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International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles Programme

IDRL News Service

for the week of February 3, 2012

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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AFRICA

Zimbabwe: We Can't Arrest Typhoid On Our Own – Harare

All Africa.com, 3 February 2012 (Zimbabwe)

<http://bit.ly/xZQvoA>

Reporting that council has failed to address the social determinants leading to diarrheal diseases, typhoid included, and is appealing for Government's intervention to holistically arrest the crisis, a senior official admitted yesterday. Briefing Kuwadzana East legislator Mr Nelson Chamisa during a visit to the Kuwadzana Polyclinic yesterday, council's health services director Dr Prosper Chonzi said current interventions are reactive rather than proactive.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Five Japan committees keep no disaster records

Asia One, 27 January 2012 (Japan)

<http://bit.ly/y8a1WW>

Reporting that five government teams dealing with Japan's tsunami and nuclear catastrophes kept no detailed records, an official said Friday, adding to a growing picture of chaos in Tokyo's disaster response. Earlier this week the government said the nuclear disaster task force that ordered tens of thousands of evacuations had no written record of its decision-making process - an essential component of disaster management.

30 seismometers not linked to national network

Dawn.com, 30 January 2012 (Pakistan)

<http://bit.ly/xLIEOJ>

Reporting that sources said that around 30 seismometers — earthquake measuring devices — were recording the data and seismic activity in their respective areas, but they had been disconnected from the national network as the Met Office could not pay their connectivity cost every month.

Disaster Act enforced

Fiji Times Online, 30 January 2012 (Fiji)

<http://bit.ly/wi3bzv>

Reporting that members of the police and military forces can now enter and search any premises and gain temporary acquisition or control of any property under a new regulation of the Natural Disaster Management Act 1998. The Natural Disaster Western Division Regulations 2012 stipulates members of the police and military forces can evacuate people in their own interests or issue orders to facilitate necessary operations under the new regulation.

Jammu and Kashmir approves disaster management policy

Jagran Post, 1 February 2012 (India)

<http://bit.ly/xoHTNi>

Reporting that the Jammu and Kashmir State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) on Wednesday approved a three-tier draft disaster management policy for the state 'which is vulnerable to natural calamities'.

Cabinet OKs bill to cap nuclear reactor life

Japan Today, 1 February 2012 (Japan)

<http://bit.ly/yGQxAM>

Reporting that the cabinet approved bills Tuesday aimed at bolstering nuclear safety regulations following last year's Fukushima disaster, including one that would put a 40-year cap on the operational life of nuclear reactors. [...] The cabinet also approved a bill to create a new nuclear regulatory agency under the Environment Ministry that would unify the various nuclear safety and regulatory bodies.

OPINION

UN official surveys typhoon damage in the Philippines

UN News Centre, 27 January 2012 (Philippines)

<http://bit.ly/Aw6IAO>

Reporting that the head of the United Nations office dedicated to disaster risk reduction wrapped up her visit to the Philippines today by comparing the damage caused by Typhoon Sendong to that of major tsunamis such as the one that struck Japan last year. [...] "The Philippines has a very sophisticated disaster response system and it has the capacity to be a world leader in disaster risk reduction," said Ms. Wahlström, who met with representatives of UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), churches and 20 local mayors during her visit.

Preparing for the next global pandemic - we are not doing enough

PublicServiceEurope.com , 30 January 2012 (Global)

<http://bit.ly/xxxZtn>

Arguing that while we wait in dread until a new pandemic emerges, two very concrete actions can be feasibly implemented. Standards and regulations maintained by both companies and official entities should be cross-checked and coordinated to comply with national and international regulations. Preparedness and response plans made by companies should be certified to ensure standardised measures are applied across countries, airports and airlines.

Chiz presses for audit of LGUs on disaster risk management compliance

Senate of the Philippines Press Release, 31 January 2012 (Philippines)

<http://bit.ly/xOvKbg>

Arguing that all local government units (LGUs) must be audited for compliance with disaster risk reduction and management plan as mandated by Republic Act (RA) 10211 or the Disaster Management Act of 2010.

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