooking utensils to sustain our people in the short term while we assess the damage and come up with plans to accommodate our people affected by the devastating cyclone.

He said as assessment team with the assistance of Australia and New Zealand will conduct aerial surveys of the affected areas. A state of emergency has been declared in Port Vila but President Lonsdale said there is a possibility that it might be extended to other outlying islands severely affected by the cyclone.

Vanuatu was struck by a category five cyclone on Friday 13 March, a day before the global conference on disaster risk reduction started in the northern Japanese city of Sendai... PACNEWS

Regional climate and disaster resilience strategy receives the thumbs up in Sendai

SENDAI, 17 MARCH 2015 (PACNEWS) --- The new integrated framework for climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development for the Pacific has received good support from its major stakeholders, the Pacific governments.

The proposed Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Programme (SDRP) was launched to the world for the first time at the United Nations conference on disaster risk reduction in Sendai, Japan, this week.

Showing political leadership, President Aote Tong of Kiribati said his own government has implemented its own version of the regional plan, known as the Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan (KJIP).

"We are co-ordinating our efforts in climate change and disaster risks under a national advisory committee to oversee the implementation of KJP and will also monitor and provide cross sectoral progress of this integration. This structure is currently being tested. We are testing our ability to respond to the effectiveness of the strategy, said President Tong.

He has thrown the support of his government to the regional framework.

"I am particularly proud that this is the first regional strategy in the world that attempts to fully integrate climate change, disasters and sustainable development. The integrated strategy is facilitating linkages to be made between disaster risk management, climate change responses and sustainable development, thereby making more efficient use of available resources and technologies.

"I am aware this regional integrated strategy was developed through an extensive and engaging process with stakeholders, from community level to the international level. This strategy identifies priorities and the actions to be taken in order to enhance resilience while at the same time alleviating poverty, ensuring development is sustainable, said President Tong.

Joining Kiribati is Samoa who's Minister for Natural Resources and Climate Change, Dr Fa'ale Tumulii commended the effort to bring climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable under one regional framework.

"Governments need to take a leading role in this plan and ensure that all stakeholders are involved and consulted in its implementation. At the same time, it must have the political will to implement the strategy. "In Samoa, climate change affects all sectors of our development. Since the 1990's, the frequency of the occurrence of disasters in Samoa has increased significantly. In 1990 we had Cyclone Ofa, 1991 Cyclone Val, 2004 we had Cyclone Heta, in 2009 we had the tsunami and in 2012 we had Cyclone Evans. We have experienced all the major kinds of natural disaster.

"We support this regional strategy because it allows us to implement various policies to reduce our vulnerabilities in our communities, build resilience and also mitigate climate change, said Dr Tumulii.

Dr Tumulii said his government has also committed a modest budget line for disaster annually to help meet unexpected costs from natural disasters.

"It may look small for countries with big economies but at least it shows the determination of my government to lead this, said Dr Tumulii.

Cook Islands, through its Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tutai Tura expressed the support of his government for the regional strategy.

"We are doing some things on our own to support the strategy. We have a Disaster Management Act of 2007 and we are currently reviewing our legislations and hoping to incorporate lessons learned. We have also established s Disaster Relief Trust Fund from the annual budgetary surplus, said Minister Tura.

The regional climate and disaster resilience strategy was adopted through wide consultations with governments, civil society organisations and the private sector... PACNEWS

EU indicates support for regional climate and disaster resilient framework

<http://www.pina.com.fj/index.php?p=pacnews&m=read&o=808442663550898f56e43d76cf0aa8>

SENDAI, 17 MARCH 2015 (PACNEWS) --- The European Union (EU) has indicated its support for the regional integrated strategy for climate and disaster resilience programme (SDRP).

Speaking at the Pacific side event in Sendai, the Head of the Climate Change Unit at European Union's Office of Development Co-operation, Cristina Pasca Palmer said the EU as a global leader in climate change, is committed to supporting the efforts of small island developing states in the Pacific.

She assured Pacific delegates the successful Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) initiative that has benefited many Pacific Islands will continue in the EU's financial framework cycle for 2014-2020.

"This flagship GCCA programme will continue as GCCA+ in the next financial cycle. We will also continue with our dedicated facilities for natural disaster management and disaster risk reduction with the Pacific."

The EU has invested 300 million Euros in GCCA since it started in 2008.

Palmer commended the political leadership in the Pacific for the determination to becoming the first region in the world to put together SDRP.

"It's helpful because it's helping guide better our interventions to the benefits for the Pacific.

"We commend the fact that the strategy has been extensively consulted with all stakeholders and consider this as one of the key elements to have the buy in of stakeholders including the private sector, local communities and the NGOs. From that standpoint the EU is committed to continue to support your efforts, said Palmer.

She also announced that the EU's entire budget is 20 percent climate relevant.

"Everything we do in development co-operation, meaning external aid and development, has to be 20 percent climate relevant, said Palmer.

The deputy Prime Minister of Tonga, Siaosi Sovaleni supports the regional framework. This, he said is reflected in the prioritization resilience in its national development plans.

"I heard this interesting comment from the World Bank here - if you invest \$1 in resilience, you save \$36. So if we invest in a \$1 million we will save \$36 million. We are looking at investing in resilience not just in projects but in our budgets too. We are reviewing our strategic development framework and one of the five national outcomes is about resilience. Recognising resilience in how we look at sustainable development, said Minister Sovaleni.

At the same time, Tonga recognises that climate change and disaster risk reduction cuts across all sectors of its economy.

"One of the areas that we are looking at is identifying vulnerable areas in our country. Before any development is carried out in these areas, the developer will need the approval of a government committee. This is to ensure that the risks are taken care of and contributes to our efforts to build resilience in everything we do, DPM Sovaleni shared with conference delegates.

Another aspect of resilience is building the capacity of people in the communities including vulnerable groups to know what to do prevent or deal with a national disaster.

Vulnerable group is often referred to women, youth, children and people with disabilities.

Pacific Disability Forum chief executive officer, Setareki Macanawai commended the all-inclusive process in the formation of the SDRP.

"Our inclusion is key to resilience - that is a key message for us, that we are included in all levels of the decision making process.

"Sometimes the vulnerable group is often used as a cop out for doing nothing. It's a blanket term that covers women, children and people with disabilities. Our issues can be very different.

