

22 Jul 2009

Natural Hazard/Disaster Updates:**21 Jul: Deep Depression over north Orissa, India**

The deep depression over north Orissa moved westwards and lay centered over north Orissa, close to Jharsuguda. The system is likely to move in a west-northwesterly direction and weaken gradually. Under its influence, rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy falls at a few places and isolated extremely heavy falls (≥ 25 cm) is likely over Chhattisgarh & Vidarbha during next 24 hrs. Rainfall at many places with isolated heavy to very heavy falls is also likely over interior Orissa & Telengana during next 24 hrs and over Madhya Pradesh during next 48 hrs.

<http://www.imd.gov.in/>, <http://www.dailypioneer.com/>, <http://www.expressbuzz.com/>, <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>

20 Jul: River bank erosion-Bangladesh: Erosion of the Brahmaputra river has taken a severe turn in Rajibpur and Roumari Upazilas of Kurigram in Bangladesh with at least 150 houses going in to the gorge of the river in the last one week. The river is rapidly destroying houses and crop fields. Several hundreds of people are left homeless. Source: NIRAPAD, Dhaka

21 Jul-Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Update**Japan's tally of A/H1N1 infections tops 4,000**

<http://www.aseanplus3-eid.info/newsread.php?nid=928&gid=10>

Vietnam: HCMC closes high school with 21 H1N1 cases

<http://www.aseanplus3-eid.info/newsread.php?nid=929&gid=10>

53% of flu cases in Singapore are H1N1 positive

<http://www.aseanplus3-eid.info/newsread.php?nid=930&gid=10>

Chinese mainland A/H1N1 flu cases top 1,500

<http://www.aseanplus3-eid.info/newsread.php?nid=931&gid=10>

Thailand: People prefer daily info on flu

<http://www.aseanplus3-eid.info/newsread.php?nid=932&gid=10>

Malaysia: No new flu cases in 24 hours

<http://www.aseanplus3-eid.info/newsread.php?nid=933&gid=10>

News

21 Jul: Drowning island pins hopes on clean energy: Tuvalu in Pacific Ocean threaten by rising sea levels from climate change With consortium of G8 energy companies plan to use only renewable by 2020 ..Most of Pacific island nation is less than one meter above sea level

Tuvalu, the fourth smallest nation on the planet, has announced it aims to be totally powered by renewable energy sources by 2020. Located between Hawaii and Australia, the tiny Pacific nation is one of the world's climate change hotspots and many believe it is already seeing the negative affects of rising sea levels. The highest elevation on the island is just 4.5 meters (14.8 feet), and king tides

have become increasingly damaging over the past 10 years, threatening the homes and livelihoods of its 12,000 inhabitants. The government of Tuvalu is working with the e8, a consortium of 10 energy firms from the G8 nations that was set up after the 1992 Rio Earth Summit as a non-profit organization. The Tuvalu government estimates that it will take around \$20 million in investment to reach the goal of 100 percent clean energy by 2020. The first stage of the project has seen the roof of the country's largest football stadium covered in solar panels, which supplies 5 percent of the electricity needed by the nation's capital, Funafuti. According to e8 figures, after 14 months in operation the solar stadium has reduced consumption of generator fuel shipped from New Zealand by 17,000 tons and saved 50 tons of CO2 from being released in the atmosphere. A further benefit is the reduced risk of diesel spills around the atoll's reefs.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/TECH/07/21/tuvalu.cleanenergy/index.html>

20 Jul: Australia: Aid measures aim to reduce impact of natural disasters

A new aid policy aimed at drastically reducing the death toll from 'natural' disasters has been launched by the Australian Government. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) interviewed three experts including Margareta Wahlström, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for disaster risk reduction. "I think there are a few things that converge right now. One is the international disaster response system and national disaster response costs, are actually becoming very high. You're beginning to feel strongly the futility of repeating the same thing over and over again. And given the huge cost of this and in fact, very seriously, the most disaster-prone countries in the world are also among the poorest countries. So what you invest for their economic and social development is seriously undermined by the costs of disasters, let alone the lives that are lost in the process, but also in dollar terms." said Ms Wahlström.

