

## Shared Interests and Mutual Efforts

*Salvano Briceño, Director UN/ISDR*

### 1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium of the Munich Re Foundation

**Worldwide disaster prevention – Awareness is the key**  
Munich, Germany, 16-17 November 2005

## Global Trends (risk components)

Natural and human-induced hazards  
Climate change and variables

**HAZARDS +  
EXTREME EVENTS**

Socio-economic: poverty,  
unplanned urban growth, lack of  
awareness and institutional capacities...

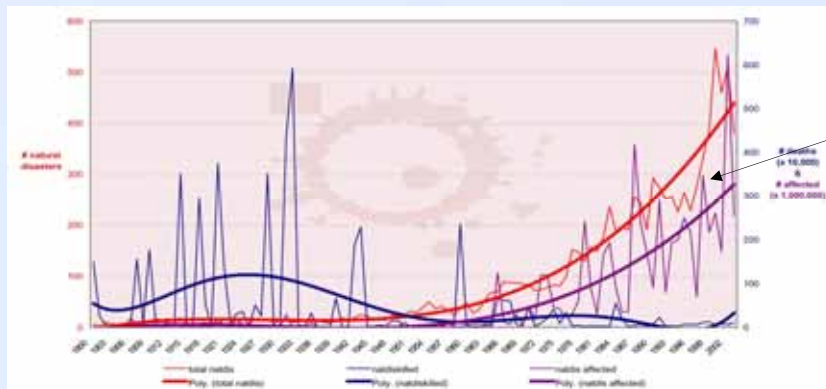
**VULNERABILITY**

Physical: infrastructures located in hazard  
prone areas, ...

Environmental degradation  
oil spills, coastal, watershed, marshland  
degradation, ...), etc.

## Disaster Risks - Rising and Changing

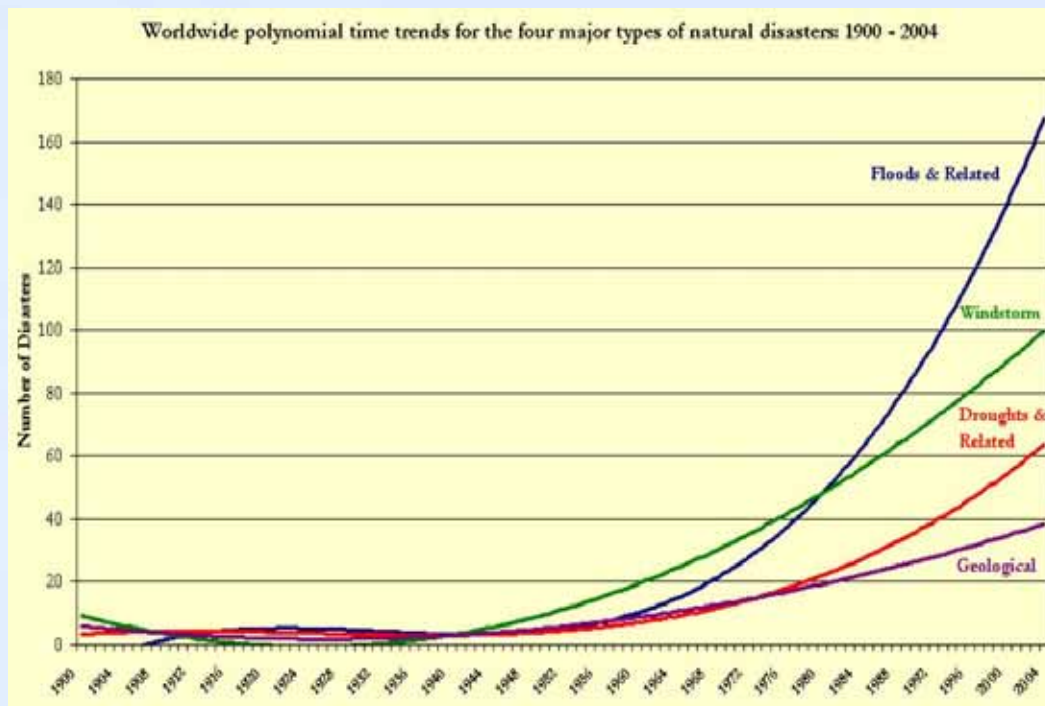
- ✓ Five-fold rise in disasters over 1960s -1990s
- ✓ A vulnerability issue - poor people and countries most affected; a major handicap to development
- ✓ But reductions in drought and storm death tolls, mainly through early warning systems and food aid
- ✓ Climate change prospects loom



*In 2003, natural catastrophes resulted in over 50,000 deaths and US\$ 60 B losses*  
 Source: Munich Re

Source: EM-DAT: The OFDACRED International Disaster Database; [www.em-dat.net](http://www.em-dat.net) – Université catholique de Louvain – Brussels – Belgium