"The strategy is promoting inclusiveness and I am hoping that the way forward for the strategy is that we continue to dig deep and find out the

real needs of the so-called vulnerable groups, said Macanawai. On the role of civil societies, Macanawai urged organisations leading the implementation of the regional framework to genuinely value the work and appreciate the contribution of civil society organisation. Often the civil society is not at the table. But the civil society plays an important role in the implementation of this strategy. We want the regional organisation to consider us a 'valuable and equal' partner in delivering at the ground level, said Macanawai. Young people in the Pacific are already actively involved in climate change and disaster risk reduction work in their communities. Like people living with disabilities, Pacific youth don't want to be regarded as vulnerable. Instead, young people want to be seriously regarded as 'valuable' group, contributing positively to their communities. Inangaro Vakaafi, the President of the Pacific Youth Council said young people are agents for change. "We don't want to be regarded as future leaders but leaders of today. We want to be consulted because we are already active and are ready to mobilise in times of disaster. In Vanuatu, our youth volunteers are already working with Red Cross and other NGOs in assisting with relief work, said Vakaafi. UNESCO has established the Youth Beyond Disaster Network that links youth groups across the Pacific in times of natural disasters... PACNEWS

President Tong fears Kiribati will not be able to sustain cost of damage related to natural disasters

<http://www.pina.com.fj/index.php?p=pacnews&m=read&o=188527848755089a3e70cfa15d33ac>

SENDAI, 17 MARCH 2015 (PACNEWS) --- The President of Kiribati, Anote Tong fears his island nation will not be able to sustain costs from the damage inflicted by the storm generated by Tropical Cyclone Pam and the spring tides that occur in February/March every year.

Without mincing his words, the outspoken Pacific leader said, "We are beginning not to believe the tide gauges because what we are experiencing is more damaging than what we had anticipated."

In February, damage sustained from the spring tides was far worse than 2014, he said.

"All of these together with the recent storm in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands and my country, the costs are huge. The waves caused by Tropical Cyclone Pam hit our islands badly. Our people have never faced this kind of storm in their life.

"Never in my recollection have we experienced a storm this devastating. But what we are witnessing is a shift in the weather pattern and that is a matter of grave concern for my people, President Tong shared at a High Level Dialogue session in Sendai. The Kiribati leader said, "We speculated that it might happen in 20 or 30 years' time but the fact is that we are beginning to witness it in our lifetime.

"Consequently, my government has had to realign its resources as the cost and rate of coastal erosion, damage to infrastructure and the restoration to food crops and fresh water supplies, far exceeded our expectations and capacity to deal with, said President Tong.

He said Kiribati is not only faced with the economic costs but the social and cultural costs of relocating communities impacted by climate change and storm surges.

"We have had loss of territory, severe coastal erosion and involuntary displacement. We've had to move communities from their villages because of the increasing frequency of sea level rise and king tides. What I really don't want to find out is that when I go back, there will be a great deal more people that we might need to move because of the storm and the king tides at the beginning of the year, said President Tong.

Appealing to the international community in Sendai, the Kiribati President said the solution lies in genuine and durable partnerships with development and multilateral partners.

"In our region, we face disproportionately high economic, social and environmental consequences and burdensome reconstruction challenges. And we continue to rely on the support of our development partners to be able to sustain efforts to implement disaster risk reduction measures.

"The time is now crucial to enter into effective partnerships because of the experiences that we are currently facing with climate change and natural disasters.

The Kiribati leader commended Margareta Wahlstrom, the head of UNISDR and United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon, for putting climate change and disaster risk reduction on the global agenda.

"I recall for the last 12 years I have been talking about climate change and not many people listened but when Ban Ki Moon started, he listened and he put it on top of the agenda, said President Tong.

He revealed that some partnerships have been secured but didn't go into details except to thank development partners and multilateral donors for their support... PACNEWS

Tuvalu and Kiribati have different policies on relocation

<http://www.pina.com.fj/index.php?p=pacnews&m=read&o=1519355965550899ad327fe5cdc717>

SENDAI, 18 MARCH 2015 (PACNEWS) --- Tuvalu's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Aunese Simati says the recent storm that flooded the northern group of islands has brought home the reality of securing a safe place for displaced families. "You often hear people say to move to higher ground or to move inland. In Tuvalu's case, there is no higher ground as we are an atoll nation, just over 2 metres above sea level.

"We don't have the luxury of higher grounds. If you move inland, you hit the other side of the island. The only highest building is the three storey government buildings in Funafuti, which is used as an evacuation centre in times of natural disaster, said Ambassador Simati.

In one of the islands, the waves were so devastating that the strength of the waves dug up the grave, said Tuvalu's top diplomat in New York.

"As Tuvaluans try to relocate, the dead are also saying, can you relocate us too. Polynesians treat ancestors that have passed on with honour and dignity. This incident is very sad for Tuvalu.

Reports from the capital, Funafuti suggests that more than 40 percent of the island nation's population was affected by the storm and government was considering relocating them.

"We don't have the strategy to buy land like Kiribati. We encourage our people to make their own private decision to migrate and they are doing that. In New Zealand we have places for 75 people every year under the Pacific Access Category. If you get picked and have a job offer from New Zealand, you can move your family there.

"That's our strategy. We also don't want to give the signal that we are giving up on our country. We can't be called Tuvaluans if we live in another country. We still want the world to know that we have our country in Tuvalu, said Ambassador Simati.

As a result of extensive damage, a six day State of Emergency was declared last Friday.

"We have received help from Australia and NZ. They are sending their planes to assist us with aerial surveys to make initial assessment of the damage in the northern group of islands.

In neighbouring Kiribati, President Anote Tong has not thrown out his proposal of a floating island for his people.

"We have discussed this proposal with partners because the reality for us as I said during the high level panel discussion here in Sendai, the projected rise in sea level will mean our islands will be under water sooner than what we had thought.

"So the choices for us would be either we build up the islands, construct floating islands or we get off the islands. These are the realities. And up to now we have not been able to some real concrete solutions.

Another option available to I-Kiribati is the land purchased by the government in Fiji.

"Hopefully this is a form of escape for my people. Given what's happened recently in the storms, I have no doubt that the people back home fear for their lives and their security because they have not seen anything like this before.

President Tong is ready to face the music when he returns to Tarawa. "When I get back home, they will ask me where were you during the storm. But I hope I will say to the people that I was talking to people in Sendai who partner with us to build a safe and resilient island, said the Kiribati leader... PACNEWS

CROP agencies unify to support Pacific countries recover and rebuild after Cyclone Pam

SENDAI, 18 MARCH 2015 (CROP) --- The Pacific family stands together to face the tragic recent effects of the tropical cyclones in the Pacific. We are not only linked by our grief and prayers for the dead, injured and homeless but also in our resolve to work together to support our brothers and sisters in Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands and New Caledonia.

As Pacific regional organisations, we are not just friends lending a hand, we are your countrymen and women who grieve with you for lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods in these terrible events, and as your family we stand by you to help rebuild your lives.

This and other disasters that transcend national boundaries reaffirm our view that national responses can be enhanced by regional cooperation as embodied in the values of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, the current Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005–2015 and the draft Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific, which will be presented to our Pacific leaders later this year. A regional approach can support a more integrated and comprehensive strategy to address vulnerability, fragmentation of aid, improved coordination by development partners and leveraging of additional resources.

