SESSION DESCRIPTION

C4 DRR strategies and resilience measures to weather-related extremes

Presentations

Date: Thursday, 27 June, 2019
Time: 09:00-10:30
Rooms: S01-02

Language: English
ICLEI contact: Mihaela Nistorica
ICLEI email: mihaela.nistorica@iclei.org
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OBJECTIVE

Climatic change is influencing the frequency and intensity of natural catastrophes and the present problems will be magnified in the near future. Natural hazards such as wind and rain storms, floods, droughts, heatwaves, and other climate related hazards cause large human and economic losses. Acting ahead of an event and preparing for a potential loss through disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies and resilience measures and planning — contrasting to costly disaster response activities — is beneficial for both governments and communities.

Map and avoid high-risk zones, build hazard-resistant structures and houses, protect and develop hazard buffers (i.e. forests and reefs), develop culture of prevention and resilience, improve early warning and response systems, build institutions, and development policies and plans are risk reduction activities that could help vulnerable cities and communities to better manage climate-related risks.

The session presented a range of resilience challenges and DRR strategies striving at minimizing impacts and improving community resilience, risk preparedness, mitigation and adaptation in urban areas, including coastal cities and SIDS. The session started with the presentation from UNRISD showcasing the transformative adaptation in Southeast Asian coastal cities, facing a range of water-related risks in addition to social and economic hazards. Related to coastal cities and small islands developing states (SIDS) at risk, ports and maritime transport and infrastructure are also vulnerable to sea level rise and extreme weather.

The EXTREMA project presented ICT-based solutions for lessening the impacts of heatwaves through an innovative app. Finally, HELVETAS Swiss Inter-cooperation will present innovative software for resilience in infrastructures, applying risk reduction and climate adaptation approaches.

OUTCOMES

- participants learned of worldwide experiences on resilience and DRR strategies for extreme-weather risks;
- participants learned how data and technology can help to increase resiliency;
- participants learned about the cases of capacity building and communication of resilience and DRR to apply this in their work back home.

METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator provided an introduction to the session topic and contributors. **(5 minutes)**
- Each presentation was allotted 10 minutes. **(4 x 10 minutes)**
- The facilitator managed questions and answers from the audience. **(35 minutes)**
- Closing remarks by the facilitator. **(10 minutes)**

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Togo Uchida, Executive Director, ICLEI Japan Office, Tokyo, Japan*

Presenter *Dunja Krause, Research Officer, United Nations research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Geneva, Switzerland*

Assessing transformative adaptation in Southeast Asian Coastal Cities

The UNRISD project focuses on integrated and coherent solutions to tackle the causes of climate-related vulnerability in coastal cities. It also seeks to contribute to a better understanding of adaptation needs and the potential of transformative change for achieving multiple developmental benefits, such as the reduction of hazard exposure and social development.

Presenter *Iphigenia Keramitsoglou, Research Director of the Earth Observation at National Observatory of Athens (NOA) and EXTREMA Project Coordinator, Athens, Greece*

Adopting ICT-based solutions for lessening the impacts of heatwaves

Heatwaves are a natural hazard and one of the deadliest extreme weather events. In future heatwaves are expected to become more frequent, more intense and longer lasting. The health impacts of hot weather are largely preventable if populations, local governments and health and social care systems are prepared. EXTREMA (EXTReme tEMperature Alerts for Europe) service is an example of utilizing ICT tools in DRR so to increase the awareness of the citizens and reduce their exposure, as well as support the local authorities with the implementation of their heat-health action plan.

Presenter *Marco Loma, Sanitation and resilience specialist, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation – Bolivia, La Paz, Bolivia*

Martin Del Castillo, Deputy Director and Project Director, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation – Bolivia, La Paz, Bolivia

Investments Resilience Analysis (IRA) in Bolivia

IRA is a software for resilience in infrastructures, applying risk reduction and climate change adaptation approaches. It can be used in water and sanitation projects, as well as in solid waste sector, irrigation and households building. It identifies threats in any given infrastructure project, and defines the best measures to be taken in order to reduce risks adapting the infrastructure to climate change. It also uses a cost-benefit analysis to calculate avoided costs. Water and Environment Ministry has validated and approved the tool for its official use.