



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Philippines Government, UNISDR to Launch 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction in Manila, 26 July 2011

Venue: Sen. Padilla Room, the Senate of the Philippines, Manila
Time: Tuesday 26 July 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Geneva, 21 July: The Government of the Philippines and the United Nations secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) will launch the latest United Nation's Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR11) this Tuesday, 26 July, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., at the Sen. Padilla Room, the Senate of the Philippines, Manila.

The launch of UNISDR's flagship report - Revealing Risk, Redefining Development - will present key findings and discuss their implications in the specific country context. Moreover, the launch, will serve as a forum to examine gaps in the government's disaster prevention, mitigation, and preparedness measures, as well as propose priority interventions.

The Philippines is one of 130 Governments engaged in self assessments of their progress towards implementing the objectives and goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) which includes strengthening disaster management including the institutional and legislative arrangements that underpin it.

The event will be attended by some 150 high-level guests, including senators, members of the Congress, cabinet secretaries, ambassadors, local government executives, civil society leaders, and representatives of the media.

The launch will takes place the day after the State of the Union address by Philippines President, His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III.

Senator Loren Legarda, herself a UNISDR Regional Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for Asia Pacific, who will give the opening address said, "I hope this event will further enhance awareness of disaster risk among political and business leaders and encourage renewed commitment of key stakeholders to implement disaster risk reduction at national and local levels".

The launch of GAR11 comes right on the heels of the adoption by 16 Parliamentarians from the Philippine House of Representatives on 17 July of "the Incheon Resolution of the Philippine Parliamentarians on Effective Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change

Adaptation" which calls for the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the national budget legislation.

A series of studies, some of which were conducted in the Philippines, have shown the negative impact that disasters have on child welfare. Recent estimates suggest that at least 66.5 million children are affected by disasters annually and it has been recognized that new approaches to reducing children's vulnerability to disasters are required. The Philippines is a leader in this regard as its legislation provides opportunities for child-centered initiatives and involving young adults in decision-making at local level.

The Report highlights these examples and commends the country for its overall success in the development of community-led disaster risk reduction through community associations and local development funds that give people a more direct say in how the money for risk reduction and development is spent. GAR11 also showcases the recent positive experience of the country in linking risk management with efforts in climate change adaptation, a strategy that will become increasingly important in the future as the recent adoption of the Incheon resolution shows.

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon launched GAR11 globally on 10 May at the Third Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction held from 8-13 May 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland. Since its global launch, the GAR has also been rolled out in 22 cities: Bangkok (Barbados), Beirut (Lebanon), Bridgetown (Barbados), Brussels (Belgium), Cairo (Egypt), Canberra (Australia), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Hanoi (Viet Nam), Incheon (Republic of Korea), Jakarta (Indonesia), Kuwait City (Kuwait), London (United Kingdom), Miami (United States), Nairobi (Kenya), New York (United States), Oslo (Norway), Panama City (Panama), Rouseau (Dominica), San Salvador (El Salvador), Tokyo (Japan), and Washington D.C. (United States).

According to the GAR11, progress towards the HFA is mixed. While the risk of death and injury due to floods and tropical cyclones is declining globally as countries invest in early warning and preparedness, risks such as economic loss and damage to homes, health facilities, livelihoods and schools are increasing and particularly in high income countries, as rapid increases in exposure are not being compensated for by matching reductions in vulnerability. And while the economies of many low- and middle income countries are growing, GAR11 states that it will take longer to tackle risks in a sustainable manner and develop institutions that successfully manage risk.

The report flags the need for systematic accounting of disaster losses and impacts, and comprehensive assessment of disaster risks. Innovative approaches are also emerging that suggest a new risk governance paradigm, such as the adaptation of existing policies and development instruments in areas such as public investment planning and social protection.

The report also notes that while the institutional and legislative arrangements that many countries have adopted to manage their disaster risks may be effective in responding to disasters, they do not necessarily address underlying risk drivers. Reforming these arrangements is therefore essential to further progress. GAR11 discusses the case for locating policy responsibility for disaster risk management in a ministry with political responsibility for national planning and public investment, and with leverage and influence over development sectors.

GAR11 will be presented by Mr. Andrew Maskrey, its Coordinating Lead Author, with remarks from Senate President Juan Ponce-Enrile; Jerry Velasquez, UNISDR's Senior Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific; the Honourable Cayetano Paderanga, Jr., Secretary for Socio-Economic Planning and Director General, National Economic and Development Authority

(NEDA). This will be followed by an open forum moderated by Senator Legarda and then a presentation of a Report on Risk Information and Early Warning Dissemination by Undersecretary Benito Ramos, Executive Director of the National Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC). Senator Legarda will also give the closing address.

The various launches of the GAR are taking place amidst a growing momentum around Disaster risk reduction which to date has seen some 752 cities join UNISDR's Making Cities Resilient: "My city is getting ready" campaign; a very forward looking and energized Global Platform in May of this year and governments of high risk nations such as the Maldives recently stepping up to the challenges ahead of them by fully endorsing the world's first Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) that integrates Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). This new action plan which places DRR and CCA in the development planning of the Maldives is major step towards preparedness and was praised as "a perfect model based on what we have been consistently advocating", according to the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlström.

All interested Media may attend.

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The logo for the Global Assessment Report (GAR) features the letters 'GAR' in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. The background is a semi-transparent image of a cityscape with buildings and a body of water.The year '2011' is displayed in a large, white, sans-serif font. The background is a semi-transparent image of a wind farm with several wind turbines against a cloudy sky.

**Philippine launch of the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction:
*Revealing Risk, Redefining Development***

Tuesday, 26 July 2011, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Sen. Padilla Room, Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City

10:00

Welcome Remarks

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile

10:10

Opening Address

Senator Loren Legarda

UNISDR Regional Champion on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for Asia and the Pacific

10:20

Introductory Remarks

Dr. Jerry Velasquez

Senior Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific, UNISDR

10:25

Presentation on GAR 2011

Mr. Andrew Maskrey

Coordinating Lead Author, GAR 2011

10:55

Remarks

Hon. Cayetano Paderanga, Jr.

Secretary for Socio-Economic Planning and Director General, NEDA

11:05

Open Forum

Senator Loren Legarda

Moderator

Report on Risk Information and Early Warning Dissemination

Undersecretary Benito Ramos

Executive Director
National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

Closing Statement

Senator Loren Legarda