While there remain many gaps in understanding the full extent of loss of life and damage, as the members of the Council of the Regional Organisations of the Pacific, we commit ourselves to combine our political resources, technical skills and expertise and people to support our Members and their populations in the coming days, weeks and months. In particular, we:

- Commit to providing scientific and technical support for disaster response teams in affected countries, based on identified needs and gaps, and in consultation with your governments and humanitarian assistance partners, already on the ground;
- Will work to mobilise additional funds and modalities required to support national recovery efforts; and
- Will participate in on-ground assessments of the damage and explore the lessons from the coordination of the aid efforts.

As a Pacific community we commit to building the resilience of our islands and to help protect the lives and livelihoods of Pacific island people in the face of the increasing frequency and ferocity of disasters that result from extreme, natural hazard risk events.

We come together to support our family in their hour of need and the ongoing work into the future."

The nine CROP members are the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the University of the South Pacific (USP), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Pacific Aviation Safety Office

(PASO), the Pacific Islands Development Programme (PIDP), Pacific Power Association (PPA) and the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO)... PACNEWS

Fiji takes bold step to implement disaster risk reduction policies using its own resources

<http://www.pina.com.fj/index.php?p=pacnews&m=read&o=141494696550897f9ccea816a1c7f>

SENDAI, 18 MARCH 2015 (PACNEWS) --- The Fijian Government says it will not wait for the international community to implement its disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies.

Instead, the Voreqe Bainimarama led government has taken ownership of its DRR plan and 'proceeding with or without international co-operation.' Fiji's bold step was shared with other 190 countries attending the 3rd World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, meeting in the Japanese city of Sendai, this week.

Foreign Affairs Minister, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola said while Fiji recognises the important role international co-operation plays, 'sometimes DRR stakeholders do not see the relevance until a disaster strikes.'

Fiji is using its own resources to establish more emergency evacuation centres and co-ordinate community responses to disasters in an inclusive manner.

However, a challenge for Fiji is the non-availability of data or the technical capacity or resources to implement plans and policies beyond the immediate response to a disaster.

"To move truly beyond disaster response to disaster resilience, targeted and focused cooperation with countries that have had the experience and expertise is required. In this we look not just to our traditional donor countries, but also to developing countries who have had experience in responding to disasters and who face similar hydro-meteorological hazards as Fiji, said Ratu Inoke.

The basis of Fiji's DRR response is governed by instruments like the Disaster Management Act and Plan, and Climate Change policy.

"The Act and Plan require amendments, which are currently revised for completion prior to year end. Their completion will result in a defining landscape towards implementation of DRR in the country, as most pertinent issues like climate change and special groups will be included.

Ratu Inoke assured that the vulnerable and less fortunate have been given equal footing in the country's development plan.

"Special groups like women, children, disabled persons, youths and older persons are recognized as important partners towards building a better Fiji. The 2013 Fijian Constitution provides a further basis for this approach to all policy areas on the basis of equality for all persons, and freedom from discrimination on any ground. He said economic growth is difficult when disasters strike with increasing frequency, hampering recovery efforts.

"Building back better requires time and resources, and neither are available in sufficient quantum between disasters. For affected communities in coastal, low-lying and riverbank areas, the only long term solution has been relocation.

The Fijian government has initiated a model where a whole community is relocated to a new place and given a new life which is sustainable and conducive to the aspirations of the community.

A case in point is the Vunidogoloa whole community relocation where the integrated efforts of government and partners result in a successful adaptation venture. This DRR approach requires resources, not just in terms of the resources to build new and resilient communities in less disaster prone areas, but also in terms of time and consultations with communities that often have strong traditional links with the land in their villages, and are resistant to relocation despite the obvious dangers of staying.

Fiji has also acknowledged the vital role played by the private sector.

"Equally important is an inclusive approach, with communities, the private sector, and civil society involved. This is particularly so when we consider that adaptation has included the need for relocation of communities. The increasing frequency and severity and repetitiveness of hydro meteorological hazards in Fiji, undoubtedly manifestations of climate change, continue to hamper efforts in Fiji to harness Fiji's assets and resources towards a progressive and prosperous society, said Ratu Inoke.

He said Fiji wants to ensure that negotiations on the new Hyogo Platform for Action are aligned to the post2015 development agenda and the Samoa Pathway agreed to Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

"It is important for Fiji and no doubt for Small Island Developing States that the SAMOA Pathway for Action from the 3rd International SIDS Conference of 2014 will find mention in the framework. The SAMOA Pathway document provides detail relating to the particularities of Small Island Developing States that would otherwise be missing from any future implementation activities relating to the framework in our countries.

Ratu Inoke said Fiji supports the regional strategy for climate and disaster resilience in the Pacific... PACNEWS

President Mori tells the Sendai conference his island is not ready for a tsunami

<http://www.pina.com.fj/index.php?p=pacnews&m=read&o=3132250985508e084a996f3e01da16>

SENDAI, 18 MARCH 2015 (PACNEWS) --- President Emmanuel Mori of the Federated States of Micronesia has told the world gathering on disaster risk reduction in Japan that his island nation is not ready for a tsunami.

"For Micronesia, of the 607 islands, 20 of them are mountainous and inhabited by 70 percent of the population. However most of these inhabitants live along the low lying coastal fringes. The 30 percent that live in the low lying islands is my real concern and the concern of our leaders especially if a tsunami hits unprepared, President Mori shared at the High Level panel that featured two Pacific leaders.

He admitted that his small island nation, with a population of just over 100,000 'does not have a system in place to respond to a tsunami.'

"For typhoon, yes we have a system in place because we are prone to typhoons annually. However, this is not the same for tsunami, and this is a major concern for us.

At the Sendai conference, President Mori is using every opportunity to learn and connect with Japanese and other global experts that can assist his island nation build their capacity and a plan to respond effectively, if a tsunami strikes the island.

"Some say the best way to prevent losses is to relocate residents to higher ground inland. While some can be relocated inland, most of these areas are simply too steep to be inhabited, where trees are even struggling to grow.

"Attempts at mass relocation inland would also result in greater stress on the environment including the loss of food crops on scarce arable lands and the threat of landslides. Relocation also causes social disruptions, property loss and land tenure complications, issues already faced by environmental refugees in the Pacific, President Mori told the high level session.

He said his government is considering relocation as a long term option.

"In the short terms, strengthening our resilience and capacities should be integrated into the proposed disaster risk reduction management scheme.

President Mori reminded the conference of the need to take seriously the outcomes of the SIDS conference in Samoa last year where the SAMOA Pathway was adopted.

"The SAMOA Pathway should get more attention from the international community and SIDS must defend it and make sure it is mainstreamed in to the disaster risk reduction framework and into the post 2015 development agenda and other UN processes.