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=10497&pid:50>

19 Jul: Lebanon: Earthquake threat looms large

Although Lebanon is crisscrossed by fault lines, the Dead Sea System separating the giant African and Asian plates causes seismologists the greatest concern. It is the deepest and most deadly faultline in the Middle East, snaking its way from Ethiopia through the Aqaba straits, up into south Lebanon and the Bekaa valley. South Lebanon is categorised as a zone three and four on a scale indicating the frequency and force of expected earthquakes, which equates to potential tremors measuring up to 7.5 on the Richter scale. The last major earthquake in 1759 measured seven and killed 40,000 people in Beirut and Damascus. Experts forecast major earthquakes on the faultline will occur every 250 to 300 years. <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=10472&pid:50>

18 Jul: A food system that kills - Swine flu is meat industry's latest plague

Mexico is in the midst of a hellish repeat of Asia's bird flu experience, though on a more deadly scale. Once again, the official response from public authorities has come too late and bungled in cover-ups. And once again, the global meat industry is at the centre of the story, ramping up denials.

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5btt_news%5d=279494&cHash=a7b86cffca

Mobile cell broadcasting for commercial use and public warning in the Maldives

Maldives is prone to a number of hazards including tsunamis, earthquakes, flash floods, tidal waves, thunderstorms, tornadoes and waterspouts, strong winds, and drought. Therefore, early warning is essential in timely notification of alerts so that the general populace may be able to take the necessary precautions. In the case of the Maldives, if an early warning is introduced, it must be able to reach all of the outlying islands including tourists on resorts. With mobile phones quite ubiquitous, it may be an ideal time to introduce an emerging technology – **cell broadcasting** – for public early warning.

<http://lirneasia.net/2009/07/cell-broadcasting-for-early-disaster-warning-in-maldives-report-released-today/> Download Report: http://lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/CB_Maldives_FINAL_2009_041.pdf

Scientists tell the climate change story in Central Asia

Scientists, university teachers and environmental activists learned how to communicate climate change issues in Central Asia in two recent UNESCO-sponsored workshops. The workshops in Almaty (1-3 July) and Dushanbe (6-8 July) were designed to improve the ability of experts to explain climate change research to policy makers and public audiences. The workshops were organized by the UNESCO Office in Almaty, in cooperation with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) and Internews Network – Tajikistan. The 20 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan gained practical experience in presenting to small groups, conducting interviews, responding to questions at a press conference, and writing press releases, fact sheets and talking points. The workshops also covered communication strategy, audience segmentation and ethical issues between scientists and journalists.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=28963&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

15 Jul: Philippines: Community-driven development strategy frees town from floods: In the last two decades, storms and monsoon rains have brought floods, sickness, and a standstill in business activities in Balangiga, Eastern Samar every time floodwaters rise.

- Using community-driven development (CDD) approach, residents addressed this problem by constructing a network of canals to channel floodwaters towards the sea.
- CDD not only empowered local communities to address flooding and improve their health, but also created jobs for local residents, thus lessening poverty. But the real gain, residents say, lies in community's as well as the local government unit's improved capability in local governance.

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/news/v.php?id=10461&pid:50>

Events

Regional Learning Workshop on Early Warning Systems, 26-30 Jul, Dhaka, Bangladesh

ADPC in collaboration with Flood Forecasting and Warning Center- Bangladesh and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society is organizing the "Regional Learning Workshop on Early Warning Systems" for National Red Cross Societies (NRCS) and National Hydro Meteorological Services (NHMS) of Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines on 26-30th July 2009 in Dhaka, Bangladesh under the Strengthening Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems Project supported by the American Red Cross".

<http://www.adpc.net>

Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER III), Regional Planning Meeting, 27-29 Jul, Bangkok, Thailand

The participants attending the planning meeting are representatives from the National Disaster Management Office, from the Ministry of Health, and from the National Red Cross / Red Crescent Societies from the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. The goal of the meeting is to consult the project countries to develop a strategic plan for the implementation of the PEER- Stage III Program for the next 5 years, and to determine how best the program can assist country-level efforts to enhance their capacities for emergency response.

<http://www.adpc.net>

Information Resources

Atlas: Vital forest graphics: stopping the downswing?

The atlas focuses on a number of selected issues that are topical and important in terms of forests. The atlas examines changes in forest cover in various parts of the world over the last century. It also provides an analysis of the most salient features of the largest forest ecosystems, as well as the boreal forests. The atlas also analyses the role and importance of forests with regard to the most pressing

environmental issues currently, including: climate change, loss of biodiversity, trade and environment, air pollution, energy and biofuels, agriculture and food security.