## Polynomial trends in disaster type occurrence, 1900-2004



Source: EM-DAT : The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database.  
<http://www.em-dat.net>, UCL - Brussels, Belgium

## Disaster reduction – an agenda in progress

**1989: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR, 1990-1999)** – promotion of disaster reduction, technical and scientific buy-in

**1994: First World Conference on Disaster Reduction: Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action** – Mid-term review of IDNDR, first blueprint for disaster reduction policy guidance (social and civil society orientation)

**2000: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)** - increased public commitment and linkage to sustainable development, enlarged networking and partnerships. **Institutional mechanisms:** IATF/DR, ISDR secretariat, UN Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction

**2005: Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe): Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015** Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (“Yokohama+10”):

- ✓ 3 Strategic goals
- ✓ 5 Priorities for action
- ✓ Implementation and follow-up

## IMPACT / AWARENESS

- **Indian Ocean Tsunami**
  - Global awareness
  - Lasting regional consequences
  - Early warning
- **“Katrina”, Atlantic Hurricanes**
  - Extended economic, business consequences
  - Social dimensions, political liabilities
  - Technical knowledge unheeded, unrealized
- **Kashmir Earthquake**
  - Limits to relief capabilities
  - “Attention deficit” ?

## Lessons from the tsunami

- Partnerships are critical for relief, response and longer-term recovery, BUT typically result only *after* damage has been done.
- Disasters are dramatic opportunities for change. BUT only if the necessary work had been done beforehand.
- Unmet opportunity: working together to understand hazards and conditions of vulnerability
- INVEST in risk reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness activities, before disaster occur.
- Need to open up our thinking. Outlooks and resources can be applied with different purpose or altered timing.
- Businesses are grown over time, so are capabilities.

## OPPORTUNITY, STRUCTURE ... in a wider global context

- **World Conference on Disaster Reduction**  
Kobe, Hyogo, Japan.
- **Hyogo Framework for Action**
- **Strengthened ISDR *System***
- **Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

# World Conference on Disaster Reduction

- **Governments**
- **Academic, technical professionals**
- **Civil society, NGOs, communities**
- **Private sector**
  - **Commitment to action**
  - **Partnership**
  - **Multiple resources, abilities**
  - **Common plan of action 2005-2015**

## Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building resilience of nations and communities to disasters

### Strategic Goals

- Integrate disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies, planning
- Develop, strengthen institutions and capacities to build resilience to hazards
- Incorporate risk reduction into emergency preparedness, response, recovery programmes

# Hyogo Framework

## Priorities for Action

- Ensure Disaster Risk Reduction is a national *and* local priority, with strong institutional bases
- Identify, assess, monitor risks. Warnings
- Knowledge, education, information
- Sectoral engagement, “mainstreaming”
- Disaster preparedness for effective response

## Strengthened ISDR System

- Developing capacities, in countries
- Applying existing knowledge, experience
- Mapping interests, abilities, resources
- Designated platforms, responsibilities
- Productive partnerships
- Integrated work programmes
- Measuring progress and accomplishments

# Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

- United Nations, Governments
- Regional Institutions, Countries
- Civil society organizations
- ... and the private sector

We must do better, as must commercial interests in matters of *risk* identification and management

## Challenges

- Getting beyond our own *immediate* concerns, sectoral isolation  
“my own house is safe, even though the neighbourhood isn’t”
- Addressing risk, *before* only response
- Multiple needs, multiple resources  
No one has them all, but every actor has some. Are we using them
- Extended relationships, partnership
- Joint marketing, common purposes
- Improved information, across organization

## Public-private partnership opportunities in risk reduction

- GIS and remotely-sensed technologies maps for hazard and risk mapping
- Environmental and natural resource mgmt by developers, planners, commercial establishments
- Applied engineering, construction collaboration to build, situate schools, health facilities, critical transportation, communications, utilities infrastructure with community-assessed protection
- Modern telecommunications for alerts, emergency information
- Media, advertising, information services

## Institutional Collaboration

- UN and Business Collaboration  
UN Global Compact – develop risk elements  
Business UNusual: partnerships as strategic investment
- Global Platform for Risk Reduction  
Business representation, leadership opportunity
- “Joint Venture” risk reduction in country:  
Business leadership in National Platform formation
- Joint “Investment in Preparedness”  
Shared media, sustained advertising public info campaign

