



# NDYS in Action, Newsletter

Natural Disaster Youth Summit Monthly News

**Vol # 21**  
**November 16, 2008**

## The VOICE of YOUTH is NEEDED!

Editor: Daniel Paz,  
Salta, Argentina



**Topics**  
**Disaster Reduction and Climate Change**  
A radioactive waste dump can contaminate rivers in Kyrgystan.

# A radioactive waste dump can contaminate rivers in Kyrgystan

People form a village called Min-Kush, in central Kyrgystan, are afraid that heavy rains will produce landslides and cause a terrible problem. The thing is that about 2 km from there, a radioactive waste dump which was used during the Soviet union period, can contaminate a river.

This area is surrounded by mountains and is a seismic zone. This situation and adding torrential rains can produce a terrible landslide so the 450,000 m<sup>3</sup> of radioactive waste would end in the river Tuyuk-Suu. The emergencies minister Kamchybek Tashiev said that -"The problems of Min-Kush village need an urgent decision. We have had a lot of rain and there is a risk of landslides blocking or altering the course of the Tuyuk-Suu river".-



In some parts of the country there are waste materials which are a legacy from the Sovietic Union.

At least 6,500 hectares of land in Kyrgyzstan have been exposed to radioactive contamination. That country has 92 hazardous waste dumps holding 254 million cubic metres of waste, including radionuclides. Dormant mines, untreated tailing dumps and untreated rock debris pose a risk. The most urgent clean-up measures needed to render the tailings safe would cost up to US\$40 million, the United Nations Development Programme has estimated.

One of the solutions proposed by experts in the topic was to move the waste to a safer location, but some others agree with the idea of building a new riverbed, so the radioactive waste doesn't receive any disturbing situation. Experts say there are no signs warning of the danger to people.

Editor: Daniel Paz,  
Salta, Argentina



Topics

**Climate Change and disaster reduction**

Water level is decreasing in Vietnam.

# Water level is decreasing in Vietnam

After the heavy rains registered since 1 November, almost 60 people died, houses were inundated with up to 1 meter of water and around 200,000 hectares of rice were severe damaged. The most affected city is Hanoi which is expected to receive more rains but not heacy as the past ones.



People manage to transport goods and other things using boats.

This situation was the worst that people saw in a lapse of a generation. There are still soldiers working on dykes so they can be reinforced. Official sources communicated that 10,000 people were evacuated during th first week of November and clean water and quick foods were delivered to the affected people. With the receding waters thousands of homes are filled with mud, rotting rubbish and sewage. City health officials have warned about outbreaks of cholera and diarrhoea but UNICEF reported that no outbreaks have been detected.

The total amount of u\$s500 million was destined to a water drainage project in the city of Hanoi. The first part of the project was finished in 2005 and it was designed to handle about 170mm of precipitation in a two-day period. Last week, more than 500mm of rain fell in just three days and the unique pumping station was inundated.

The government of Hanoi is now tallying up the long-term damage to livelihoods in rural areas. The National Committee for Flood Control estimates that 200,000 hectares of rice paddy and farms across northern Vietnam were damaged in the storm.

Source: [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)

Editor: Daniel Paz,  
Salta, Argentina



Topics

**Disaster Reduction and Climate Change**

Indonesia is still recovering from the hard tsunami occurred in 2004.

# Indonesia is still recovering from the hard tsunami occurred in 2004

Editor: Daniel Paz,  
Salta, Argentina



## Topics

### Disaster Reduction and Climate Change

Indonesia is still recovering from the hard tsunami occurred in 2004.

The 11 November launch in Jakarta of the Indonesia Tsunami Early Warning System (InaTEWS) was welcome news throughout the archipelago, but perhaps most of all in Aceh.

The province hardest hit by the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, in which about 170,000 people died, is still rebuilding homes and livelihoods devastated by the disaster.

Mr Pieter Smith, who is the head of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said that about u\$s 6 billion have been invested in Aceh's reconstruction. He said Indonesia's Aceh and Nias Rehabilitation and reconstruction agency would end its mandate in April 2009.



Almost 130,000 people were killed and more than half a million made homeless in the 26 December 2004 disaster. This boat is what the tsunami left above this roof.

The early warning system can reportedly predict and disseminate news of a possible tsunami within five minutes of an earthquake, according to the National Meteorology and Geophysics Agency.

"This will give people around 30 to 40 minutes to evacuate and save their lives," said Edie Prihanto, assistant to the deputy for technological needs analysis at the Ministry for Technology and Research. The meteorology agency said about 57 percent of Indonesia's 81,000km of coastline was vulnerable to tsunamis.

The system, which consists of buoys linked to detectors on the seabed, was developed at a cost of 1.4 trillion rupiahs (\$130 million). Germany contributed 45 million Euros (\$56 million) to the project, while China, Japan, the USA and France contributed equipment and technical assistance.

Since 2005, the government has been conducting tsunami preparedness drills in various parts of the country every year on 26 December - the annual anniversary of the 2004 tsunami.