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5btt_news%5d=279480&cHash=09fb2cf3b1

Article: Empty coasts, barren seas

Gaining access to the territorial waters of many developing countries has been a goal of expanding global capital in recent years. It comes in different forms and under different names but with the single objective of extracting profits for big business. The European Union (EU) is at the forefront of this drive. Through fisheries partnership agreements (FPAs), the EU is able to sustain its lucrative fishing industry and export its overfishing problems to other parts of the world – Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific – often with disastrous consequences for local small fishers. Now the EU is testing Asia's waters. In this article, GRAIN investigates how Asia's small fishers stand under the proposed EU–ASEAN free trade agreement (FTA).

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5btt_news%5d=279478&cHash=ec56941e85

The Global Information Technology Report 2008-2009

The Report underlines that good education fundamentals and high levels of technological readiness and innovation are essential engines of growth needed to overcome the current economic crisis. Under the theme "Mobility in a Networked World", this year's Report places a particular focus on the relationship and interrelations between mobility and ICT. With record coverage of 134 economies worldwide, the Report remains the world's most comprehensive and authoritative international assessment of the impact of ICT on the development process and the competitiveness of nations.

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5btt_news%5d=279555&cHash=d0249f06ca

NIRAPAD Barta: a quarterly newsletter of NIRAPAD, issue 15, May 2009

This issue focuses on the role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in disaster risk reduction. It contains articles from experts, interviews and other related information.

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5btt_news%5d=279547&cHash=2055392a6d

Swine Flu Map of China

SuperMap in China has published what it calls an 'Intelligent H1N1 Analysis Web Map System'. The map tracks outbreaks of the virus known as 'swine flu' around China. It features source attributions, report dates, and current known status. It is updated as daily reports of the latest suspected and confirmed cases are made available. http://www.supermap.com/news/news_view.asp?news_id=125

Strengthening the base: preparing health research for climate change

There is irrefutable proof of climate change due to human activity, most notably caused by the release of greenhouse gases from fossil fuel use. The impact is expected to accelerate if immediate steps are not taken to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, it will be the people of the developing world on whom climate change will exact the greatest toll – the same populations that already bear the heaviest burdens of infectious and chronic diseases. Millions are at risk of increasing health problems stemming from floods, drought, windstorms. Additionally, infectious diseases are spreading into areas once too cold for them to persist."

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5btt_news%5d=279592&cHash=1b1e3c439e

Essays: Young Voices in Research for Health 2008: Climate change and health: research challenges for vulnerable populations

There is irrefutable proof of climate change as a result of human activity, most notably caused by the release of greenhouse gases from fossil fuel use. Although this primary cause of climate change comes largely from developed countries, developing countries will also add to climate change as their economies grow. Moreover, it will be poor populations on whom climate change will exact the

greatest toll – the same populations that already bear the heaviest burdens of infectious and chronic diseases. This compilation presents the shortlisted and winning essays from the Young Voices in Research for Health 2008 competition, jointly sponsored for the third year by the Global Forum for Health Research and The Lancet."

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5btt_news%5d=279590&cHash=f9ba0edf2e

Insight: India and Climate Change

As the world community gears up for another round of climate change talks, a central issue will be how to bring developing countries—especially rapidly growing India and China—into a climate-change pact. William Antholis examines the "per capita" emissions reduction standard favored by India's Manmohan Singh and argues that it is too simple a metric by which to achieve equity in global carbon reductions between the developed and developing worlds.

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5btt_news%5d=279577&cHash=172afa88ae

Guide: Warming: climate change - the facts

'Act on 'CO2' - Warming: this guide tells you everything you need to know about climate change and, importantly, what it means for you and what you can do about it. It answers four questions: What is climate change? What does it mean for the world? What are the misconceptions? What can I do now?

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5btt_news%5d=279545&cHash=68c4fee148

Paper-Natural disasters and the dynamics of intangible assets

In recognition that natural resource dependence increases vulnerability to 'natural' disasters, this paper presents an analysis that allows for endogenous investments in real assets (physical capital) as well as in human capital, explicitly considering the potential for subsistence traps arising from minimum consumption and minimum natural resource irreversibility thresholds.

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5btt_news%5d=279542&cHash=75276da061

Paper: Economic modeling of income, different types of capital and natural disasters

This paper provides empirical estimates of the impacts of 'natural' disasters on different forms of capital (with a focus on human and intangible capital and natural capital), and on real gross domestic product per capita. The types of disaster considered are droughts, earthquakes, floods, and storms and their impacts are measured in terms of the number of people affected or people affected per capita. The authors find statistically significant reductions of the values of human and intangible capital and land capital as a consequence of the disasters, and these reductions are greater when the impacts last for longer periods.

