

Davos, 25 March 2010

PRESS RELEASE

Catastrophes: Are we prepared? Can we prevent them?

3. International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2010 (www.idrc.info)

30. May - 3. June 2010, Congress Centre Davos, Switzerland

Haiti, Chile and Uganda have recently shown how the lives of thousands of people can be destroyed within seconds and how economies or whole countries can be paralysed. Can we be well prepared for situations like this? Can we prevent them? From 30 May – 03 June 2010 around 1'200 experts in science, politics, business and society representing over 100 countries will discuss these questions at the 3. International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC Davos 2010.

How can Catastrophes be prevented - Will they still take place - What is the best way to deal with them? It is the third time that 1'200 scientists, decision makers, representatives from UN- Organisations and NGOs will come together for an interdisciplinary exchange. Aiming within discussions, workshops and interchanges to provide solutions on various questions: What is the State's responsibility? What are the possibilities in education and capacity building? How can the knowledge transfer between research and the work on the ground be accelerated? How can critical infrastructures be maintained as functional in case of emergency?

Appropriate Disaster Risk Management during an Earthquake

The Earthquake in Chile has once again pointed out how important it is to view the disaster risk cycle as a whole - from preparedness to response and mitigation. Good prevention and experience from previous events can help to prevent a catastrophe. It is therefore important that the basic risk management step, Intervention, is professionally undertaken to minimize the impacts of these events - the unspoken Tsunami Warning is understood to have halved the number of victims in the case of the Chilean Earthquake. Insurance companies for example play a crucial role in the recovery phase. The IDRC Davos 2010 has reserved a special session for participants to debate how to efficiently restore normality after an earthquake. What can be done to prevent a disaster? What is the role of information technology? How can critical infrastructure be sustained? How can the provision of emergency services, food, water and medicine be improved?

o focus on the
ry and mitiga-
at preventing a



“From Thoughts to Action”

For more information
please contact:

Astrid Heinrich
Tel: +41 81 414 16 20
astrid.heinrich@grforum.org
www.grfoum.org

Cities at Risk- Making Cities Resilient Campaign

A majority of the world’s population now lives in cities, making the cities’ role in the social and economic development of nations vital. Cities are the lifelines of modern societies, centres for progress and innovations. But most cities are growing quickly, often uncontrolled and are faced with serious challenges increasing urban problems and risks. The UN-International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction UN-ISDR launched the 2010-2011 World Disaster Risk Reduction Campaign “Making Cities Resilient” that addresses issues of local governance and urban risk. The Global Risk Forum GRF Davos was approached by its partner UN-ISDR to build a network of Swiss cities interested nationally and internationally in disaster management knowledge and experience exchange. UN-ISDR and GRF Davos would like to use the opportunity to initialize such a Swiss Network at the IDRC Davos 2010 as a pilot for other cities worldwide.

Please find more information on the conference in general and the programme on www.grforum.org. Do not hesitate to contact us personally for any questions. Your participation at the IDRC Davos 2010 is understood free of charge, simply contact astrid.heinrich@grforum.org indicating your focus area. We would be happy to update you about interesting interview partners, new facts or background stories and inform you regularly about the developments within the field of disaster risk management, disaster risk prevention and climate change adaptation.

Davos, 25 March 2010/A.Heinrich

