AFRICA

Sierra Leone Declares Health Emergency Over Ebola Virus - Reports
Ria Novosti, 31 July 2014 (Sierra Leone)

Reporting that Sierra Leone has declared a public health emergency in order to deal with the worst outbreak of the Ebola virus ever, with epicentres of the outbreak to be quarantined, the country’s President Ernest Bai Koroma said in a statement.

Ebola: World Health Organization to Unveil $100 Million Emergency Response Plan
International Business Times, 1 August 2014
http://bit.ly/1uqIdQA

Reporting that the head of the World Health Organization and leaders of the West African nations affected by the Ebola outbreak are to announce a new $100 million (£59m, €74.6m) response plan.

AMERICAS

BEHIND THE QUAKES - Ministry Moves Deadline For New Building Code To Yearend
The Gleaner, 1 August 2014 (Jamaica)
http://bit.ly/1zXcwBe

Reporting that the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development is looking at yearend as the new deadline for the passage of legislation that will herald an updated legal building code, essential to bolstering Jamaica’s earthquake readiness.

Sen. Casey pushes bill to improve rail disaster response
The Mercury, 1 August 2014 (USA)
http://bit.ly/V0BOPu

Reporting that Senator Bob Casey, is hoping that a proposed bill called the Response Act will provide funds so local and regional first-responders to rail accidents can better handle potentially lethal situations.

Some Lawmakers Want Legislative Changes to Avoid Fertilizer Blasts
Killen Daily Herald, 5 August 2014 (USA)

Reporting that a committee of Texas lawmakers met to discuss possible legislation aimed at preventing another disaster like last year’s explosion in West, Texas — with some Republicans still skeptical of imposing regulations on fertilizer storage facilities.

ASIA PACIFIC

Ex-TEPCO executives should be charged over Fukushima atomic disaster: Panel
The Economic Times, 31 July 2014 (Japan)
http://bit.ly/1pdlmq8

Reporting that an independent legal panel called for criminal charges to be brought against three former executives of the Fukushima nuclear plant operator for their role in the 2011 atomic disaster.
The ruling -- issued by a judicial review panel composed of ordinary citizens -- could ultimately pave the way for an indictment, after prosecutors announced last year that they would not pursue a criminal case.

**Malaysia says Security Act can be used to try MH17 crash mastermind**
Channel News Asia, 29 July 2014 (Malaysia)

Reporting that Malaysia can use the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act (Sosma) to try the mastermind behind the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 disaster. Deputy Home Minister Dr Wan Junaidi Jaafar said that though Sosma had the provisions, various issues must be resolved first before the law could be used.

**High court questions Maharashtra's disaster preparedness**
The Times of India, 31 July 2014 (India)
http://bit.ly/1pZ46Ck

Reporting that the Bombay high court wondered if the state government has made any alternative arrangement to tackle natural disasters and questioned its preparedness while hearing a PIL on the destruction of wetlands and mangroves.

**Poe pushes for implementation of law requiring free text alerts during calamities**
Inquirer.net, 5 August 2014 (Philippines)

Reporting that amid the onset of calamities during the rainy season, Senator Grace Poe urged the “meaningful” implementation of a law that requires mobile service providers to send free disaster warning alerts to their subscribers.

**Provinces asked to follow WHO rules on anti-polio immunisation**
Dawn.com, 4 August 2014 (Pakistan)
http://bit.ly/1lDATeS

Reporting that the federal government has asked the provinces to ensure that people travelling abroad get immunised against polio in line with the recommendations of International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organisation so as avoid spread of the childhood ailment to other parts of the world.

**APPU endorses disaster prevention communique**
Taipei Times, 7 August 2014

Reporting that most member countries participating in this year’s Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians’ Union (APPU) general assembly signed a joint communique at the closing ceremony in Taipei. Of the 12 APPU members attending the annual event, only Malaysia and Mongolia did not sign the communique, which focused on regional cooperation for disaster prevention and mitigation, the organizers said.

**OPINION**

**Why effective climate policy needs women – and vice versa**
RTCC, 4 August 2014

Reporting that integrating a gender approach in the new climate agreement will be vital to provide the legal base for promoting gender responsive climate action both at international and national level.
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. Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Email addresses of subscribers are not shared with any outside parties.