

Dear COGSS and DPE NETWORK Members,

We are all horrified and saddened by the images coming out of Haiti. Our thoughts are with our Caribbean colleagues as they struggle with the immense emergency response, personal losses, and what will be a difficult recovery.

The new year brings continued challenges addressing the physical, social, historical, political, economic and ecological issues that underlie unsafe conditions in places like Port-Au-Prince. Please share images, news reports, information, and most importantly, action items on school safety in Haiti with the network. You can send information to the newsletter at cogssanddpenewsletter@gmail.com or by starting a forum discussion on <http://cogssdpe.ning.edu/forum>.

Regards,

Rebekah Green (editor)



COALITION FOR GLOBAL SCHOOL SAFETY & DISASTER PREVENTION EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No. 1

January 15, 2010

This newsletter is compiled from contributions of the COGSS & DPE NETWORK. All items in the newsletter as well as ongoing discussions, Q&A, and working group and committee activities can be found on the [COGSS & DPE Website](http://cogssdpe.ning.edu). The website requires registration; a small photo or image to represent you is much appreciated.

CONTENT

1. NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
 2. FORUM DISCUSSIONS
 3. TRAINING & EVENTS
 4. PROJECTS & INITIATIVES
 5. DISASTER REDUCTION PUBLICATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
-

1. NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

These are the new items posted since December 17, 2009.

- EERI has created a virtual clearinghouse at <http://www.eqclearinghouse.org/20100112-haiti/> for those who have information on conditions or damage in Haiti and would like to share. You can register at the site (lower right hand corner), and post up an observation or a photo (instructions for posting are in the top menu bar).
- Patrizia Bitter writes the group to share that Sri Lanka has begun a National Safety Day. At the ceremony on the National Safety Day, 26th of December, the **National Guidelines for School Disaster Safety** (Manual and DVD) was launched by the Secretary Education and the Secretary DM (Disaster Management). The event was organized by the Ministry of DM and Human Rights with the prime minister as guest of honour and was live broadcasted. In 2009 220 schools have implemented the school safety program in a pilot phase with support from GTZ. In 2010 a DRR awareness program for all 10.000 schools in Sri Lanka will be undertaken by Ministry of Education and DMC. The implementation of school safety will be extended in a joint effort of the two above mentioned institutions with support from GTZ, UNICEF, Save the Children and Red Cross.
- Mr. Alessandri, Chairman of the Commission for Environment, Territory and Public Works of the Italian Parliament, recently submitted a proposal concerning the increase of seismic safety for Italian schools by means of seismic isolation and energy dissipation. It was approved by the Italian government. Thanks to all individuals, COGSS members and beyond, who were instrumental in this improvement. Let's all hope for the effective oversight, transparent application, and sufficient inspection needed to make this and other global initiatives a success.
- Many times it is conflict that is the most destructive force against schools. One of the longest conflicts in the world is in southern Philippines. The Institute of Bangsamoro Studies says this conflict has resulted in two million refugees and at least 50,000 deaths, as well as 535 mosques, 200 schools destroyed, and 35 towns and cities destroyed in Mindanao in the last four decades. <http://islami-news.blogspot.com/2009/12/under-reported-southern-philippines.html>
- Straw Bale Housing projects demonstrate low-cost earthquake resilient construction using locally available materials. See <http://www.paksbab.org/projects.php>

- The Disaster Game is a tool that uses game play to create unique and engaging exercises that make preparedness training flexible, instructional, and fun. "It isn't very often that "fun" and "disaster" can be used in the same sentence..." "...the realistic scenarios made the game compelling. (Stuff) happens and the game reflects this truth."
<http://www.disastergame.com/>

To post new news and announcement items, send a reply to this email, COGSSANDDPE-NETWORK[@]GROUPS.PREVENTIONWEB.NET.

2. FORUM DISCUSSIONS

The COGSS&DPE Website has closed and archived all forum discussions from 2009. You may view archived discussion and start new discussions for the 2010 year at <http://cogssdpe.ning.com/forum> . Alternatively, you can send responses and new discussions in an email to COGSSANDDPE-NETWORK[@]GROUPS.PREVENTIONWEB.NET.

3. TRAINING & EVENTS

These are the new training & events items posted since December 17, 2009.

- The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' (RICS) COBRA 2010 research conference to be held at Dauphine Université Paris, France, on 2-3 September 2010 will feature a Disaster Management stream organised by the Centre for Disaster Resilience at the University of Salford, UK, in association with the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF DISASTER RESILIENCE IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT. Contributions are invited for this themed session on Disaster Management which aims to stimulate ideas arising from research by exploring a range of perspectives from which the construction industry is able to contribute towards improved resilience to disasters and by facilitating the dissemination of the existing knowledgebase. Contributions are also encouraged from postgraduate researchers in the field bringing together the International Postgraduate community in the field to present and discuss their research. Abstracts are due February 26, 2010. More information on themes and abstract requirements at <http://www.disaster-resilience.salford.ac.uk/index.php/conferences-and-events/cobra-2010>

To post new training and events items, send a reply to this email, COGSSANDDPE-NETWORK[@]GROUPS.PREVENTIONWEB.NET.

4. PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

These are the new projects & initiatives items posted since December 17, 2009.

- **New Technologies in Emergencies and Conflicts: The Role of Information and Social Networks** UN Foundation and Vodafone Foundation report -- *New Technologies in Emergencies and Conflicts: The Role of Information and Social Networks* -- looks at innovation in the use of technology along the timeline of crisis response, from emergency preparedness and alerts to recovery and rebuilding. It profiles organizations whose work is advancing the frontlines of innovation, offers an overview of international efforts to increase sophistication in the use of IT and social networks during emergencies, and provides recommendations for how governments, aid groups, and international organizations can leverage this innovation to improve community resilience. We invite you to join a global online discussion about the key themes addressed in this publication. Submit questions for our panel of experts via Twitter (using the tag [#Tech4Dev](#)) or the UN Foundation's [Facebook page](#). **Download the entire report:**
http://www.globalproblems-globalsolutions-files.org/pdf/UNF_tech/emergency_tech_report2009/Tech_EmergencyTechReport_full.pdf

To post new projects and initiatives items, send a reply to this email, COGSSANDDPE-NETWORK[[@](#)]GROUPS.PREVENTIONWEB.NET.

6. DISASTER REDUCTION PUBLICATION AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

The [DREAM Collection of Disaster Reduction Educational Materials](#) now has more than 1,500 items and more are added weekly.

- Tsunami Education Project in Sri Lanka
http://www.srilankaproject.com/?Photos:Tsunami_Education_Project
- Educational materials for earthquake non-structural mitigation (PDFs and videos)
http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_home.shtml

To access these resources and view the full disaster risk reduction educational materials collection, visit: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/trainings-events/edu-materials/>

Teachers and Facilitators please also meet colleagues and make use of discussions on the [Edu4DRR Teachers Network](#).

The COGSS & DPE Newsletter is compiled as a service of [The Resilience Institute](#) of Western Washington University's Huxley College of the Environment.