

GLOBAL RISK FORUM GRF DAVOS

From Thoughts to Action

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER AND RISK CONFERENCE IDRC

IDRC Davos 2008

25-29 AUGUST 2008

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS: KEY FOR INTEGRAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

IDRC 2008's focus will be on how important public-private partnerships (PPP) are in addressing problems and identifying solutions for disaster and risk management and climate change adaptation, in the context of sustainable development. How can we build a safer world and how can our current know-how support this process? IDRC Davos 2008 will attempt to provide answers to those crucial questions.

Davos, 15 April 2008

How can we build a safer world and how can our current know-how support this process? IDRC Davos 2008 will attempt to find answers and offer solutions. The approach must be that of an integrated risk management—across subject areas, professions, and sectors—encompassing natural and social sciences, engineering, and scientific understanding with business leaders, policy makers, and citizen participation. Stronger ties created with adequate PPP models have to be built within risk management communities, and approaches devised to integrate ways of thinking about and dealing with disaster and risks.

The objective of the conference is to formulate a series of direct, practical proposals addressing burning issues in key areas of risk management, for submission to the UN-ISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR) at its next gathering in 2009. The proposals will be generated through a series of discussions between high-level personalities with specific interest in the concerned areas, as well as from exchanges with participants in the conference.

The event is open to government officials, experts and practitioners, representatives from IGOs, NGOs, the private sector, scientific and academic institutions, the media, and other personalities.

IDRC Davos is a component of the Global Risk Forum GRF Davos, a Swiss Foundation established in the Alpine resort of Davos.

THE CONFERENCE

The programme will consist of topical plenary sessions with key-note presentations and panel debates. In parallel, scientific and policy-oriented thematic sessions, special sessions and side events will be organized by international and national organizations and associations. Social events and an exhibition will offer the opportunity to initiate partnerships. The conference will be the opportunity for participants to engage in discussions through a multitude of fora addressing subjects in those and related areas: in parallel sessions, workshops and seminars as well as through social encounters organized during, before and after the 5-day event.

FULL PROGRAMME ON WWW.IDRC.INFO AFTER 30 APRIL 2008

Following IDRC Davos 2006 and IDRC Harbin 2007 and their outcomes, IDRC Davos 2008 will concentrate on the following topics:

- **Coping with disasters and risks in an integrated approach** (natural hazards, technical risks, environmental, biological and chemical risks). Technology, modeling, and tools for risk reduction and emergency management; urban risks will be in particular focus;
- **Climate change**: IDRC Harbin 2007 clearly demonstrated that disaster risk management initiatives (DRM) and climate change mitigation and adaptation processes (CCMA) should be brought closer together in the future, serving the same goals with similar strategies, bridging existing and potential gaps. Attractive opportunities for public-private partnership should open up in this area;
- **Critical infrastructure protection**, with a particular focus on terrorism and public security: IDRC Harbin 2007 revealed the emerging and interdependent threat for critical infrastructures like water, food or energy supply, health care systems, banking, IT, communications, airports, road and rail traffic, etc. The conference will discuss the terrorist threat on critical infrastructures;
- **Pandemic diseases** are likely to strike simultaneously in countries across the world, preventing a required shift of resources, with critical shortages of personnel in vital economic and health sectors. How can society deal with such long-term situations? Business continuity planning becomes a major issue

OUTCOME

The proceedings of the conference will result in a compendium of ideas and proposals to help with the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action ('Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, 2005-2015'). This catalogue of ideas will be published at the outcome of the conference and made into a formal proposal to the UN-ISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction for it to consider at its next gathering, in 2009. In essence, the outcome of the conference will be a contribution from the scientific community and civil society, to the official risk reduction forum established in the form of the GP/DRR.

MAIN FORUM

Four sessions will take place, one each day from Monday to Thursday to discuss: Harmonization of disaster and risk reduction and the climate change adaptation efforts; Pandemics and diseases; Integrated risk management: natural hazards, technological risks, biological risks, terrorism; Critical infrastructures: hospitals, schools, water supply, food supplies, energy, IT, communications, airports, road and rail traffic, etc. Friday will be devoted to a discussion on standardization and to conclusions and adoption of the outcome of the conference.

