



PREVIEW PROGRAMME

RESPONDING TO FLOODING – IMPROVING THE PREPARATION AND RESPONSE

Monday 26 – Thursday 29 January 2009

940th WILTON PARK CONFERENCE

in co-operation with in co-operation with the UN Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

How well prepared are countries, particularly developing countries, to respond to the predicted increase in wind, storm and flood as a result of climate change? What lessons have been learnt from recent best practice in both developing and developed countries to provide an improved immediate response through preparedness, rescue and the early recovery phase? What progress is being made in preparedness at national, regional and international level? What progress in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) in relation to floods? How can the resilience of affected communities be improved and their needs best met? What role for insurance?

Wilton Park will bring together a unique mix of experts including those involved in the relief and response phase and others involved in mitigating the risk through risk reduction efforts. Wilton Park's style encourages and highly participative discussion and valuable networking.

This Wilton Park conference continues the series of conferences focusing on the response to natural disasters and the preparedness for them. A conference specifically focused on the prevention of flooding and adapting to climate change will be the next conferences in this series.

Speakers invited and themes proposed (*speakers confirmed)

MONDAY 26 JANUARY

1300-1430 Buffet lunch available

1500 Introduction to the conference
Robin HART
Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

1515-1630 1 **STORMS AND FLOODS: WHAT ARE CHALLENGES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO IMPROVE ITS RESPONSE?**
How well prepared is the international community to deal with the expected increase in flooding and its aftermath due to rising sea levels and increased rainstorms? What lessons from the recent floods from Myanmar to Sudan to Eastern Europe? What more can be done in preparation for response? How to co-ordinate better and increase efficiencies? How can the impact be mitigated and lessons learned from disaster risk reduction implemented in the response and early recovery phase? How can the international system ensure increased resilience to flooding? What needs to happen next?

John HOLMES
Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator,
United Nations, New York

What does a flood affected country want from the international community?
***General Glenn RABONZA (in principle)**
Administrator, Office of Civil Defence and Executive Officer, National Disaster Co-ordinating Council, Manila

1645-1730 Photograph and Tea

1730-1900 2 **FLOOD ALERT – UNDERSTANDING THE TRENDS AND IMPROVING THE WARNINGS**
The impact of climate change; predicting extreme weather events, flooding and storm surges. Trends and analysis. How to improve warnings. How can meteorological and hydrological warnings be better integrated? How to ensure warnings are as localised as possible?

Vicky POPE

Head of Climate Change Advice, Met Office Hadley Centre, Exeter

Dennis PARKER

Flood Hazard Research Centre, Middlesex University

Debarati GUHA-SAPIR

Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED); Professor, University of Louvain School of Public Health, Brussels

1900 Drinks Reception followed by Dinner

TUESDAY 27 JANUARY

0915-1045 3 **LESSONS FROM RECENT EXPERIENCES**
ARE WE LEARNING LESSONS? Recent responses to floods and storms and their evaluations
What are the key lessons emerging from the evaluations and assessments of the initial responses to recent floods? What are the lessons for national and international responders? What about the impact of smaller or medium-scale but cumulative floods?

Lessons from the Bihar floods – August 2008

***Anil SINHA**

Co-Chairman, Global Forum for Disaster Reduction (GFDR)

Lessons from evaluations

***Khurshid ALAM**

Author of ALNAP Report “Flood Disasters: Learning from Previous Relief and Recovery Operations” (January 2008); Consultant, Dhaka

1045 Coffee

1115-1245 4 **HOW TO “BUILD BACK BETTER”:** HOW SHOULD THE RESPONSE CATER FOR THE LONGER-TERM?
Sequencing the immediate response with the longer term: the repair and reconstruction of homes and restoring livelihoods. What can be done better? What role for outside actors?
Chair: *Ian DAVIS
Visiting Professor, Disaster Management Centre, Cranfield University

Sálvano BRICEÑO

Director, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Geneva

Maxx DILLEY

Chief, Disaster Reduction Team, UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

1245 Lunch

1500-1630 5 **NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**
BUILDING NATIONAL RESPONSE CAPACITY: HOW?
What are the key components to building a national response mechanism? What lessons from case studies? How to measure preparedness? Insuring a plan works effectively in reality and needs are assessed and met.