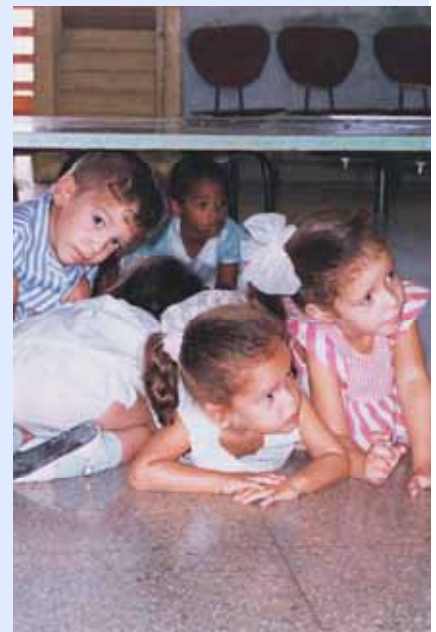
## More Information about ISDR



## International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

*Launched in 2000 by UN General Assembly Resolution A/54/219 as successor of the International Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction –IDNDR, 1990-1999:*

The ISDR aims at building disaster resilient communities by promoting increased awareness of the importance of disaster reduction as an integral component of sustainable development, with the goal of reducing human, social, economic and environmental losses due to natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters.



## Current ISDR System

### 1. Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR) (2 meetings/year: May and Nov. in Geneva)

### 2. Inter-Agency Secretariat of ISDR

- **Headquarters in Geneva**
- Regional offices (LAC, Africa, Asia, planned in Europe)
- Thematic Platforms (Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning in Bonn, International Recovery Platform in Kobe, CIIFEN in Guayaquil, Global Wildland Fire Network in Freiburg)
- Partner Networks and Regional Centres (ADPC, ADRC, SOPAC, CEPREDENAC, CDERA, CAPRADE, AU/NEPAD, COE, CIS, etc)
- National Committees/Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction

Note: the ISDR system is being discussed among partners and at the UN GA with a view to enhance and strengthen it to make it an effective instrument to facilitate the implementation of the Hyogo Framework.

## ISDR Main functions:

- (a) **Policy and Coordination** (CSD, LDCs, SIDS, CC, EW, UN/water, UN/oceans, etc.)
- (b) **Advocacy** (annual awareness campaign, publications)
- (c) **Information Management and Networks** (website, clearinghouse, *Living with Risk*)
- (d) **Partnerships for Applications** (with UN agencies, IGOs, NGOs, Governments, academic institutions, private sector, media)



## Challenges and shortcomings

- ✓ Governments and the public have been slow to take action on disaster risk reduction
- ✓ Resources and efforts go mainly into relief and recovery, but very little is spent on addressing the underlying causes of disasters.
- ✓ Humanitarian action is usually disconnected from development investments.
- ✓ Government priorities still reflect this situation

## Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015:

### Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters

#### 1. Preamble

#### 2. Objectives, expected outcome and strategic goals

- The integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning.
- The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards.
- The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.

#### 3. Priorities for action 2005-2015

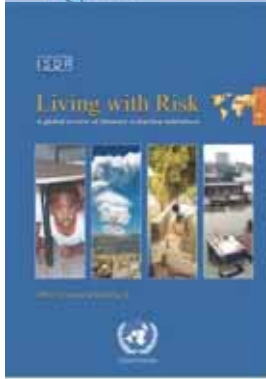
## Priorities for action 2005-2015:

1. **Governance:** *ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with strong institutional basis for implementation*
2. **Risk identification:** *identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning*
3. **Knowledge:** *use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels*
4. **Reducing the underlying risk factors**
5. **Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response**

## Living with Risk :

### A global review of disaster reduction initiatives available on the ISDR website ([www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org))

Living with Risk is the UN publication which displays in two volumes the experiences drawn from around the world.



## Volume I

Disclaimer  
 Acknowledgements  
 Foreword  
 Introduction  
 Preface: A journey to a safer world

**Chapter 1** Living with risk - focus on disaster risk reduction

**Chapter 2** Risk awareness and assessment

**Chapter 3** Policy and commitment: the foundation of disaster risk reduction

**Chapter 4** Building understanding: development of knowledge and information sharing

**Chapter 5** A selection of disaster reduction applications

**Chapter 6** Future challenges: A common vision for disaster risk reduction

List of Acronyms  
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## Volume II

Annexes

## Volume II: Annexes

**Annex 1:** Terminology: Basic terms of disaster risk reduction

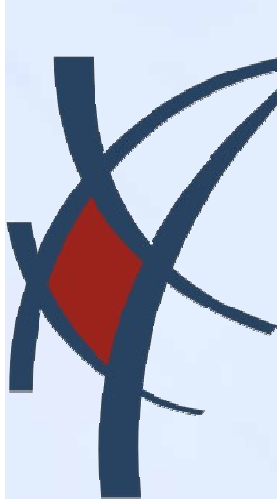
**Annex 2:** Directory of international, regional, national and specialized organizations

