



# NDYS in Action, Newsletter

Natural Disaster Youth Summit Monthly News

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

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## The VOICE of YOUTH is NEEDED!

Editor: Daniel Paz,  
Salta, Argentina



### Topics

#### Climate Change and disaster reduction

LET'S SAY GREETINGS and "WATER DAY MESSAGES TO THE WORLD"

. LET'S MEET AT VIDEO CONFERENCE Which will be held on 23th of March, Tuesday, at 10:00 a.m. (Turkiye time) in Bursa, Turkiye.



NDYS Turkiye team

## Let's say greetings and "Water Day Messages to the world" through video conference.

There will be a **Water Day Symposium**, which will be held in the City Convention Center by the Metropolitan Municipality of Bursa, Turkiye. We and our partners have four part activities. Video conference is the third one. VC will be held on 23th of March, Tuesday, at 10:00 a.m. (Turkiye time)

1. 09:00 – 09:30 "Keep A Drop Of Water Save Your Future" Project activities
2. 09:30 – 10:00 WHAT NDYS IS...
  - a. Introducing NDYS with questions and answers with the film of Taiwan on the screen by our school and Uludag University students . b. Global warming message time of AIESEC students <http://www.myaiesec.net> from different countries who are in our town now.
3. 10:00 – 10:25 VIDEO CONFERENCE
  - a. A video conference with the ndys partner schools to say greetings
  - b. Saying some messages or declaration sentence for the water day online.
4. 10:25 – 10:30 BODY PERCUSSION

Let's meet at <http://hera.hyogo-c.ed.jp/adhoctool/entrance.cgi> .

Contact to get ID with: Would you please contact with NDYS office Japan, <[ndys@jearn.jp](mailto:ndys@jearn.jp)>, to get your id and password to join this meeting on meeting plaza.

by TUNCSIPER SCHOOLS NDYS TEAM, TURKIYE

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Topics

**Climate Change and disaster reduction**  
Droughts treath agriculture in Vietnam.

## Droughts treath agriculture in Vietnam

As temperatures rise in Vietnam, a nationwide drought has dried up riverbeds, sparked forest fires and now threatens one of the world's richest agricultural regions, upon which millions depend for their livelihoods.

"The Mekong Delta is facing a serious drought," said Nguyen Minh Giam, deputy director of the National Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting Centre for the southern region.

Water levels on the Mekong River are at an almost 20-year low, largely as a result of the rainy season ending early and a precipitous drop in water flow upstream, he said.



Memory...and fear

With virtually no rainfall in the north since September, fires have burned through the northern provinces of Lao Cai and Lai Chau. In central Vietnam, sustained temperatures of about 38 degrees Celsius have sent hundreds to local hospitals.

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the heat and humidity have sparked a plague of insects and worms, which have eaten through thousands of hectares of rice paddies. The drought conditions in the delta are also being felt in other Mekong countries because of the early end to the 2009 wet season, as well as low monsoon rainfall.

The Mekong River Commission, a regional monitoring body, on 26 February warned of significantly lower than average water levels on the Mekong River in Laos and Thailand, which it says will affect the economic development of already impoverished people there.

The Red River, upon which millions of Vietnamese in the north depend for fishing and irrigation, is at its lowest in more than 100 years, according to records beginning in 1902. The drought has turned sections of the normally bustling river into sand dunes, bringing river traffic to a halt. "Never before has the water been so low that most ships cannot move," said Nguyen Manh Khoa, from Phu Tho province, whose debts are piling up as his new boat sits idle.

Each day Khoa does not work hauling cargo on the Red River he loses about US\$80. But after getting his boat stuck on the sandbars several times, it has become too risky to venture out.

With the spring rice crops already in, frantic farmers living along the Red River have had no choice but to pay out large sums to private entrepreneurs armed with pumps to extract dwindling amounts of water for their fields. As an emergency measure, the government has released water from its reservoirs, which are at critical lows. But the seedlings are competing with the state-owned hydroelectric firm, which says it will need the water to meet record-breaking power demands as temperatures are set to soar this summer.

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The region under greatest threat, however, remains the southern Mekong Delta, known as the nation's rice bowl, where the Mekong River flows into the sea.

During the dry season, salt water from the South China Sea can push 30km inland. This year, communities as far as 60km up-river are reporting salt contamination. "Salinization has been a pattern in the Mekong Delta the last 30 to 50 years, but things are getting worse every year due to climate change," said Pham Van Du, deputy director at the Department of Planting in the agricultural ministry. He estimates that 100,000ha of rice in the Mekong Delta are under threat.

Some blame China, where the Mekong begins, for Vietnam's water woes. According to the Mekong River Commission, China has built or is planning to build eight dams on its side of the border. But meteorologists say the return of El Niño, a cyclical warming pattern, is the real culprit.

Ian Wilderspin, senior technical adviser for disaster risk management at the UN Development Programme in Hanoi, said climate change meant Vietnam would experience droughts that arrived sooner and lasted longer. The government has moved to assist farmers by releasing water from the reservoirs and installing pumps. But considering the magnitude of the problem, "more needs to be done", he said.