Speaker from China to be identified

Mihir BHATT

Disaster Mitigation Institute, Ahmedabad

Bakri BECK

Deputy for Emergency Response, Indonesian National Disaster Management Coordinating Board (BAKORNAS PB), Jakarta

1630 Tea

1700-1745 6 **BUILDING THE NATIONAL RESPONSE CAPACITY AND STRENGTHENING**
1745-1845 **RESILIENCE**

Chair: Jane COCKING, Humanitarian Director, Oxfam

Presentations to plenary followed by discussion in smaller groups:

Increasing the resilience of local communities to respond: What works?

What are the key components of reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience? What progress is being made in developing this? How can the tensions between top-down resources and community approaches be resolved?

Red Cross/Red Crescent nominee

The role of the national military in the preparedness and response phase

What lessons for the military in the preparedness and response phases? How co-ordination with other actors can work in practice?

Speaker to be announced

Building prevention into the response

How can prevention be included in the response and early recovery? What can be done to ensure greater resilience at the time of the next flood? The role of community in building local capacity?

***Margaret ARNOLD**

Head, Provention Consortium, Geneva

The role of insurance

What role for micro-insurance for those either side of the poverty line? How to build government and social nets around those below the poverty line? How to put together a sustainable insurance model which can be scaled up?

Joanne BAYER

Risk and Vulnerability, The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

1930 Dinner

The politics of the response to a flood: experience from the Barmer floods in 2006

***Manvendra SINGH**, Member of Parliament for Barmer, Rajasthan (in principle)

WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY

0915-1045 7 **IMPROVING THE REGIONAL RESPONSES TO FLOODS AND STORMS**

The challenges of creating a regional framework

***Sarah EL-KHAZIN BOUVIER**

Regional Emergency Response Officer, OCHA Regional Office for the Middle East and Central Asia

Broadening the regional dialogue beyond the first responders

***Jean LUC PONCELOT**

Area Manager, Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief, Pan American Health Organisation, Washington DC

1045 Coffee

1115-1200	8	<p>THE INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESPONSE: WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP</p> <p>Introduction: Lessons from the response to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar *Arjun KATOCH Chief, Field Co-ordination Support Section and Secretary INSARAG, Emergency Services Branch, UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Geneva</p>
1200-1300		<p>Discussion in smaller groups to be led by: Mohamed MUKHIER, Head, Disaster Policy and Preparedness Department, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, Geneva Ulla DONS, Mercy Corps, Nepal</p> <p><i>How to put the affected country at the heart of any international response? Who does/can do what and when in the preparation for and aftermath of a flood or storm? What could be done better? How to improve co-ordination of the response between the growing array of international actors including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Multilateral Institutions</i> • <i>Military</i> • <i>Donors</i> • <i>NGOs</i> • <i>Corporates and other new players</i> <p><i>How to ensure that external assistance does more good than harm?</i></p>
1300		Lunch
1500-1600	9	<p>THE INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESPONSE: FEEDBACK FROM DISCUSSION GROUPS and plenary discussion Chair: *Arjun KATOCH Chief, Field Co-ordination Support Section and Secretary INSARAG, Emergency Services Branch, UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Geneva</p>
1600		Tea
1630-1745	10	<p>RESPONDING TO STORMS AND FLOODING IN URBAN AREAS: FUTURE CHALLENGES <i>What are the distinct challenges in the response to a flood in an urban area compared to a rural area? What lessons for preparedness at national, regional and international level?</i></p> <p>Speaker from city government to be announced from Latin American country</p> <p>Paul SHERLOCK Senior Advisor for Emergencies, UNICEF; IASC WASH Cluster Co-ordinator, New York</p>
1745-1800	11	<p>CONCLUSIONS: IMPROVING THE RESPONSE Concluding discussion</p>
1930		Reception drinks followed by Conference Dinner
THURSDAY 29 JANUARY		
0800		Breakfast
0915		Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This conference is open to those with expertise to share or an interest in the theme; our aim is to have a broad spread of nationalities and institutions represented. The full cost of participation is £1,425. This covers all accommodation and meals, attendance at all sessions, and transport from and to Gatwick airport at the beginning and end of the conference. Special rates may be available for those from non-OECD countries, Central, and SE Europe, and also academics and NGO representatives.

Enquiries about participation and local travel to: Mrs Jo Childs, Wilton Park, Wiston House, Steyning, West Sussex. BN44 3DZ Telephone: +44 (0)1903 817755 Fax: +44 (0)1903 817162 jo.childs@wiltonpark.org.uk

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