



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2008

Conference Opening Ceremony Remarks

www.unisdr.org

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ISDR Secretariat, United Nations**

A Crucial Time: – More Urgent Than Ever to Build Resilience

- Collective purpose, shared efforts in place
 - we have the Hyogo Framework for Action, gradual increase in DRR awareness and implementation
- Climate change demands action for adaptation, DRR is available, no need to renegotiate
 - ecological consequences, more and new hazards
 - economic and social implications, displacements
- It is all connected requiring greater emphasis and concerted action at all levels
 - natural environment being degraded
 - technology, urban infrastructure, complex and inter-dependent
 - vulnerabilities are individual, realized locally and nationally
 - risk awareness, risk management have to reach individuals

Knowledge, Abilities, Experience and Tools

Exist to build resilience, to protect people from hazards



More to be published ----- *Good practices, Global Assessment Report (in 2009)*

IDRC Davos 2008

An Opportunity for Exchange, Learning and Identifying New Approaches

The Need for Focus and Integration

- ISDR System, The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, regional, national and thematic platforms
- Practitioners, Abilities and Relationships: partnerships, networks and platforms
- Global Risk Forum and IDRC: an expert contribution to the ISDR system and HFA implementation by 2015...

Looking Forward from IDRC Davos, to 2009

- Identify key, focused, SMART ideas for practical application.
 - *100 IDEAS, new ones hopefully...*
- Strengthening the teams for wider engagement, through the ISDR System
- Use existing mechanisms of Disaster Risk Reduction for rapid implementation of Climate Change Adaptation
- Develop means for sustained contact, wider exchange of experience
 - networks, partnerships, communities of practice, evolving towards tangible forms of ISDR Thematic Platforms
- Carry the ideas of the Global Risk Forum and IDRC to regional levels, linking as much as possible with ISDR Regional Platforms

"Climate change is expected to cause more severe and more frequent natural hazards. As our cities and coasts grow more vulnerable, these hazards can lead to disasters that are far worse than those we have seen to date. We have a moral, social and economic obligation to build resilience by 2015. Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action will also help us reach the Millennium Development Goals."

Ban Ki-moon

Secretary-General
United Nations, 2007

Thank you

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