"The SAMOA Pathway is truly a key to overcoming a lot of the obstacles we face because it focuses on effective means of implementation through partnership... PACNEWS

Tuvalu renews call for UN to be flexible in applying rules for LDC graduation

<http://www.pina.com.fj/index.php?p=pacnews&m=read&o=9499797965509cf27a2ec1edda4999> SENDAI, 18 MARCH 2015 (PACNEWS) --- Tuvalu has renewed its call on the United Nations (UN) to be flexible with small island developing states (SIDS) who are earmarked for graduation from being a least developed country (LDC) to a developing country.

Its Ambassador to the United Nations in New York, Aunese Simati reiterated this plea when he shared with the global media in Sendai the destruction of the recent storm from Tropical Cyclone Pam that affected 40 percent of the island nation's population.

"If you see these countries, Samoa, Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Kiribati - they are the countries that the UN has asked to graduate from being an LDC. We have always argued to the extent that it's not that we are not doing well in GDP and GNI per capita but the issue for us is our vulnerability.

"There are three criterias for graduation and for us the criteria of vulnerability has always been played down, said Ambassador Simati.

In July last year at the Small Island Developing States conference in Samoa, Tuvalu Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga called for a review of the classification of LDCs to reflect the realities facing small island nations like Tuvalu.

Countries are classified as "least developed" by analysing three criteria: per capita gross national income (GNI); human assets (such as literacy, health and education rates) and economic vulnerability to external shocks. To be included in the list of LDCs, a country must satisfy all three criteria. In 2013, Tuvalu successfully deferred its graduation to LDC status to a developing country until the next review this year.

Ambassador Simati used the opportunity in Sendai this week to renew his country's call to the UN to be more flexible in applying the criterias for graduation.

"Take the case of Samoa, their graduation was deferred because of the major tsunami that hit the nation in 2009. Now for Vanuatu, Tropical Cyclone Pam has left major devastation for the island and they are on track to graduate, said Ambassador Simati,

Samoa commits to building resilience of its tourism industry to natural disasters

SENDAI, 19 MARCH 2015 (PACNEWS) --- Samoa's tourism sector has put in place evacuation plans as part of commitment to protect tourists and their infrastructure.

"We want to ensure that tourism operators put in place risk and prevention measures to minimize potential economic costs, said Filomena Nelson, the director of Samoa's disaster management office (NDMO).

Samoa, a Pacific Island nation with a population of 187,000 relies heavily on earnings from the tourism dollar. 30 percent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is sourced from the tourism industry.

Nelson said a national disaster and climate change adaptation strategy incorporates plans to make the tourism industry resilient to natural disasters.

"Part of this strategy is informing tourists as they arrive into Samoa of the risks and threats they are likely to encounter while holidaying in the country. Even Polynesian Airlines has information on tsunamis and other natural disaster like cyclones available on its flights, said Nelson.

She said a 3D model has also been developed for tourist operators to see visuals of the risky areas for tourism development especially around coastal areas.

"This is part of effort to provide accurate and timely information about climate change and disaster risks to our visitors and locals.

"A climate early warning system (CLEWS) is now in place. Hotels now have sirens to warn guests of any approaching disaster.

Another important national initiative undertaken by the NDMO office is building the capacity of local communities to develop disaster plans.

"This is our most important programme, working with village communities to put in place an organisation structure that will help co-ordinate disaster response.

Nelson said if local communities know what do in times of disasters, it will greatly minimize loss of lives, and damage to homes and other community infrastructure.

Learning from the experiences of the tsunami in 2009 and Cyclone Evans in 2012, Nelson said the dissemination of information via mobile telephone was the quickest and easiest way of conveying vital information during natural disaster.

"During Evans, electricity was off and the internet was down. Our only form of communication was through sms messages. We used that mode of communication to push our cyclone warnings, receive reports of damage and request for assistance from the public.

Nelson said Samoa has had political commitments from the highest level towards it national development strategy plan which includes climate change and disaster risk reduction measures... PACNEWS

World conference adopts new international framework for disaster risk reduction after marathon negotiations

<http://www.pina.com.fj/index.php?p=pacnews&m=read&o=137384545550fb4869935dd6b31e41>

SENDAI, 24 MARCH 2015 (UNISDR)--- Representatives from 187 UN member States adopted the first major agreement of the Post-2015 development agenda late Friday, a far reaching new framework for disaster risk reduction with seven targets and four priorities for action. Conference President, Eriko Yamatani, Minister of State for Disaster Management, announced agreement on the text, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 – the new international framework for disaster risk reduction, following a marathon final round of negotiations which went on for over 30 hours.

Margareta Wahlström, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, said: "The adoption of this new framework for disaster risk reduction opens a major new chapter in sustainable development as it outlines clear targets and priorities for action which will lead to a substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health.

"Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction over the next 15 years will require strong commitment and political leadership and will be vital to the achievement of future agreements on sustainable development goals and climate later this year. As the UN Secretary-General said here on the opening day, sustainability starts in Sendai."

The framework outlines seven global targets to be achieved over the next 15 years: a substantial reduction in global disaster mortality; a substantial reduction in numbers of affected people; a reduction in economic losses in relation to global GDP; substantial reduction in disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, including health and education facilities; an increase in the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020; enhanced international cooperation; and increased access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments.

Conference President, Yamatani, said: "Japan's special relationship with the global disaster risk reduction community has been strengthened by the outcome of this World Conference. Successful implementation of this new framework will mean a reduction of existing levels of disaster risk and avoidance of the creation of new risk."

Conference Main Committee Co-Chair, Ambassador Päivi Kairamo from Finland, said: "Delegates have taken into account the experience gained through implementation of the current Hyogo Framework for Action. We have agreed on four priorities for action focussed on a better understanding of risk, strengthened disaster risk governance and more investment.

"A final priority calls for more effective disaster preparedness and embedding the 'build back better' principle into recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. These will be the four points of the DRR compass for the next 15 years."

Her fellow Co-Chair, Ambassador, Thani Thongphakdi from Thailand, said: "I would like to thank all those who have persevered over these last five days to deliver a framework that will guide disaster risk reduction for the next 15 years."

The World Conference was attended by over 6,500 participants including 2,800 government representatives from 187 governments. The Public Forum had 143,000 visitors over the five days of the conference making it one of the largest UN gatherings ever held in Japan.

