



Press Release

Partnerships vital to building resilience for small islands

Sendai, 17 March 2015 - Small Island Developing States (SIDS) need robust national and international partnerships to build disaster resilience in a post-2015 world, according to a high-level meeting of leaders and experts in Sendai, Japan today.

The meeting, organized by the UN Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), on the side-lines of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, comes at a time when the importance of disaster relief and management efforts have been emphasised following the devastation caused by Cyclone Pam on several island nations in the Pacific.

Government leaders, including the President of the Republic of Kiribati and President of the Federated States of Micronesia, joined senior UN Officials, experts, civil society and the private sector at the event to share the best practices and lessons learned in mitigating natural disasters in small islands.

“The stark disproportionality of the losses experienced by SIDS due to disasters is of great concern,” said Gyan Chandra Acharya, head of the UN-OHRLLS. “While many SIDS have made strides in implementing disaster risk reduction measures at the national and regional levels, they continue to require international support and partnerships in their efforts to build resilience as well as to deal with post-disaster recovery phases.”

Small island countries are highly prone to natural and man-made hazards. Given their location they are among the most vulnerable nations in the world in relation to the intensity and frequency of natural and environmental disasters and their increasing impact. SIDS face disproportionately high economic, social, environmental consequences and burdensome reconstruction challenges.

In 2014, during the International Year of Small Island Developing States, the international community came together in Apia, Samoa, to draft a new, ten year, Programme of Action, the SAMOA Pathway. This roadmap highlights the importance of cooperation and coordination in areas such as access to technical assistance, financing early warning systems and climate change adaptation.

Further information

unohrlls.org/SIDS-High-Level-Sendai/

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