Keynote speakers will make presentations and engage in a debate led by a facilitator. This will be followed by discussions with members from the audience. The result of the debate should be for each session a group of proposals as solutions to the issues having been discussed. The compendium of all ideas will be submitted to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR) at its next gathering in 2009.

OTHER SESSIONS, EXHIBITION

Workshops, seminars, side events will be organized to address a variety of specific issues related to disaster risk reduction and public-private partnership, including pre- and post-conferences covering special issues of disaster and risk management. IDRC will provide support to interested institutions and professional associations to organize their own pre- or post-conferences or their annual meetings as side-events of IDRC Davos 2008. IDRC will be pleased to host these events and to provide administrative and logistic support.

Side-events will be organized during the week: tailor-made meetings, sessions and special guests' dinners, providing opportunities to meet with representatives from governments and international institutions, with internationally renowned personalities from politics, culture and science. Specific, tailor-made training courses can be offered on demand to cover organizations' and companies' needs.

An exhibition will allow participants to show their activities, products and services at a high profile, global event. Posters will also be displayed in the conference premises.

The IDRC Davos 2008 is an initiative and is organized in consultation with the Secretariat of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) in its capacity as representative of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk.

IDRC Davos 2008 aims at building stronger ties between risk management and other communities, particularly the private sector, and at devising approaches to build an integrated way of thinking about disaster and risk reduction.

The proceedings of the conference will result in a compendium of proposals and ideas to help with the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action ('Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, 2005-2015').

This catalogue of ideas will be published at the outcome of the conference and made into a formal proposal to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction for it to consider at its next gathering, in 2009. The outcome of the conference will be a contribution from the scientific and civil society, in a broad configuration, to the Global Platform.

IDRC Davos 2008 will start with an informal reception on Sunday evening, 24 August, and end on Friday noon, 29 August 2008. Associated conferences are scheduled from Saturday 23 to Saturday 30 August.

GRF Davos' activities are carried out by three main institutional pillars: the IDRC, the Risk Academy and the Platform for Networks.

The Int. Disaster and Risk Conference (IDRC) provides a platform to all stakeholders involved with disaster and risk management and meets alternatively in Davos and in another part of the world to promote inter- and trans-disciplinary exchanges and share experiences. Project fairs create momentum for public-private partnership initiatives.

The Risk Academy is a knowledge management and know-how transfer instrument that provides continuous education and training courses, organizes workshops for the dissemination of topical knowledge and new technologies from the academic and scientific world to business and society. It facilitates and promotes R&D-activities in international cooperation.

The Platform for Networks is a web-based "professionals' platform" where practitioners, experts, experienced and young scientists, decision-makers in disaster and risk management have an opportunity to share their knowledge, experiences, projects, problems, ideas, etc. and have the possibility to join other specific virtual circles.

GLOBAL RISK FORUM GRF DAVOS

The combination of the world's growing population with expanding urbanization and generalized globalization has greatly aggravated the risk potential to all communities and nations. While hazards worldwide are well identified and known, the number of disasters is increasing, striking all parts of society in all regions of the world. Urban risk has become a planetary phenomenon. Climate change may worsen humanity's overall vulnerability. New principles, policies, and strategies, innovative mechanisms and methods have to be designed to address the variety of risks that face communities, from natural hazards to technical and biological risks, from pandemics to terrorism. A global collaborative global risk reduction management process becomes increasingly important.

Safety and security need to be considered in a holistic manner. Science and knowledge, practice, policy development and decision-making have to be linked in the search for sustainable solutions. The need for an "integral risk management" approach has led to the creation of the Global Risk Forum (GRF) Davos, a Foundation established under Swiss law in the Alpine resort of Davos, also known for its yearly gathering of the World Economic Forum. GRF Davos will contribute to closing gaps between science, policy and application by bringing together a broad group of experts, practitioners, scientists and key players from civil society and the private sector.

GRF Davos reflects the necessity to involve and to create interaction between all key players, from line ministries and disaster and risk management authorities to academic institutions and the private sector. Public-private partnerships have to play a substantial role in the context of risk management, vulnerability assessment and disaster reduction. GRF Davos supports and contributes to those indispensable global efforts.

For further Information:

**IDRC
International Disaster and Risk Conference
Flüelastrasse 11
CH - 7260 Davos Dorf (Switzerland)**

**www.idrc.info
info@idrc.info**