Source: [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)

Editor: Daniel Paz,  
Salta, Argentina



Editor: Daniel Paz,  
Salta, Argentina



Topics

**Disaster Reduction and Climate Change**

Floods are a problem for education in Yemen.

# Floods are a problem for education in Yemen

Towns such as al-Qatn, al-Sawm, Wadi Amd, Seyoun and Mukalla have been affected by floods the past October, and now rains are still causing troubles. Seventy percent of the 42 schools in Mukalla, Hadramaut's biggest district in which about 50,000 students are enrolled, were damaged. Children lost their books and useful materials for classes.

But another problem is that schools (the ones which weren't damaged) are being used as shelters for hundreds of people. Local authorities are planning to open proper camps for displaced people. Around 25,000 people were displaced people in Hadramaut, half of whom were women and children.

Many of the displaced people don't want to leave schools, they disagree about tents under the sun. The activities in schools maybe will start in 2 weeks. But by now nobody want to leave schools.

UNICEF is helping children with some material aimed to 1 to 5 grade students.



Children find it difficult to attend their school and have the adequate material.

Source: [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)

Editor: Nikta Noparast  
Iran



Topics

**Disaster Reduction and Climate Change**

Earthquakes, what to do?

# Earthquakes, what to do?

Earthquake is one of the most frightening and destructive natural disaster. If the earthquake occurs in a populated area, it may cause many deaths and injuries and extensive property damage.

As you will never have warning that an earthquake is coming, you should always be ready to face it.

Editor: Nikta Noparast  
Iran



## Topics

**Disaster Reduction and Climate Change**  
Earthquakes, what to do?

### WHAT TO DO BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE:

1. Fasten shelves securely to walls and Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
2. Identify safe places indoors and outdoors .these safe places could be Under sturdy furniture, Against an inside wall , In the open, away from buildings .
3. Educate yourself and family members what to do in case of earthquake.
4. have First aid kit and manual in your house.
5. Bolt down and secure to the wall studs your water heater, refrigerator, furnace, and gas appliances
6. have an automatic gas shut-off valve installed that is triggered by strong vibrations.
7. Locate safe spots in each room under a sturdy table or against an inside wall.
8. *.know where are gas, electricity and water switches to turn off.*

### WHAT TO DO DURING AN EARTHQUAKE:

1. If you are inside stay inside until the shaking has stopped, you could get hurt from falling glass or parts of buildings. !!Most injuries during earthquakes occur when people are hit by falling objects when entering into or exiting from buildings.
2. If you are outside, stay away from buildings and power lines.  
  
Take cover under a desk, table, or other large and stable piece of furniture.
3. If you are driving when an earthquake happens, stop the car if it's safe. Stay Sin the vehicle, set the parking brake, and turn on the radio for emergency broadcast. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses, and utility wires.
4. if you are on the ground floor of a building, with a heavy ceiling, you should try to move quickly outside to an open space. This cannot be recommended as a substitute for building earthquake-resistant structures in the first place!
5. Do not use elevators. You may get stuck in the elevator.

Editor: Nikta Noparast  
Iran



### Topics

### Climate Change and disaster reduction

Earthquakes, what to do?

6. Stay away from glass, windows, hanging objects, bookcases, and anything that could fall.

7. Be aware that Lights may be out or the sprinkler systems or fire alarms may turn on and hallways, stairs, and room exits may be blocked by fallen furniture

8. If the lights go out Do not light a match. There may be a gas leak, an explosion could result.

9. If you can take cover under a heavy desk or table and it moves, try to move with it.

10. If you are in a crowded public place, do not rush for the doorways. take cover and grab something to shield your head and face

#### WHAT TO DO AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE:

1. Check to see if electric, water, and gas lines are damaged. If they are, shut off the valves. If you smell gas, open a window and quickly leave the building.

2. Stay away from damaged buildings and areas. You could get hurt by broken glass and falling objects.

3. Listen to the radio for more information.

4. if you are driving, watch for hazards created by the earthquake, such as breaks in the pavement, downed utility poles and wires, a fallen overpasses and bridges.

5. Stay away from damaged areas.

6. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.

7. Help injured or trapped persons

8. Leave the area if you smell gas or fumes from other chemicals.

9. Clean up potentially harmful materials and/or medicines which may have spilled.

10.. If you experience a strong earthquake and you live along the coast be alert for news of tsunami warnings and Move to higher ground as soon as you are able.

Sources:

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) ; [www.emergency.cdc.gov](http://www.emergency.cdc.gov); [www.thebeehive.org](http://www.thebeehive.org); [www.earthquakecountry.info](http://www.earthquakecountry.info); [www.seagrant.uaf.edu](http://www.seagrant.uaf.edu)

Editor: Abe Fergusson  
Trinidad and Tobago



#### Topics

#### Disaster Reduction and Climate Change

The hurricane Omar hit the islands of the Carib.