**Annex 3:** United Nations system: An outline of activities dedicated to disaster risk reduction

**Annex 4:** Selected international development agendas and commitments relevant to disaster risk reduction

**Annex 5:** Extracts from the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

**Annex 6:** References



# EWC III

## Third International Conference on Early Warning

*From concept to action*



EWCIII Third International Conference on Early Warning  
from concept to action

### In brief

- Convened by the Government of Germany
- Under the auspices of the United Nations
- From 27 to 29 March 2006, in Bonn, Germany
- A project-based conference and in parallel a Scientific and Technical Symposium
- Key objectives:
  - Identify unrecognized gaps and potential
  - Address them through projects
  - Stimulate action towards concrete follow-up
  - Discuss proposals for global integration of early warning
- [Conference website: www.ewc3.org](http://www.ewc3.org)

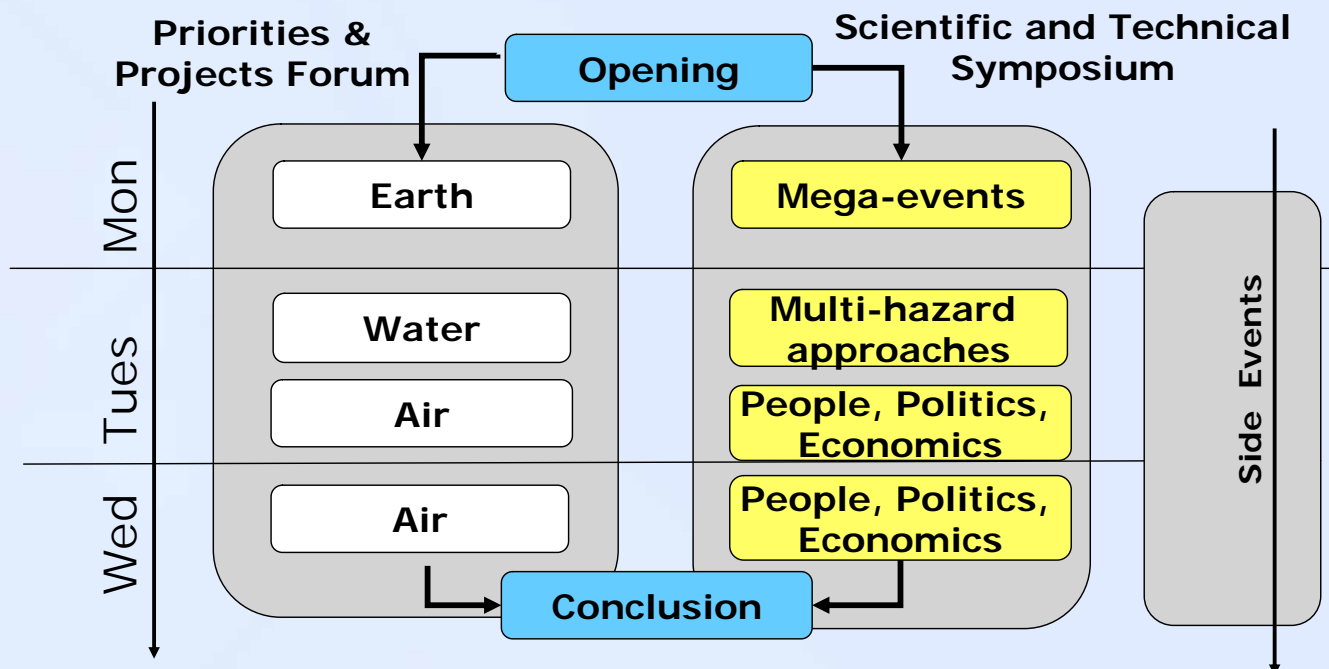


## Conference Outcomes

- *Catalogue of EW Projects, supported by an on-line marketplace*
- *Checklist for governments and agencies*
- ➔ *Protocol of recommendations for the media*
- ➔ *Indicators of education and awareness*
- *HFA Progress Monitoring System*



## Conference Structure





**EWCIII Third International Conference on Early Warning**  
from concept to action

**EWCIII Secretariat:**

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**Email: [ewc3@un.org](mailto:ewc3@un.org)**

**Conference website: [www.ewc3.org](http://www.ewc3.org)**



United Nations / International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

**For information disaster risk reduction, ISDR  
and Hyogo Framework:**

**[www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)**

**« BETTER BE A DECADE EARLY THAN A SECOND LATE »**  
*(unknown author)*

*" More effective prevention strategies would save not only tens of billions of dollars, but save tens of thousands of lives. Funds currently spent on intervention and relief could be devoted to enhancing equitable and sustainable development instead, which would further reduce the risk for war and disaster. Building a culture of prevention is not easy. While the costs of prevention have to be paid in the present, its benefits lie in a distant future. Moreover, the benefits are not tangible; they are the disasters that did NOT happen. "*

**Kofi Annan, "Facing the Humanitarian Challenge:  
Towards a Culture of Prevention", UNGA, A/54/1**