

Dear COGSS and DPE Newsletter Readers,

I apologize for the recent hiatus from regular COGSS-DPE Newsletter posts. We have lost a great Institute intern, C.J. Huxford, to graduation and with it, a consistent Newsletter compiler. In the coming weeks, the task of compiling this Newsletter will rotate to another institution.

Meanwhile, I have been to Haiti as part of the EERI Learning from Earthquakes Reconnaissance Team. The educational situation is especially dire and in need of support. Pre-earthquake, only 15% of schools were government run, the remaining organized, funded and/or run by religious organizations, local and international aid organizations, and private individuals. There was little in terms of standards for construction or instruction. Assessment is incomplete, but it appears that approximately 50% of schools in Port-au-Prince were damaged, resulting in a need for an estimated 400 or more tents for temporary learning spaces. At four locations, I was able to photograph damage to school structures and interiors. You can find these photographs, along with brief descriptions here:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/37235559@N03/sets/72157623745815197/detail/>

Regards,
Rebekah Green (Outgoing moderator)



COALITION FOR GLOBAL SCHOOL SAFETY & DISASTER PREVENTION EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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April 15, 2010

1. NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- BBC's School Report News Day program brought together British school children with children in Haiti to interview them about what it was like during the earthquake and what the future holds for each of them. The following links contain the full interviews:

Haiti earthquake - Getting back to school after the quake

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/programmes/2010/03/100310_outlook_haiti_quake_school.shtml

Haiti quake pupils look to future

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/school_report/8559950.stm

- In his article “The Tinerbox Capital”, author Vijaita Singh reports that in the past year the Delhi Fire Services found 715 “fire unsafe” buildings in Dehli, 140 of these buildings being schools. Singh reports for the Hindusan Times in New Delhi. The full article is available at: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/The-tinderbox-Capital/H1-Article1-525202.aspx>
- The “Earthquake Rap”, courtesy of YouTube, provides a message of preparedness tips.
 “Now its really time to listen up kids
 You don't want to be a victim smothered under rough bricks
 So when your house shifts, start acting fast
 Stay away from window in case there's shattered glass
 Drop to the floor quick, and if you're able
 Get to a desk or under a hard table
 And hold on til it stops
 and wait for the aftershocks
 and watch out for falling blocks”

To watch the entire “Earthquake Rap” video click on the link below:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REIAeL7X9NA>

- The International School Safety Convention will be held April 22-23, 2010, at the Denver campus of Johnson & Wales University, College of Business. This is a free event, and if you are able to attend, COGSS&DPE would be pleased if you could introduce our network. Additionally, the event is looking for someone to introduce INEE’s Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction. For more information click on the following link: <http://www.schoolsafetypartners.org/convention/>
- On April 5th, 2010, 16,000 students in Tibetan Schools took part in the annual “Tibetan School Shake-out” to mark the 105th year anniversary of the Kangra Earthquake that occurred in April 1905. Students did the ‘Drop, Cover and Hold on’ followed by a complete evacuation. This event was made possible through coordinated efforts by GeoHazards International (GHI) and GeoHazards Society (GHS), in partnership with the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives (LTWA). Tibetan Schools intend to get the message of preparedness across to schools in hazard prone regions, and their efforts are proving to be successful.

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

2. FORUM DISCUSSIONS

Start a forum discussion with the COGSS DPE network at <http://cogssdpe.ning.com/forum> .

- Marla Petal has begun a forum discussion asking, should school buildings automatically evacuate following earthquakes, or should teachers and students wait for instructions before evacuating? Justin Sharpe, Jeannie Goobanoff, Michael D’Amico, Sanjaya Bhatia, Yasamin Izadkhah, and Bernadette Woit gave their opinions and explanations of current practice.
 - Arguments for automatically evacuating include that it is an opportunity to practice evacuation and that there may be no one on site to immediately evaluate school safety, and felt ground motion may be a pre-shock to a larger event.
 - Argument against automatically evacuating include loss of instruction time for light tremors, and that evacuation routes may pose significant danger to students and should be quickly evaluated by designated staff before administration signals an evacuation.
 - Many respondents also commented on the difficulty of getting anyone to response to even fire bells, advocating increasing evacuation compliance to all emergency bells, whether believed to be “real”, “practice” or “false alarms”.

Add your opinions, best practices, and concerns at:

<http://cogssdpe.ning.com/forum/topics/building-evacuation-after>

3. TRAINING & EVENTS

These are the new training & events items posted since January 15, 2010.

- The International School Safety Convention will be held April 22-23, 2010, at the Denver campus of Johnson & Wales University, College of Business. This is a free event, and if you are able to attend, COGSS&DPE would be pleased if you could introduce our network. Additionally, the event is looking for someone to introduce INEE’s Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction. For more information click on the following link: <http://www.schoolsafetypartners.org/convention/>

- **Call for papers: Returning to Hurricane Katrina: Bring Hurricane Katrina Back to the Community.** The University of Southern Mississippi seeks paper proposals from those who received grants to study the natural, social, political, and economic effects of Hurricane Katrina. Their findings will be presented at a, interdisciplinary research

summit June 4-5, 2010 in Long Beach, Mississippi. The keynote speaker will be Stephen E. Flynn, President of the Center for National Policy and author of *The Edge of Disaster: Rebuilding a Resilient Nation*. For more information, please visit the website of the Center for Policy and Resilience at: www.usm.edu/golfcoast/cpr

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

- Mathew Stephensen and Umar Alam, of UNESCO, have Disaster Risk Reduction in Education System training materials (English and Myanmar version) available through the UNESCO website:
<http://www.unescobkk.org/en/education/education-units/esd/projects/post-conflict-and-post-disaster-responses/unesco-asia-pacific-initiatives/myanmar-education-recovery-project/>
- The Chinese version of the Guidance Notes, for safer school construction in China, is available for download and viewing courtesy of UNICEF China, as provided by Sanjaha Bhatia:
http://unisdr.org/preventionweb/files/11599_13425ChineseGuidanceNotesSaferSchool.pdf

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. 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](#). The website requires registration; a small photo or image to represent you is much appreciated.