# The hurricane Omar hit the islands of the Carib

## CDERA Situation Report #2 – Hurricane Omar

**Message:** Storm Surge associated with the passage of Hurricane Omar cause damage in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines,

### The Event

Storm surge associated with Hurricane Omar which formed in the Caribbean Sea have resulted in widespread flooding and significant coastal damage in some areas of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines. There have been no reports of deaths.

### The Situation

#### Dominica:

The West Coast of Dominica received a severe battering from Hurricane Omar from about midnight October 15, 2008. A preliminary report from the Office of Disaster Management has indicated that there is wide spread infrastructural damage to roads, sea defenses, ports and utilities from sea swells and several families have been affected.

About 30 families or approximately 125 persons from the West Coast were made homeless and are currently with friends and families.

The Community of Scotts Head in the south, with a population of 450, is cut off from the rest of the country and will be for a few days since the coastal road to that community is extensively damage. That community is without electricity, water and landline telephones.

Access to several other com munities along the west coast is difficult.

Due to heavy lightning activities, there were widespread power outages. Several areas around the island were still without electricity and landline phones. During the day the cell phone service was intermittent.

Editor: Abe Fergusson  
Trinidad and Tobago



#### Topics

#### Disaster Reduction and Climate Change

The hurricane Omar hit the islands of the Carib.

The main port was damaged and the Ferry Terminal was extensively damaged. The Cruise ship ports were slightly damaged. All barge access for hauling sand and stones were totally destroyed.

The west side of the Canefield Airport was slightly damaged. Seven 'sizeable' boats ran aground in the second town of Portsmouth and two in the villages of Bioche/Dublanc.

Fishermen from the entire West Coast lost boats, boat houses, engines and fishing gear.

#### **National Actions**

The severe weather resulted in Government's decision to shut down the country for 24 hours on Thursday October 16, 2008. The Airport on the West Coast and Shipping was suspended, but the main Airport and essential services were kept operational. Damage assessment is continuing to determine the full extent of the impact.

#### **Grenada**

Significant wave height was reported in the area of the northern and western coast line extending to parts of the south.

No significant damage reported except for encroachment of waves into land space and some of the streets in the city of Saint George. There are areas of beach erosion towards the south parts of the island. A more detail assessment is being carried out to determine the extent of the damage.

#### **Saint Lucia**

The National Emergency Management Organization has informed that the island suffered coastal impacts from the storm surge associated with Hurricane Omar. The Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) Team is currently conducting assessment a report will be released soon.

#### **St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

The western coast of St.Vincent and the Grenadines was severely impacted by storm surge from Hurricane Omar Preliminary assessment has indicated wide spread flooding, significant erosion and destruction and damage to coastal prop businesses in the Kingstown areas, Central Leeward, East St. George and the Northern and Southern Grenadines. Dan assessment is continuing.

Editor: Abe Fergusson  
Trinidad and Tobago



## Topics

### Disaster Reduction and Climate Change

The hurricane Omar hit the islands of the Carib.

The Cruise Ship terminal building received significant damage and the businesses housed in the terminal were evacuated. Approximately 20 shops housed in the Bus Terminal in the area of Little Tokyo were destroyed from Storm Surge and several were damaged from the flood waters.

Several vehicles were damaged as a result of a collapsed retaining wall

In Central Leeward, there was wide spread flooding of several houses and one school was under water. There was significant damage to the jetties in the Grenadines with several being completely destroyed.

Approximately ten fishing boats were destroyed and several reportedly received significant damage.

#### **National Actions**

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) was partially activated. NEMO released several bulletins urging the public to be cautious, in particular persons who were venturing into dangerous waters.

NEMO utilised the Search and Rescue Vehicle which was provided through CDERA under the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to assist fishermen in pulling their boats from the water.

Rapid Assessment Teams were deployed to the affected areas on mainland and to the Grenadines. The teams included representatives from the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) and the Ministry of Transport and Works.

#### **Regional Actions**

The Coordinating Unit of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency has not been requested to provide any assistance at this time but stands ready to do so in the event that this is required following further assessment of the damage.

The CDERA CU will continue to remain in contact with the affected Participating States and will provide updates as necessary.

The Regional Response Mechanism remains on standby.



**Comments:** It is easy to note that floods mixed with a bad drainage system and weak politics have not a good taste. I like to see that some countries are taking care of the situation, investing money and teaching people.

There is not a good panorama in the Carib, were many people lost their lives. As everybody know this area has ever been attacked by this kind of natural disaster, so people in there are used to face them. But they should never loose their faith and then continue fighting for their future.

■ **For more information please contact** ■

ndys@jearn.jp <http://ndys.jearn.jp>

NDYS Committee Office: c/o JEARN Office / NGO support center/ Hyogo International Plaza 5-1, 1-chome, Wakinohamakaigan-dori Chuo-ku, Kobe, Hyogo 651-0073, JAPAN



*"Communication saves lives!"*