



## Launching of the 2011 ISDR Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction “Revealing Risk, Redefining Development”

<Wednesday 25 May 2011, 14:00 – 16:00>

**Date & Time:** Wednesday 25 May 2011 14:00 – 16:00

**Venue:** United Nations University, Tokyo (5F Elizabeth Rose Hall)  
5-53-70, Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, 150-8925, Japan

**Organizers:** United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)  
United Nations University (UNU)

**Support organization:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

**Working language:** English

**Programme:**

- Welcoming Remarks: Prof. Dr. Konrad Osterwalder, Rector of the United Nations University, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Opening Remarks: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Presentation on the Global Assessment Report (GAR) on Disaster Risk Reduction, Mr. Andrew Maskrey, GAR Coordinator, UNISDR Secretariat
- Demonstration of “Tangible Earth”, Professor Shinichi Takemura, Kyoto University of Art and Design
- Panel Discussion: *Revealing Risk, Redefining Development*  
Facilitator: Mr. Srikantha Herath, Senior Academic Programme Officer, Institute for Sustainability and Peace, United Nations University  
Panelists:
  - Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (tbc)
  - Ms. Sandra Wu, President and Chief Executive Officer, Kokusai Kogyo Holdings Co., Ltd.
  - Prof. Kenji Okazaki, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies
  - Prof. Shinichi Takemura, Kyoto University of Art and Design
  - Mr. Andrew Maskrey, GAR Coordinator, UNISDR Secretariat
- Closing Remarks: Cabinet Office of Japan (tbc)

\* *The 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (English), and its Executive Summary both in English and Japanese will be distributed in the event.*

**Registration** (free of charge)

Please send an e-mail for registration by 17 May to <isdr-hyogo@un.org>

- Name
- Profession (government official, diplomat, staff of international organizations, professor, researcher, student, business person, media, and others)
- Affiliation, position, and office address (organization, company, university, etc)
- E-mail and phone number

Please note: Invitation to UNU events grants no special rights of admission to the location or country in which they may be held. UNU and UNISDR do not sponsor or otherwise arrange travel or accommodation for attendees. In the interests of security, we reserve the right to deny registration or entry. There is no vehicle parking at UN University Headquarters. UN University Headquarters is a non-smoking building.

Contact: UNISDR Hyogo Office  
e-mail: isdr-hyogo@un.org phone: 078-262-5550

# **2011 ISDR Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction “Revealing Risk, Redefining Development”**

The 2011 Global Assessment Report (GAR) on Disaster Risk Reduction was prepared while disasters have continued to wipe out the lives and livelihoods of millions. The impacts of the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti in January 2010 and floods in Pakistan in July 2010 show how disaster risk and poverty are closely interlinked. Meanwhile, in 2011, floods in Australia, the earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand, and the earthquake and tsunami disaster wreaking havoc in north-eastern Japan as this report goes to press are a stark reminder that developed countries are also very exposed. Less visible internationally, hundreds of smaller disasters associated with climate variability have caused enormous damage in Benin, Brazil, Colombia, the Philippines and other countries. These events reveal how risks are continuously constructed through existing development gaps and growth in economic and population exposure.

This second edition, building on the first edition published in 2009, provides a current resource for understanding and analysing global disaster risk. Drawing on a large volume of new and enhanced data, it explores trends and patterns in disaster risk globally, regionally and nationally. In parallel, more than 130 governments are engaged in self-assessments of their progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), contributing to what is now the most complete global overview of national efforts to reduce disaster risk. The ISDR, launched in 2000, provides a framework to coordinate actions to address disaster risks at the local, national, regional and international levels. The HFA, adopted by 168 UN member states at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, Japan in 2005, obliges all countries to make major efforts to reduce their disaster risk by 2015. The GAR is expected to help focus international attention on the problems of disaster risk and consolidate political and economic support and commitment to disaster risk reduction.

The production of this report was coordinated by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) secretariat, in collaboration with many global partners from the UN agencies, regional and technical institutions, national governments, civil society networks, academic institutions and many other ISDR system partners. Financial resources were contributed by, inter alia, the Governments of Japan, Norway, Switzerland, and the United States of America, and the European Commission.

The 2011 GAR will be presented by the UN Secretary General to the Third Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in 8-13 May in Geneva.

(<http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2011/>).

The GAR launchings at international and regional level will be held by UNISDR outreach offices all over the world after the Global Platform in May. As one of these events, the launching in Japan is co-organized by UNISDR Hyogo Office and the United Nations University (UNU), with the support of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, on 25 May at the UNU in Tokyo. It will provide an important opportunity to gain attention to the disaster risk reduction agenda in Japan and update on the issues and challenges to a number of stakeholders in Japan. The 2011 GAR will be presented by the UNISDR Coordinator of the GAR process, which will be followed by the demonstration of “Tangible Earth” and a panel discussion among high level panelists and eminent experts.

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