Historic framework adopted

<http://www.pina.com.fj/index.php?p=pacnews&m=read&o=137384545550fb4869935dd6b31e41>

SENDAI, 24 March 2015 (UNISDR) --- Death and destruction from earthquakes, extreme weather and other hazards around the world would be decreased significantly by 2030 according to goals set today by countries meeting at the Third World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, which closed this evening in Sendai, Japan. Through the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Conference outcome, participants requested the United Nations General Assembly to integrate into its post-2015 strategy for sustainable development seven goals to reduce risk for loss of life, livelihood and critical infrastructure from disasters, through enhanced national planning and international cooperation. The new Framework calls for concrete indicators of progress towards those goals to be measured against the disaster losses in the decade after the adoption of the 2005 Hyogo Framework for Action, its predecessor. Noting the rapid growth of population in urban areas, it also calls for such progress to be measured per 100,000 people globally. To reach its goals, the Framework calls for actions to not only protect populations and promote quick recovery, but also to prevent new risks, such as those caused by ill-planned urban growth in areas subject to flooding, landslides and effects of climate change. "It is urgent and critical to anticipate, plan for and reduce disaster risk in order to more effectively protect persons, communities and countries," the document states. Integration with global regimes to mitigate and adapt to climate change and promote sustainable development is among the key objectives of the new Framework, as is inclusively addressing risk through economic, governance, structural, legal, social, cultural, educational and health-related sectors, as well as through related United Nations organs. For all those purposes, a substantial increase in international cooperation, from a variety of sources, will be needed to boost the capabilities of developing countries, the document states. "The adoption of this new Framework for disaster risk reduction opens a major new chapter in sustainable development as it outlines clear targets and priorities for action which will lead to a substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihood and health," Margareta Wahlström, Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) said at the Conference closing. "Implementation of the Sendai Framework for action over the next 15 years will require strong commitment and political leadership," Ms. Wahlström added, noting that stakeholders had already made 120 voluntary commitments for risk reduction initiatives at the Conference, in addition to 88 others made in the lead-up to the event. At the Conference, Ms. Wahlström reported, delegates from 187 countries, including over 25 heads of State and Government and dozens of ministers and other senior officials, engaged in intense negotiation and debate to finalize the new framework. Along with national statements and negotiations, the intergovernmental process also included five ministerial round tables on critical themes for the new framework. The round tables focused on "Reconstructing after Disasters: Building Back Better"; "International Cooperation in Support of a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction"; "Governing Disaster Risk: Overcoming Challenges"; "Reducing Disaster Risk in Urban Settings"; and "Public Investment Strategies for Disaster Risk Reduction". Official summaries of those forums were presented at the closing session. The Conference also heard from parliamentarians, civil society, national platforms for disaster risk reduction, local government representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector, as well as agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations. The Public Forum had 143,000 visitors over the course of the Conference. In addition to deciding on a new framework to manage disaster risk, today's outcome document summarized reviews of the 2005 Hyogo Framework, which was adopted following the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami. Sendai participants agreed that much progress had been achieved during the decade under the Hyogo Framework in reducing risk at local, national and regional levels, leading to a decrease in mortality in the case of some hazards. According to the outcome document, over the period, many countries enhanced their capabilities in disaster risk management. Furthermore, international mechanisms for advice, coordination and partnership were developed for that purpose, including the global and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction. However, over the same 10-year period, it notes, disasters continued to exact a heavy toll, with more than 700,000 people losing their lives, over 1.4 billion injured and over 23 million left homeless. More than 1.5 billion people overall were affected by disasters. Increasingly, recurring small-scale and slow-onset disasters were hitting people at the local and the community level, with women, children and other vulnerable persons disproportionately harmed. The new Framework, accordingly, addresses in detail the disaster risk situation of localities and all nine major vulnerable groups, with an additional focus on empowerment of persons with disabilities in planning for risk management and resilience. At the Conference closing, officials paid tribute to delegates for having taken into account the experience gained through implementation of the current Hyogo Framework for Action. The Co-Chair of the Conference Main Committee, Thani Thongphakdi of Thailand, thanked all those who had "persevered over these last five days to deliver a framework that will guide disaster risk reduction for the next 15 years". Conference President Eriko Yamatani, Japan's Minister for State for Disaster Management, said: "Japan's special relationship with the global disaster risk reduction community has been strengthened by the outcome of this World Conference. Successful implementation of this new framework will mean a reduction of existing levels of disaster risk and avoidance of the creation of new risk." With a view towards a coherent strategy to current global challenges, the Sendai Conference outcome represents the "first step of our journey to a new future", United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon explained as he opened the Conference on 14 March.

A strong Conference outcome, he said, would put the world on a path to a new sustainable development agenda with new global goals at its core. That would take place in a year that would not only include finalization of the post-2015 sustainable development strategy, but also a conference to agree upon an international climate change regime in Paris in November and a meeting on development financing to turn those plans into results, set for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July. Following the adoption of the Framework at the evening's closing session, the Conference adopted a resolution thanking Japan for hosting the event. Round table summaries were presented by María del Pilar Cornejo, Minister for the Secretariat of Risk Management of Ecuador. The Conference also adopted a resolution on credentials, presented

by Shameem Ahsan of Bangladesh. It adopted its draft report as presented by the Rapporteur-General of the Conference, Toni Frisch, Special Adviser on Disaster Risk Reduction of Switzerland. Finally, by adopting a political declaration in support of the implementation of the new Framework, participants called upon all stakeholders to take action, stressing that “the realization of the new Framework depends on our unceasing and tireless collective efforts to make the world safer from the risk of disasters in the decades to come for the benefit of the present and future generations”...

MEXICO

REFORMA

<http://busquedas.gruporeforma.com/reforma/Documento/Web.aspx?id=1089053|ArticulosCMS&url=&text=eloisa+farrera&tit=Debaten+en+Jap%f3n+gesti%f3n+de+riesgos#ixzz3VMpPUGBh>
13-Mar-2015

<http://busquedas.gruporeforma.com/reforma/Documento/Web.aspx?id=1092612|ArticulosCMS&url=&text=eloisa+farrera&tit=%27Hablar+de+desarrollo%2c+no+de+desastres%27+#ixzz3VMrAH600>

Web version (I find the way to unblock the links)

Impulsa Sendai gestión de riesgos

<http://busquedas.gruporeforma.com/reforma/Libre/VisorNota.aspx?id=1113670|ArticulosCMS&md5=7c25db6c9a32f190d640228d-ba20156d>

Superan tsunami en tan sólo 4 años

<http://busquedas.gruporeforma.com/reforma/Libre/VisorNota.aspx?id=1113699|ArticulosCMS&md5=f8258129cbd7cce153c4d56e17ed2ba5>

Las últimas marcas del tsunami en Sendai

<http://www.reforma.com/aplicacioneslibre/fotogaleria/default.aspx?id=41758&md5=8c5f023a4f0a6329d99c282defefbd9b&ta=0dfd-bac11765226904c16cb9ad1b2efe>

Hablar de desarrollo, no de desastres'

<http://busquedas.gruporeforma.com/reforma/Libre/VisorNota.aspx?id=1092612|ArticulosCMS&md5=d9aa04aff6d185a020a02512646df9fc>

