

AFRICA

East Africa: Regional Forest Law Passed

All Africa, 6 December 2015

<http://bit.ly/1NmdUm7>

Reporting that the East African Community lawmakers passed the EAC Forests Management and Protection Bill 2015 placing a regional framework to conserve the environment. The Bill delineates the roles and responsibilities of Partner States and seeks to promote uniformity and integration in the area of disaster risk reduction and management. The Bill also seeks to create a regional mechanism to enable timely intervention in disaster situations.

ASIA PACIFIC

Korean cities to take Sendai forward

UNISDR, 7 December 2015 (Korea)

<http://bit.ly/1NK7sJl>

Reporting that one hundred and fifty-six Korean municipalities have agreed to promote city-to-city learning to strengthen implementation of the Sendai Frameworks for Disaster Risk Reduction. Korea has a comprehensive plan to enhance disaster management in response to climate change and local governments have been urged to integrate flood mitigation planning into city planning.

Conference reviews 17 years of disaster preparedness programming in Vietnam

IFRC, 8 December 2015 (Vietnam)

<http://bit.ly/1TELeZo>

Reporting that the Viet Nam Red Cross Society, together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development jointly hosted a conference to review 17 years of disaster preparedness projects supported by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO). In 2009, the government established a national community-based disaster risk management programme and the Viet Nam Red Cross supported the development of a regulation to guide its implementation.

Conference to initiate discourse on impact of disaster on women

The Himalayan Times, 6 December 2015 (Nepal)

<http://bit.ly/1Z2SRg1>

Reporting that ASMITA Women's Publishing House, Media and Resource Organization, ActionAid International Nepal and Mahila Adhikar Manch organized a two-day National Women's Conference on Disaster Management, Reconstruction and Sustainable Development in Kathmandu. The Conference analysed *inter alia* existing disaster management laws, policies and programmes in order to identify whether they need reforms.

International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) in Tonga

ALNAP, 10 December 2015 (Tonga)

<http://bit.ly/1RdQYLY>

Reporting that the IFRC commissioned a report to examine Tonga's legal and policy frameworks relating to disaster response – in particular the effectiveness of these frameworks in facilitating the entry of international humanitarian assistance into Tonga during a disaster – against the recommendations contained in the IDRL Guidelines. The report also uses the IFRC's Model Act for

the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance as a guidance tool.

AMERICAS

New “Rise after Disaster” Law will aid small businesses

Small Business Trends, 9 December 2015 (United States)

<http://bit.ly/1IZt1Ad>

Reporting that the House and Senate have passed a disaster relief bill – the Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015 (or RISE After Disaster Act) – to assist small businesses impacted by Hurricane Katrina 10 years ago. The Act is supposed to address several needs of small businesses in the wake of disaster, including providing recovery loans and encouraging federal agencies to use local contractors.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Steve Dennis and the court case that sent waves through the aid industry

The Guardian, 5 December 2015

<http://bit.ly/1XOAqOZ>

Reporting that Steve Dennis won a case against his former employer, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), after he was kidnapped on the job in Kenya in 2012. The Oslo courts found NRC liable for physical and psychological injuries and awarded compensation for gross negligence. The case has put the issue of security in the aid industry under public scrutiny.

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