

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the NMUN Web page for the Follow Up to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction and congratulations on all your hard work so far! My name is Melissa Maxey and I am happy to be your Assistant Director for the WCDR. I recently graduated from California State University, San Bernardino with a BA in political science and minors in women's studies and history. I am continuing at that University pursuing a Master of Arts in National Security Studies, with emphases in Middle East and Terrorism studies. Silke and I have compiled the following links, which we believe will be useful to you in your preparation for the simulation of the WCDR and in researching your position papers. For additional information and assistance regarding position papers, please refer to pages 1 through 4 of your background guide. The links offered here are to supplement the extensive research you have already done and are continuing to do, which should include relevant UN web sites and sources, periodicals, as well as web sites of nongovernmental organizations, which will be particularly useful in researching the topics of the WCDR. Again, congratulations on your preparation and hard work so far and good luck on your position papers and final preparations!

Message from the Director-General: Please note that with the exception of the Security Council committees (A, B, C and D), which are bodies which will operate in real time and consider updated/current information throughout the week, time will freeze for all other Committees at the beginning of opening ceremonies on Tuesday, April 11, 2006. For the Committees that will experience this time freeze, delegates are asked to refrain from discussing/presenting current event information throughout the Conference and only consider information available prior to the start of the 2006 NMUN Conference on April 11, 2006.

Please note that one set of all position papers for your delegation should be sent to the Director-General, Kevin E. Grisham, at dirgen@nmun.org and one electronic copy of your position paper for this committee should be sent to wcdm@nmun.org by the designated deadline, March 10, 2006.

General Committee Items

URL: <http://www.islamic-relief.com/>

Title: Islamic Relief Worldwide

Description: Islamic Relief (IR) is a non-governmental organization that works to alleviate international poverty through economic relief and sustainable social and economic development. It works with international and regional relief and development organizations to help victims of emergencies recover, to deliver relief products, and to create programs that will mitigate the effects of future disasters.

URL: <http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/wdr2005/contents.asp>

Title: International Society of Red Cross and Red Crescent

Description: The World Disaster Report 2005 outlines the most challenging disasters worldwide and highlights the strength and weaknesses of disaster prevention strategies used. Although the web site does not allow access to the full report, it gives an overview of the chapters, which offer a bigger picture of the disaster vulnerability in 2005.

URL: <http://www.ewc3.org/>

Title: Third International Conference on Early Warning (EWII)

Description: The Web site announces the Third International Conference on Early Warning, which is to take place in Bonn, Germany from March 27 – 29, 2006. The site contains first announcements to the conference about seminars to take place and calls for proposals. More information should appear nearer the date of the conference.

URL: <http://ioc3.unesco.org/indotsunami/>

Title: Towards the establishment of a Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the Indian Ocean

Description: This UNESCO Web site outlines the progress made in the implementation of a unified Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning system. It describes the level of co-operation between affected States and analyses their governmental strategies, which have been vastly improved after the devastating 2004 Tsunami. It also offers a summary on relief efforts and highlights the continued need for support.

Topic I: The Implementation of Early Warning Systems: Monitoring and Prevention of Natural Disasters

URL: <http://unit.aist.go.jp/actfault/english/activef.html>

Title: National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology: Active Fault Research Center

Description: The AIST is administered by Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, as is the Active Fault Research Center. The center's Web site includes information on past and ongoing earthquake research, including prediction. While the Japanese web site offers a higher amount of and more current information, the English site provides useful information on this good example of earthquake prediction programs. It also provides a link to the main AIST web site, which contains a latest research section that includes English translations of recent press releases from the Active Fault Research Center.

URL: <http://www.unep.org/dewa/index.asp>

Title: UNEP: Division of Early Warning and Assessment

Description: The UNEP's DEWA provides states and non-governmental organizations with environmental information that assists them in building sustainable development capacities while simultaneously mitigating the potential for environmental disasters. It also helps to provide early warning data and information and facilitate cooperation to prevent natural disasters.