Debate en Japón gestión de riesgos

<http://busquedas.gruporeforma.com/reforma/Libre/VisorNota.aspx?id=1089053|ArticulosCMS&md5=71cab676d-70737d818a216748a45a3ef>

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THAILAND

THAI PBS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h141_zciiTs&index=8&list=PLRS4T4F2sF1qhY9-QcGzbAMuhYMIJ2A5U

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRhWv5IRLn0&index=7&list=PLRS4T4F2sF1qhY9-QcGzbAMuhYMIJ2A5U>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Or75Yy0d4EE&index=6&list=PLRS4T4F2sF1qhY9-QcGzbAMuhYMIJ2A5U>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=la92bXho4hl&list=PLRS4T4F2sF1qhY9-QcGzbAMuhYMIJ2A5U&index=5>

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

TV CHANNEL

<http://telenoticias.com.do/galeria-videos/todos/cierra-3ra-conferencia-mundial-de-riesgos-de-desastres-naturales-de-naciones-unidas-en-sendai-japon>

<http://telenoticias.com.do/galeria-videos/todos/tercera-conferencia-mundial-de-riesgos-de-desastres-en-sendai-japon>

<http://telenoticias.com.do/galeria-videos/todos/horacio-vicioso-ofrece-informe-especial-de-la-3ra-conferencia-mundial-de-riesgos-y-desastres-en-sendai-japon>

CENTRAL AMERICA

MERCADOS & TENDENCIAS MAGAZINE

El mundo se compromete a bajar las muertes por desastres

<http://revistamyt.com/2015/03/el-mundo-se-compromete-a-bajar-las-muertes-por-desastres/>

«Menos pobreza reducirá la vulnerabilidad»

<http://revistamyt.com/2015/03/menos-pobreza-reducira-la-vulnerabilidad/>

Sendai, paisajes de silencio

<http://revistamyt.com/2015/03/sendai-paisajes-de-silencio/>

Desastres dañan tanto como narcotráfico y pobreza

<http://revistamyt.com/2015/03/desastres-danan-tanto-como-narcotrafico-y-pobreza/>

Japón: 10 lecciones de cómo se afronta un desastre

<http://revistamyt.com/2015/03/japon-10-lecciones-de-como-se-afronta-un-desastre/>

¿Está perdiendo el mundo la guerra contra los desastres?

<http://revistamyt.com/2015/03/esta-perdiendo-el-mundo-la-guerra-contra-los-desastres/>

Centroamérica busca recursos para protegerse de más desastres

<http://revistamyt.com/2015/03/centroamerica-busca-recursos-para-protegerse-de-mas-desastres/>

PANAMA

TV MEDIA

Buscan fijar en Panamá centros regionales de rescate y prevención de desastres

<http://www.tvn-2.com/Noticias/Paginas/buscan-fijar-en-panama-centros-regionales-de-rescate-y-prevencion-de-desastres-.aspx>

Panamá llama a “reorientar” política centroamericana en reducción de desastres

<http://www.tvn-2.com/Noticias/Paginas/panama-llama-a-reorientar--politica-centroamericana-en-reduccion-de-desastres.aspx>

Entrevista con Mary Ramos, meteoróloga y presentadora del tiempo de CNN

http://cdnapi.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1199011/uiconf_id/27183611/entry_id/0_pz9y7n4s/embed/dynamic

Se puede ver en la sección de videos de la web en la siguiente dirección:

<http://www.tvn-2.com/Noticias/Paginas/NACIONALES.aspx>

Cumbre sobre prevención de desastres / Pase a Panamá

http://www.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1199011/uiconf_id/28529602/entry_id/0_6pxt9v3j/embed/auto?

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INDONESIA

JAKARTA POST

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/03/14/world-leaders-launch-new-disaster-guide.html>

New guide to shape future development strategy

Poor countries are the weakest link in resilience

Infrastructure spending essential for disaster resilience

Farmers hardest hit during disasters: FAO

Fierce negotiations put new guideline in jeopardy

New framework passed after fierce negotiations

RADIO

PANAMA

NTN24

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqhkBBp5Bs4>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xsRreHclvE>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0K97-flgME0>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=494nflC9B60>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=494nflC9B60>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8tn7TNRvtA>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOSvSSyq8-s>

SENEGAL

RADIO DAKAR

<https://soundcloud.com/westafricademocracyradio/info-chez-vous-2015-03-16-premiere-edition>
(Start at 19mn 40s)
<https://soundcloud.com/westafricademocracyradio/info-chez-vous-2015-03-17-troisieme-edition>
(start at 8mn 50s)
<https://soundcloud.com/westafricademocracyradio/info-chez-vous-2015-03-18-deuxieme-edition>
(start at 13mn 00)
<http://www.wadr.org/Gestion-des-risques-de-catastrophe.html?lang=fr>
<https://soundcloud.com/westafricademocracyradio/newslink-2015-03-18>
(start at 22mn 34s)
<https://soundcloud.com/westafricademocracyradio/newslink-2015-03-17>
(start at 17 mn 30s)

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TV COVERAGE

EURONEWS

<http://www.euronews.com/2015/03/17/two-nuclear-reactors-retired-in-japan-as-it-hosts-un-disaster-conference/>
<http://fr.euronews.com/2015/03/17/la-reduction-des-risques-de-catastrophes-naturelles-au-centre-des/>

MAGAZINE:

FR <http://youtu.be/Uy0uCHkfvBM>

Le Japon:à la pointe de la prévention des risques naturels - target - YouTube

Dans cet épisode de Target spécial Japon, nous nous sommes rendus dans la ville de Sendai, située dans la région qui a été frappée il y a quatre ans par le t...

[Regarder maintenant...](#)

ENG <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5GTesltZkw>

Japan: a world leader in disaster prevention - target - YouTube

Japan is a world-leader in thwarting the risk of natural disasters. In the first episode of this special edition of Target Japan, we head

TV 5

http://vod.tv5monde.com/momac/sitemobile/4328394_c6.mp4

AL JAZEERA

https://archive.org/details/ALJAZAM_20150314_210000_News?q=Scott+Heidler#start/2160/end/2220

DPI ENB COVERAGE

12 DPI PRESS RELEASES

18 March 2015

Sendai: UN conference adopts new, people-centred disaster risk reduction strategy

17 March 2015

UNICEF: on disaster resilience, 'we must listen to those who know their communities'

Devastation in cyclone's wake illustrates need for targeted disaster response, Pacific leaders say at UN conference

FEATURE: Academic who 'puts his feet on the ground and works with people' wins 2015 UN award for disaster risk reduction

16 March 2015

As UN steps up aid efforts, Ban promises 'necessary action' to assist cyclone-hit Vanuatu

FEATURE: 'Rebuilding Sichuan' takes top film prize at UN event on disaster resilience

Sendai: Early warning saves lives, but communities need targeted, useful information

15 March 2015

UN relief agencies ramp up support to cyclone-hit Vanuatu as country's President appeals for assistance

Ban praises Sendai recovery as model for turning tragedy of disaster into sustainable future

'Health at very center of disaster risk reduction,' say UN agency officials in Sendai

14 March 2015

UN responding to 'devastating' impact of Tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, Pacific region

Sendai: Critical role of women in building disaster resilience focus of event at UN conference

In Japan, UN chief urges global solidarity to strengthen disaster resilience, boost development

13 March 2015

UN stands ready to assist as Tropical Cyclone Pam threatens Vanuatu, Pacific region

Sendai: World leaders gather for UN conference on managing disaster risk

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DPI RADIO

Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

People urged to start work on disaster risk reduction

An important step has been taken in the future management of natural and man-made disasters according to the head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction...