"We have to look at the ways and means to build resilience of local communities," said Wilderspin, whether by providing drought-resistant seeds, planting different crops or protecting fresh water sources. "Climate change is only going to make these cycles worse."

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

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Topics

**Climate Change and disaster reduction**  
Vietnam is at risk.

## Vietnam is at risk

Serious efforts are under way to respond to the impact of climate change in Vietnam but a lack of capacity and resources remains a challenge, experts say.

Vietnam has been identified as one of 12 countries at highest risk from climate change and is the most threatened by rising sea levels, according to World Bank studies

UN-cited data on global climate change and model studies show that Vietnam is at increased risk of floods and droughts, saline intrusion and increased health risks from heat waves, dengue fever and malaria.

However, experts say the government has acted quickly and is leading neighbouring countries such as Cambodia and Laos in trying to create policies to respond to climate change.



The National Target Programme (NTP) was approved by Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung in December 2008, and began implementation last year. “Vietnam is to be commended for having pulled this off so quickly,” Koos Neefjes, policy adviser on climate change at the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in Vietnam. Coordinated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), the NTP is intended to help develop an overall climate change strategy, including goals for adaptation and the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.

The document lays out responsibilities for ministries and government agencies and asks all cities and provinces to devise their own climate change action plans by the end of this year, to be implemented by 2015.

It also aims to assess climate change impacts and ensure assessments are incorporated into development and investment plans. Vietnam is home to two major fertile plains, the Mekong Delta and Red River Delta, key agricultural areas and home to 40 percent of the country's 86.2 million inhabitants. They were identified as the most vulnerable areas in a November 2009 government report supported by the UN Environment Programme, which stated that more than one-third of the Mekong Delta could be submerged if sea levels rose by 1m.

Nine of the 10 provinces in Vietnam likely to be worst hit are in the Mekong Delta, but the effects on Ho Chi Minh City could be equally devastating. Besides hosting potential climate change “refugees” from the Mekong Delta, infrastructure and housing would be damaged in the city, energy demands would increase, as would vector-borne diseases, experts say.

Vietnam is well-versed in water management because of a history of disasters such as floods, but there are questions over its capacity to fully implement policies, they say.

“The policy frameworks are very good. [The problem is] the capacity in government agencies to pick up on policy commitments. It's not only skills,” said Jeremy Carew-Reid, director of the Australia and Vietnam based-International Centre for Environmental Management (ICEM) consultancy. There are possible hurdles in multi-tiered government with 58 provincial administrations. “The challenge is to do the planning of the sectors [such as agriculture] as well as the planning in provinces,” said Nguyen Van Kien, climate change adviser to the UK Department for International Development (DFID) in Vietnam.

Strong coordination between sectors and effective oversight are needed at a national level, while capacity, technical expertise and awareness of climate change varies from ministry to ministry, according to a UN discussion paper on Vietnam and climate change released in December 2009.

“Provinces and lower-level authorities must rapidly develop their action plans to respond to climate change too, which will also require large-scale awareness raising and capacity-building efforts,” it says.

The government said last month it needed US\$3-\$5 billion until 2015 to respond to climate change. “To protect Vietnam's deltas and coastal regions from ... sea level rise and related saline water intrusion, large investments in research and design are needed, followed by investments on an unprecedented scale,” said the UN discussion paper.

For the NTP, the government is aiming for foreign and private sector capital to comprise 60 percent of the funds needed for the activities outlined. However, experts say it will be difficult to attract private sector funding for adaptation or mitigation measures. Meanwhile, Vietnam also needs to develop the capacity to access international financing available for climate change adaptation.

“Vietnam still needs to raise the money itself,” said UNDP's Neefjes. “The high economic growth the country is experiencing is the magic bullet. Vietnam realizes it will have to rely on itself. If you can keep the economic growth up, the money will flow in the right direction.”

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

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Topics

**Climate Change and disaster reduction**  
Terrible earthquake killed dozens in Turkey.

## Terrible earthquake killed dozens in Turkey



This was the result of the terrible earthquake.

The epicenter of the 6° grade earthquake (Richter scale) was located near Karakocan city and affected Elazig province. There were dozens of injured people. The earthquake occurred during late night in Elazig Province killed 57 people and left more than 50 injured.

People run away to streets and spent the night there afraid of new tremors.

Turkey is situated in a seismic zone where African and Euro-Asiatic plaques gather.

The tremors occurred in a mountainous area and affected little houses made of mud.

More than 40 tremors followed the first one and the intensity varied from 2.6 to 5 grades.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan , Prime Minister, expressed his deep pain and gave his support to victims.

“Unfortunately, the percentage of houses made of mud is high in that zone” he said and added that his intentions are rebuild that area improving the architecture.

Elazig city has 320,000 habitants and is one of the most important cities of the Anatolia region. In 1990 a big earthquake left 18,000 dead people affecting several cities on the west region



**Comments:** What amount of information about Vietnam we have! Well, for first instance I should say that region is in needing, it has always been like that, and two giants contribute to climate change in the region, so it is not worth to put food at risk, better think twice.

I want to express my deep pain for the horrible scenes I saw about Turkey, all those children, old people...Why do this has to happen? Why like this? Answer is physical but question has a salvation desire...



*"Communication saves lives!"*

■ For more information please contact ■

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