



# NDYS in Action, Newsletter

Natural Disaster Youth Summit Monthly News

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## LET'S BE PREPARED FOR DISASTER!

Editor: Sergio Daniel Paz,  
Salta-Argentina  
Abe Fergusson,  
Port of Spain-TnT

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NDYS Youth Editors

# NDYS 2008 in Trinidad and Tobago (Part 2)



*Abe Fergusson, a NDYS Youth  
Ambassador in TnT*

### Abe's Report:

Natural Disasters Youth Summit 2008 was a great learning experience for me from the inception of having written an essay about natural disasters, being one of the global winners, and participating in this project over the years, a few things stood out in my memory. The joy of greeting the delegation from Japan at the airport will linger in my mind, and working together for the days that followed, then came the morning's opening ceremony. The interaction with our local schools and their presentations were better than expected, I was very proud of each one. See the hard work that went into the preparation, the visits to the schools all came into play.

Our declaration was sent to the Honorable Prime Minister, His Excellency the President of Trinidad and Tobago and taken by Mrs. Gaspard Taylor to the Organization of American States (OAS) Civil Society Hemispheric Forum in Florida, and submitted in the workshop on sustainable development including natural disasters and climate change, since returning we have been asked to network with the Secretariat on Team T.T in preparation for the hosting of the 5<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Americas, when 34 heads of Governments will come together here in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009, we have put forward a proposal for a "youth constituency within the climate change regime of the hemisphere" the same will go forward to the Commonwealth Heads of Governments which will be held here in October 2009.

Thank you to all and everyone who contributed to the success of the NDYS 2008, the work has just begun.

**Presentation Program (Day 2) April 29 , 9:00~12:40**

Theme: Climate Change and disaster reduction

Place: The Chaguaramas Hotel and Convention Center , Chaguaramas, Trinidad and Tobago

1. Lakshmi Girl's Hindu College, ST. Augustine UNESCO CLUB (TnT)



2. Mu Canapo Girles' R,C School ST James (TnT)



3. SPEYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL (TnT)

*"Life or extinction?" Facing the reality of Coral Reefs in Tobago"*



4. Ava Schaveita & Vicki bush  
Coral Cay Conservation, Tobago  
*“Global Warming and Threats to the Coral Reef Ecosystem”*
5. Private Tunçsiper School / Bursa, Turkey  
*“Global Warming quiz answer key”*
6. El Dorado Secondary Comprehensive School (TnT)  
*“The Effects Of Climate Change on Women”*
7. Hillview College (TnT)  
*“How natural disasters affect women both locally and internationally!”*
8. Kobe Municipal Fukiai High School, Japan  
*“Global Warming and Disaster Reduction”*
9. Hyogo Prefectural Kawanishi Takarazuka Ryogen SHS, Japan  
*“Global Warming and Disaster Reduction” & “Global Disaster Map Making”*

## Workshop April 29, 13:00~14:30

### 1) Discussion



#### Question

1. What can we do in order to decrease global warming effects? List them please.?
2. What are the effective actions that can be done to teach others about Natural Disasters or Global Warming? Eg. Making posters
3. Do you think disasters are really natural? Why or why not?

### 2) Making Monument





# Myanmar and forest

Due to the fact that several areas were “cleaned” in order to expand rice cultivation, many people suffered a devastating catastrophe last week. Most of the thousands of people who perished when the cyclone Nargis slammed into the country on 2 and 3 May are believed to have drowned in the fierce 3.5m storm surge that swept nearly 40km inland.

The FAO(UN's Food and Agriculture Organization) told that this is a lesson to be took by the government leaders because now there should not be time to think about economics, because mangrove forest were devastated by the local government for increasing income averages, but this only made the situation to get worst. The FAO say that those mangrove forests which don't exist nowadays could stop in an important way the strong winds.

As of 16 May, the official death toll from Nargis stood at more than 43,000, with nearly 28,000 missing, while the Red Cross and UN believe the toll could top 100,000.



Water level after Nargis passed away.

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

# Tragedy in China

The earthquake started near Dujiangyan and Chengdu, Sichuan's provincial capital and covering an area of 100 kilometers approximately. Buildings had been damaged in a severe way and some water towers collapsed. This EQ reached 7.9 (Richter scale) and caused 107 deaths, but officials are afraid this amount will increase.

Students at school felt that everything was moving around them, everybody started running out of school, but unfortunately many kids were injured and some of them died. The scene was something horrible, people from the outside trying to rescue those inside and below fragments of building.

People who were downtown run to the street and felt very scared, strong aftershocks were still occurring around them, during the day people didn't want to return home, because they said they were afraid of the EQ to come again.



This map shows the location of the epicenter and the area covered.



People helping injured citizens because of the falling fragments of buildings

Source: BBC news

# Preparedness is essential

Despite being located in one of the world's most seismically active zones, Kathmandu's earthquake preparedness is low and the lives of tens of thousands of residents are at risk, according to local experts.

"The next earthquake will be very disastrous if we fail to improve our preparedness," said expert Amod Dixit from the Nepal National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET).

Kathmandu's urban growth rate is nearly 6.5 percent every year, with one of the highest densities in the world. Nearly 6,000 concrete houses are built every year, and mostly without proper engineering and seismic force considerations, according to NSET.

According to the government's Earthquake Division at the Department of Mines and Geology, the last big earthquake took place in 1934 when nearly 17,000 people died in a minute. The government

reported that the quake's magnitude was eight degrees on the Richter scale.

The earthquake destroyed nearly one quarter of all homes and many historic temples.

If an earthquake of that magnitude were to happen within a decade, it would cause significantly greater human casualties, physical damage and economic loss than past earthquakes, according to NSET's Kathmandu Valley Earthquake Risk Management Project.



Deficient buildings and low preparedness are the most important things to develop from now.



**Personal Comments:** I think the Government of every country should try to think first on safety then in other things, because if not any project will have been a waste of time and money.

I feel a grief of sorrow for Chinese people, it has been a hard situation and I wish families and survivors would get over from it. It is nice to see those people helping each other, that is how we should work every day.

To finish this comment I want to say that preparedness is very important for countries which are familiar with natural disasters. The Government should not skip these kinds of problems and society should try to let them know about them.



*"Communication saves lives!"*

■ **For more information please contact** ■

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

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