



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
Secretariat, Geneva

**Global Platform for
Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR)
Side Event Report**

Side event title:	“Multi-Agency Partnership for Development and Implementation of Operational Early Warning Systems with Multi-Hazard Approach at National and Regional Levels: Towards a Global Coverage
Organiser(s):	WMO and PPEW
Speakers and presenters (name, title, organisation):	<p>Mr. Douglas Pattie, Coordinator, UN/ISDR Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW)</p> <p>Dr. Maryam Golnaraghi Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction Programme World Meteorological Organization</p> <p>Dr. Juan Carlos Villagran Head of Section, Risk Management, United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security</p>
Outline of content:	<p>Points addressed during the discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Issuance of warnings is a national mandate.➤ Warning from multiple sources can create confusion. In this regard, media plays a significant role although inappropriate information can create confusion and panic.➤ There is need for better reporting of existing capacities in early warnings systems including, state for forecasting of different hazards (ref. Representative from DKKV).➤ There is need to built linkages between different geographic and time scales to cover different hazards.➤ Regional cooperation is critical for development of early warning systems. Examples include regional cooperation for warnings of tropical cyclone, tsunami, forest fire, and sand and dust storms. The example of meteoalarm (www.meteoalarm.eu) was presented as an initiative to better share and harmonize authoritative warning information at the regional level.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Warnings with longer lead-time (months) based on seasonal climate forecasting capacities targeting specific uses (e.g., energy, agriculture, etc) are also needed (ref. UK Cabinet office). ➤ Management issues needs to be considered (ref. land use planning for fire monitoring etc). ➤ Better understanding of linkages of climate variability and Climate change to changing patterns of hazard intensity and frequency and risk reduction can induce investment from civil society. ➤ How warnings should reach humanitarian agencies for their support is also very important. ➤ Earth observation systems are very important (ref. GEO) ➤ Response capacity should be strengthened and better integrated with warning information through actions.
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Recommendations for the ISDR system (list 2 or 3 items):	<p>1) Significant efforts of agencies and PPEW Secretariat will be combined through a Thematic Cluster on Early Warning Systems, with the goal to foster inter-agency partnerships towards a more coherent and comprehensive approach among agencies to supporting the development of operational early warning systems and ensuring effective utilization of this information for reducing impacts of disasters. These will be complemented with key international activities for sharing knowledge, reporting on the status of EWS, advocacy and ensuring that investments and efforts are directed towards this area.</p> <p>2) The Thematic Cluster on Early Warning Systems would be co-chaired by two agencies with complementary expertise and initiatives, and chairing will be rotated every two years, with the cycle of the Global Platform Sessions, to ensure buy-in and involvement of different agencies in this process.</p> <p>3) I am also very pleased to inform you that during WMO Congress in May 2007, France kindly offered to host the Second Symposium on Multi-hazard Early Warning System, during the first quarter of 2009.</p> <p>4) Finally, it is recommended that the next Sessions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction pay more significant attention to early warnings with specific workshops and events dedicated to this topic to facilitate sharing of experiences and identification of evolving needs and priorities that needs to be addressed.</p>
Additional Information and links:	ISDR/PPEW: http://www.unisdr.org/ppew/ WMO: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dpm
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