URL: <http://www.fews.net/>

Title: Famine Early Warning Systems Network

Description: This Web site provides detailed information on global food security situations that have the potential to develop into famines and widespread disasters. It also contains information on all situations considered to be full-scale emergencies. Weather, crop, and human activities are all included in discussions of the causes of famine.

URL: <http://www.climatehotmap.org/index.html>

Title: Global Warming: Early Warning Signs

Description: This site provides an interactive map that illustrates what the Union of Concerned Scientists, which produces the map, consider local hotspots of global warming. The map can be broken down by region and also identifies potential future natural disasters likely to be caused by global warming.

Topic II: The Yokohama Strategy: The Role of Good Governance in Disaster Reduction

URL: <http://www.fema.gov/preparedness/>

Title: Federal Emergency Management Agency

Description: The site of the Federal Emergency Management Agency offers excellent information on natural hazards and disasters in the United States. In particular, the chapter on preparedness describes community and family preparedness programs for floods and hurricanes. The site also offers useful up-to-date statistics on the devastating hurricane Katrina and information on the progress of the government's post-Katrina recovery efforts.

URL: <http://www.nrdc.org/legislation/katrina/katrinainx.asp>

Title: Natural Resources Defense Council

Description: The Web site analyses U.S. environmental policy success and pitfalls, which either exacerbated or reduced the consequences of the hurricane Katrina. It offers information on U.S. policies on climatic change, wildlife, nuclear waste and other environmental dangers. It also contains a link for international issues, which offers information on worldwide environmental strategies and challenges from a U.S. perspective.

URL: http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia_near_east/tsunami/trm.html

Title: US AID – Tsunami Relief 280 000 Lives Lost

Description: This report recounts the tragedy of the tsunami in December 2004 and takes stock of the progress made within a year in respect of disaster preparedness and recovery. The report analyses the responses of the international community and the affected states and analyses the success of the reconstruction work obtained.

URL: <http://www.un.org/special-rep/ohrrls/ohrrls/Statements/2%20HR%20statement%20on%20Mauritius%20Strategy%20and%20International%20Strategy%20on%20Disaster%20Reduction.pdf>

Title: Anwarul K Chowdhury, UN Under-Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, at the Second Committee of the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly on Agenda Item 52: Sustainable Development

Description: The report highlights the challenges of developing States to achieve sustainable development. It addresses the progress made in developing States of the Mauritius Strategy for further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

URL: <http://www.wbcsd.ch/web/publications/pathways.pdf>

Title: World Business Council for Sustainable Development – Pathways to 2050: Energy and Climate Change

Description: This publication analyses changes required reducing the risk of climatic change. In particular, it discusses the responsibility of polluting states worldwide for climatic change. Although the Web site offers various policy options, it does not recommend one option over another, nor does it define a target. It offers a basis for evaluation of governmental strategies.

Topic III: Environmental Extremes and Their Potential for Natural Disaster

URL: <http://www.globalwarming.org/>

Title: Global Warming

Description: This site is run by the Cooler Heads Coalition a non-profit market-oriented groups dealing with global climate issues. The site compiles information, articles, and other sources by experts from numerous fields relating to global warming policy and science. It aims to provide the American public with more balanced information about both the policy and science of global warming.

URL: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>

Title: Earth Observatory

Description: This web site offers articles by scientists and experts on topics concerning Earth's climate and environmental changes. It provides data and images on, for example, global carbon monoxide levels and sea and land surface temperatures. A section on natural hazards discusses the causes and effects of droughts, dust and smoke, fires, floods, severe storms, and volcanoes.

URL: <http://www.who.int/globalchange/climate/en/>

Title: World Health Organization Climate Change and Health

Description: The WHO site on climate change and health provides information on how extreme climate situations and regular climate changes impact human health, such as through facilitating the spread of disease. It also includes information on how these threats can be mitigated and responses to them made more successful, including through information sharing and capacity building.

URL: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

Title: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Description: This Web site provides a wealth of information from the UN on its climate change related activities. It includes measures that have been taken to prevent climate change, including the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol, and measures that states and non-governmental organizations can take to help prevent such change. The site includes the documents, statements, and press releases resulting from the recent UN Climate Change Conference, which included in its topics the affect of climate change on health and disasters.