

## AFRICA

### Disaster bill passed in Parliament

News24, 25 November 2015 (South Africa)

<http://bit.ly/21jmvzq>

Reporting that the South African Parliament passed this week the disaster management amendment bill, which has now been sent to the President for approval. The bill aims to streamline the country's approach to planning for and responding to disasters, including droughts. The bill transfers functions on disaster management from national government to municipalities.

### Ethiopia to establish national disaster risk management commission

Star Africa, 26 November 2015 (Ethiopia)

<http://oran.ge/21jn8cx>

Reporting that Ethiopia's Council of Ministers, in its second emergency meeting, approved a draft bill for the establishment of a National Disaster Risk Management Commission. The Council also endorsed a draft bill proposed for the establishment of five corporations and an authority.

## ASIA PACIFIC

### Call for disaster-resilient society

The Hindu, 23 November 2015

<http://bit.ly/1NOOux7>

Reporting that the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress on Disaster Management, celebrated in Visakhapatnam, India, concluded with the unanimous adoption of a declaration calling for a comprehensive action plan for a disaster-resilient society. The declaration recommends adopting effective disaster mitigation funding mechanisms and building a platform of knowledge management at a local level.

### Disaster waste MGMT policy awaits cabinet approval

The Kathmandu Post, 22 November 2015 (Nepal)

<http://bit.ly/1Iq2E8E>

Reporting that Nepal's Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development has drafted the Disaster Waste Management Policy 2015, which is only awaiting for cabinet approval to be implemented. Seven months after the Gorkha earthquake, large dumps of disaster waste are still lying unattended as the country has no legal provision for disaster waste management. The Policy draft envisions environmentally sound management and proper disposal of disaster waste, in addition to outlining roles and responsibilities, and developing accident response strategies.

### Viet Nam: VNRC seeks to enhance disaster risk management skills

Prevention Web, 23 November 2015 (Vietnam)

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

Reporting that the Viet Nam Red Cross Society (VNRC) launched a project for enhancing its capacity to handle disaster risk management and first aid. The project, funded by USAID, aims to increase the effectiveness of the coordination of the VNRC in disaster preparedness and response and to ensure the sustainability of the provincial disaster response teams. The VNRC conducts every year about 10 international projects that create good models for implementation of the Disaster Prevention Law and the government's 1002 programme.

### **Myanmar's Suu Kyi blames lack of safety regulations for deadly mine landslide**

NBC News, 26 November 2015 (Myanmar)

<http://nbcnews.to/1Pc8Je9>

Reporting that Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi considers that a disregard for the rule of law in jade mining in Myanmar has made accidents in this industry a common occurrence. Last weekend a landslide buried a makeshift settlement of migrant workers killing more than hundred people. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy has called for stricter safety measures and increased government oversight of the industry in the wake of the disaster.

## **AMERICAS**

### **Fundão dam burst exposes failings in Brazil's mining industry**

The Telegraph, 21 November 2015 (Brazil)

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

Reporting that the Fundão tailings dam burst in Mariana, Minas Gerais, has exposed an out-dated mining code and a decrepit regulatory system of one of Brazil's biggest export industries. A project to update the mining code was presented in 2013 but has been held up in Congress. The new code is expected to address *inter alia* the imposition of environmental obligations on companies and the creation of an independent regulatory agency. In addition, President Rousseff has signed a decree that considers the collapse of the dam a natural disaster allowing for emergency resources.

### **NYC explores drone use for everything from disaster response to traffic surveillance**

New York Daily News, 23 November 2015 (United States)

<http://nydn.us/1NOMHbq>

Reporting that New York City Council agencies are considering a host of uses for unmanned aerial vehicles, including disaster response, according to the Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Management. At least three future bills were considered during a Council hearing on legislation to regulate the use of drones in the skies: one bill to regulate the private use of drones; another one to require a license to anyone flying a drone for a city agency or commercial purpose; and a third one to require drones to be registered and insured.

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