Development slowed down by disasters, says World Bank

The intensity and frequency of natural disasters across the globe threaten to slow down the development of countries, according to the World Bank. The Bank notes that the impact of disasters on gross...

18 Mar 2015 / Listen / Download

Women's skills needed to respond to disasters

Women and girls must be part of the planning and implementation of policies dealing with disaster risk reduction, according...

18 Mar 2015 / Listen / Download

"Impact-based warnings" critical to disaster risk reduction

Giving clear early warnings in disasters that can be understood and acted upon by everyone is critical to reducing...

18 Mar 2015 / Listen / Download

Global response to HIV/AIDS provides lessons for tackling disasters

The way the international community has been responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic over thirty years can provide lessons on...

18 Mar 2015 / Listen / Download

Children affected by disasters set to triple Needs of disabled highlighted in disasters Dutch support disaster reduction with "holistic approach" All hands "on deck" to reduce risk of disasters, says Ban Ki-moon Lessons from disasters to shape new policies for better future,

says UN chief Disaster risk reduction is "everybody's business," says UN chief New plan needed to face next decade of natural hazards WHO:

keeping hospitals open during natural disasters is key to saving lives Experts discuss reducing risks of disasters

On-camera Interviews:

- SG Ban Ki-moon
<http://webtv.un.org/search/ban-ki-moon-discusses-the-goals-of-the-third-world-conference-on-disaster-risk-reduction/4112211353001?term=UN%20radio>
- SRSG Margareta Walstrom, UNISDR (Preview of the Sendai Conference in New York)
<http://webtv.un.org/search/margareta-wahlstr%C3%B6m-ahead-of-the-third-un-world-conference-on-disaster-risk-reduction-interview/4108154716001?term=Margareta%20Wahlstr%C3%B6m>
- Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA
<http://webtv.un.org/search/un-radio-interview-with-babatunde-osotimehin-executive-director-of-unfpa/4112225588001?term=UN%20radio>

Interviews:

- *SRSG Margareta Walstrom*, UNISDR (ENGLISH) (after the Framework documents were adopted.)
- *Michel Jerrand*, SG of WMO (ENGLISH and FRENCH)
- *Rachel Kyte*, Special Envoy for Climate Change, World Bank (ENGLISH)
- *Margriet Francisc*, Princess of the Netherlands (ENGLISH)
- *Jusuf Kala*, Vice President of Indonesia (ENGLISH)
- *KerryAnn Ifill*, President of Senate, Babados (ENGLISH)
- *James Bule*, Minister of Climate Change Adpatation, Meterology, Vanuatu. (ENGLISH)
- *Paul Njorge Ben*, elected Senator representing persons with disabilities, Kenyan Senate (KISWAHILI)
- *Ede Ljjasz-Vasquez*, Senior Director of World Bank Group- Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience (SPANISH)
- *Ted Chaiban*, Director of Programmes, UNICEF(ENGLISH)
- *Steven Klaus*, Director of Regional Suport Team for Asia and Pacific Region, UNAIDS (ENGLISH)
- *Jose Oliviera*, Director of National Emergency Planning, Portugal (PORTUGUESE)
- *Sergei Rakhmanov*, Belarus Ambassdor to Japan (RUSSIAN)
- *Major General Jamal Hatem Al-Sayegh*, Assistant Undersecretary for Operations, Ministry of Interior, Kuwait. (ARABIC)
- *Golden Muga*, Assistant secretary of Ministry of interior, DRR department (KISWAHILI)
- *Col. (Retired) Nathan Kigotho*, Director of national disaster operation center in Kenya (KISWAHILI)
- *Xu Tang*, Director of Director of Weather and Disaster Risk Reduction Service Department, WMO (CHINESE & ENGLISH)
- *Allan Lavell*, winner of the Sasakawa Award on Disaster Risk Reduction (ENGLISH_
- *Sen Zhang*, producer, "Rebuilding Sichuan", winner of best story on disaster risk reduction (CHINESE)
- *Akiko Fukuda*, Secretary General of the World Federation of the Deafblind (NGO) (ENGLISH)

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WEBCAST

3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan)

The **UN Webcast team** provided over 60 hours of live and on-demand webcast coverage on UN Web TV website (webtv.un.org) in English, Japanese and Original language of the speaker. The live webcast coverage included the Opening and Closing Ceremony, nine plenary meetings, five Ministerial Roundtables, three High level Ministerial Dialogue sessions and ten Press Conferences. The team edited and made available on the UN Web TV website a total of 333 videos, including video clips of official statements by country representatives, as well as 32 videos of interviews and features. The UN Web TV website registered 382,819 views from 220 countries and territories during the Conference period. All archived videos are available at: <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/conferencessummits/3rd-un-world-conference-on-disaster-risk-reduction-14-18-march-2015-sendai-japan>

ENB COVERAGE

Day 4	-	17	March	2015:	EN	(HTML/PDF)	FR	(HTML/PDF)	ES	(HTML/PDF)	AR	(HTML/PDF)	JA	(HTML/PDF)
Day 3	-	16	March	2015:	EN	(HTML/PDF)	FR	(HTML/PDF)	ES	(HTML/PDF)	AR	(HTML/PDF)	JA	(HTML/PDF)
Day 2	-	15	March	2015:	EN	(HTML/PDF)	FR	(HTML/PDF)	ES	(HTML/PDF)	AR	(HTML/PDF)	JA	(HTML/PDF)
Day 1	-	14	March	2015:	EN	(HTML/PDF)	FR	(HTML/PDF)	ES	(HTML/PDF)	AR	(HTML/PDF)	JA	(HTML/PDF)

TV DEBATE

UNISDR TV DEBATE

<http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/conferencessummits/3rd-un-world-conference-on-disaster-risk-reduction-14-18-march-2015-sen-dai-japan/watch/tv-talk-show-with-private-sector/4112026625001>