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5btt_news%5d=279541&cHash=2b534c229f

Paper-Aid, natural disasters and the samaritan's dilemma

This paper discusses the impact of foreign aid on the recipient country's preparedness against 'natural' disasters. The theoretical model shows that foreign aid can have two opposing effects on a country's level of mitigating activities. In order to test the theoretical propositions, the authors analyze the effect of foreign aid dependence on ex-ante risk-management activity proxied by the death toll from major storms, floods and earthquakes occurring worldwide between 1980 and 2002. They find evidence that the crowding-out effect of foreign aid outweighs the preventive effect in the case of storms, while there is mixed evidence in the case of floods and earthquakes.

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5btt_news%5d=279540&cHash=ef633d1420

Booklet-Under the weather and the rising tide: adapting to a changing climate in Asia and the Pacific: This booklet describes a number of adaptation strategies and actions being pursued by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), its country partners, and the international community. These strategies and actions reflect several important adaptation considerations for developing member

countries, such as: country ownership, partnership synergies, integrating disaster risk reduction and climate risk management, and a no-regret approach. Also highlighted are emerging trends in climate adaptation strategies, including the blending of mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk management and climate adaptation synergies, community adaptation tools, and applied downscaled modeling.

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5bt_news%5d=279534&cHash=e3a4523c74

The Impact of Climate Change on Minorities and Indigenous Peoples

Climate change is attracting ever more attention from the media, academics, politicians and even businesses, as evidence mounts about its scale and seriousness, and the speed at which it is affecting the world. But rarely does its impact on minorities and indigenous groups get a mention, even though they are among the worst affected.

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5bt_news%5d=279489&cHash=c18382ca8f

Suffering the Science: Climate Change, People, and Poverty

Climate change is damaging people's lives today. Even if world leaders agree the strictest possible curbs on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the prospects are very bleak for hundreds of millions of people, most of them among the world's poorest. This paper puts the dramatic stories of some of those people alongside the latest science on the impacts of climate change on humans. Together they explain why climate change is fundamentally a development crisis. The world must act immediately and decisively to address this, the greatest peril to humanity this century.

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5bt_news%5d=279347&cHash=12b6cc4466

Green IT is in vogue – why, and what's it all about?

Sustainability and environmental protection in the high-tech sector, once niche topics on the fringe, have now moved centre stage. Most people underestimate the environmental impact of IT and telecommunications technology – despite the fact that this industry is responsible for some two percent of total carbon dioxide emissions worldwide. Green IT is consequently a subject of ever growing importance, driven by environmental and economic aspects as well as questions of corporate responsibility. And rising energy costs are motivating these considerations even further.

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5bt_news%5d=279335&cHash=bc04e03cc8

Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy: From the Foreword by President Bharat Jagdeo

The world is running out of time – average global temperatures are rising too fast and our planet is on a trajectory towards human catastrophe of a scale never seen before. The greenhouse gas emissions causing these temperature rises must peak by 2020 and be cut by 80 percent by 2050. It will be impossible to do this without a dramatic reduction in emissions from deforestation – which comprise about a fifth of the global total. Future generations will not forgive us if we fail to act despite knowing these facts. The people of Guyana are willing to act – as a country where almost 80% of our territory is rainforest, we stand ready to work with others who share our view that the world needs to break the false debate which suggests that a nation must choose between national development and combating climate change. Instead we should be asking how can we forge prosperous low carbon economies where national development and combating climate change are complementary, not competing, objectives.

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5bt_news%5d=279284&cHash=8e10c402ce

Review: Good practices in participatory mapping: This review is intended to provide a broad background in the use of participatory mapping processes and the range of tools available to practitioners. It is not exhaustive but aims to give readers a greater appreciation of how participatory mapping has evolved from a relatively simplistic participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tool into a community of practice spanning a range of sophisticated technologies and processes.

http://zunia.org/index.php?id=11728&tx_dgcontent_pi1%5btnews%5d=279420&cHash=d2762eae3e

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ADPC Website: <http://www.adpc.net/>

Note: The information has been collated from publicly available information. Although the sources are deemed reliable, the information reported here are topical and are subject to change.

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