

AFRICA

Lawmakers urged to pass DNA

The New Dawn Liberia, 3 December 2015 (Liberia)

<http://bit.ly/1N57dER>

Reporting that two of Liberia's 15 political subdivisions have called on members of the 53rd Liberian Legislature to pass into law a bill seeking the establishment of a national management commission in the country. This law will enable the proposed commission to adequately respond to any form of disasters across Liberia. One of the counties' superintendent stressed the need to decentralize the disaster management process to enable rural dwellers to have an idea of how to respond to disasters.

ASIA PACIFIC

31 years on, Bhopal gas case still tied in legal tangle

The Times of India, 3 December 2015 (India)

<http://bit.ly/1NJ4Z3M>

Reporting that the Madhya Pradesh High Court issued notice to the Union Government, the state government and medical research organizations to respond to a plea by Bhopal disaster survivors that they were guilty of contempt of court and perjury about providing health benefits and preparing records. This is one of the three pending threads of litigations surrounding the Bhopal disaster, which occurred 31 years ago.

AMERICAS

Brazil dam disaster: Government to sue Samarco and its shareholders, BHP Billiton and Vale

International Business Times, 28 November 2015 (Brazil)

<http://bit.ly/1OKvy5N>

Reporting that Brazil's federal government and two states are to sue mining firm Samarco and its shareholders, Australian BHP Billiton and Brazil's Vale, for civil damages derived from the iron ore dam burst that occurred on 5 November. The object of the lawsuit is to use the resources to help with the containment of the impact, the revitalisation of the Rio Doce basin and the indemnification of people affected by the disaster.

Ex-Massey Energy CEI Guilty of Misdemeanour Count in Coal Mine Disaster

NBC News, 3 December 2015 (United States)

<http://nbcnews.to/1RpYaE3>

Reporting that former Massey Energy CEO Don Blankenship was convicted this week on one of three counts connected to a deadly coal mine explosion in 2010 and acquitted of two other charges. Blankenship was found guilty of conspiring to violate safety standards at the Upper Big Branch mine but was found innocent of making false statements and securities fraud.

INTERNATIONAL

COP21: Increased support for communities already dealing with climate change must be part of new international agreement - IFRC

Prevention Web, 30 November 2015

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

Reporting that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is calling on all parties to the climate change negotiations at the 2015 Paris Climate Conference to ensure that any new global agreement addresses the need to support vulnerable and at-risk communities to become more resilient and to reduce the climate risks they face.

Millions fleeing climate-related disasters face legal limbo if they seek refuge abroad

Fox News, 2 November 2015

<http://fxn.ws/1N3DH2j>

Reporting that, according to international law, people seeking refuge from environmental disasters cannot apply for refugee status and lack protection under the U.N. High Convention for Refugees, due to the fact that designation of 'refuge' is given to people forced to leave their home countries because of war, persecution and other violence. Even though natural disasters caused by weather events are forcing millions of people to flee their countries, this issue may remain unresolved through the COP21, as countries like the U.S. oppose addressing migration issues in the climate change treaty.

UN body names Legarda Global Champion for Resilience

Inquirer, 1 December 2015

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

Reporting that Senator Loren Legarda from the Philippines was named the UNISDR Global Champion for Resilience by Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, at the Climate Vulnerable Forum High Level Meeting at the COP21. Legarda is the principal author and sponsor of the Climate Change Act of 2009 and is also responsible for the enactment of other laws in the country like the People's Survival Fund Law and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act.

The News Service of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Disaster Law Programme is an email distribution of links to and brief quotes from articles collected through internet research of news sites and search engines. This service is offered free of charge for interested subscribers on a weekly basis. IFRC takes no responsibility for the content or opinions expressed in any of the articles and claims no copyright ownership over them (with the exception of any materials produced by IFRC). Use of the News Service and the collection of articles distributed is freely granted for any non-commercial purpose consistent with the [Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement](#). Email addresses of subscribers are not shared with any outside parties.