FILM FESTIVAL

UNISDR FILM FESTIVAL AWARD CEREMONY

Received 80 entries

12 Finalists among them documentaries produced by BBC, Al Jazeera, GMW, NHK and Discovery channel

To view the 32 minute show, please see: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBDwPnveHho9dqkWMsYci0QUyUYIDUOnG>

FEATURE: 'Rebuilding Sichuan' takes top film prize at UN event on disaster resilience

Producer Sen Zhang (right) collects award for film *Rebuilding Sichuan* at first International Awards for the Best TV Documentaries on Disaster Risk Reduction alongside ceremony's host, broadcaster Veronica Pedrosa (left), in Sendai, Japan. photo: UNISDR

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=5033216>



Veronica Pedrosa and Sen Zhang from Discovery channel

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16 March 2015 – A film chronicling the monumental effort of the engineers and designers to rebuild entire new cities from scratch following the devastating 2008 earthquake in China's Sichuan Province, took the top prize at the first United Nations co-organized International Awards for the Best TV Documentaries on Disaster Risk Reduction.

During a special ceremony at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the documentary *Rebuilding Sichuan* received the inaugural award, besting competition that included films on topics that ranged from floods in Pakistan and Great Britain to the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck the communities in Japan's northeast region in 2011.

Producer Sen Zhang collected the award for the film, broadcast on Discovery Channel. The awards aim to honor those filmmakers, producers and broadcasters that are working to make documentaries that can help to protect vulnerable communities from the risks posed by future disasters.

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), together with its partners, the Asia Broadcasting Union (ABU) and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) chose the winners from among nearly 100 films that have been broadcast on television since 2005.

The Kamaishi Miracle, by NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), won the Best Human Story Category. It recounted how 184 students from a school survived the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Senior Producer Ms Kazuyo Fukuda said: "It is a great privilege to be here and to share this great honour with the students and teachers of the school."

It's Time by GMA Network Philippines won Best Investigative Story. The film profiles the frenetic pace of modern life and asks 'could nature itself be up against a deadline' to highlight the over-consumption of the planet's natural resources.

Vets in the Disaster Zone by Dragonfly Film and Television Productions won the Most Innovative Documentary category. In one scene from the film, Philippines farmers corral pigs – using plastic sheeting in an innovative technique which moves the animals' pen along with them, keeping them calm and stress free – as the narrator intones: "Moving animals quickly and calmly in a disaster is vital if you want them to survive."

Host of the ceremony, international broadcaster Veronica Pedrosa, said: "This year's awards reveal a truly global picture of disaster reduction efforts – from flooding in Pakistan and Great Britain to the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck the communities in Japan in 2011."

MEDIA STATEMENT

AFRICAN UNION OF BROADCASTING, THE ARAB STATES BROADCASTING UNION, THE ASIA-PACIFIC BROADCASTING UNION AND THE EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION COMMITS TO AFTER SENDAI

17 Mar 2015

SENDAI, 17 March 2015 – Four broadcasting unions whose membership spans Africa, Arab states, the Asia-Pacific region and Europe have vowed to push for greater media involvement in disaster risk reduction, given their crucial role as a conduit of information to the public.

In a formal pledge issued at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the African Union of Broadcasting, the Arab States Broadcasting Union, the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union and the European Broadcasting Union said that they wanted to harness their ability to reach billions of people.

“Given its unparalleled reach to wide audiences, the media plays a crucial role in promoting disaster risk reduction policies, disseminating early warning messages and advancing regional and national disaster risk reduction agendas,” they said.

Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, hailed the broadcasters’ strong statement and “formidable outreach”, noting that there was growing demand for their input.

“One of the very strong messages which is coming out, and not only from this conference, is a call for much more public awareness and education,” she said.

DECLARATION:

VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS of Media Stakeholders' Groups

Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Given its unparalleled reach to wide audiences, the media play a crucial role in promoting disaster risk reduction policies, disseminating early warning messages and advancing regional and national disaster risk reduction agendas. This is even more true in the case of radio, that has proved time after time to be the most resilient and long-lasting reliable source of information in the aftermath of disasters.

In order to fulfill media's immense potential as an information disseminator and powerful behavior changer, media would like to be accepted not as a mere messenger but a partner in developing and implementing DRR policies at regional, national and local levels and also help dismantling the silos in which most stakeholders work at the moment.

Many media organizations already accept their duty to serve wide audiences (including most vulnerable groups such as women, children, youth, persons with disabilities and elderly) before, during, after disasters. They recognize the need to be pro-actively preparing people during quieter times between disasters and commit to expand coverage of climate change and DRR and educate their audiences on these issues.

They also recognize the huge gap in media knowledge and expertise to do so and that the "messengers" have to be educated themselves about the complex issues of climate change impacts and mitigations and DRR. The formation of functional global, regional and sub-regional networks through which the media can engage with other partners in DRR, peer mentorship can be done and skills improved

Media stakeholders' group strongly recommend the need for a fund to facilitate disaster reporting, especially during the quiet times.

In accepting to play such a crucial role in informing, educating the public and galvanizing action for advancing the DRR agenda throughout the world, the Media Stakeholder Group confirms its support for the HFA 2 process and commits to:

- Work with all stakeholders involved in DRR to facilitate broad partnership in risk prevention and building resilient communities;
- Ensure that the radio and TV organizations' infrastructure and networks are preserved even in the digital future at the terrestrial level, and are better integrated in the early warning disaster communication systems and plans at national and community levels;
- Engage media in the development and implementation of national DRR policies and programmes including national platforms, so the media are comprehensively prepared to inform about risk prevention and DRR;
- Enhance journalists capacity to produce quality programmes on climate change, DRR and sustainable development concepts as part of the same solution for economic growth and social cohesion;
- Create funding opportunities and space for coverage of and discussions on climate change and DRR issues in the form of special regular programmes, editorial columns and mainstreaming DRR in news, current affairs, children programmes and other radio and TV formats. In particular formats for post-disaster and disaster recovery communication need to be implemented based on existing best practices examples. This, of course, will have to happen in the total respect of the editorial independence of each media.
- Permanent dialogue needs to be established between media (using existing regional and worldwide recognized associations) and other initiatives on disaster and emergencies communications existing within WMO, ITU (such as the Focus group on Disaster Relief Systems, Network Resilience and Recovery, and others), UNESCO and so on.

Common Declaration of ABU-AUB/UAR-ASBU-EBU

Sendai, 17-3-2015

ABU Secretary General, Javad MOTTAGHI

EBU Director General, Ingrid DELTENRE (on behalf of)

Tunis, ASBU Director General, Abdelrahim SULEIMAN

Dakar, AUB-UAR Director General, Lawrence ATIASE

ANNEX 1

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Sendai from 14 to 18 March 2015

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