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WATCH**

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**The First Asian Grassroots
Women's Academy on
Resilience**

Cebu City, Philippines,
October 24, 2008



On the night of October 22nd, the Mayor of Cebu City inaugurated the Grassroots Women's Academy, "Empowering Grassroots Women to Build Resilient Communities at a special dinner hosted by the City for participants of the Asian Grassroots Academy on "Empowering Grassroots Women to Build Resilient Communities."

This six-day Academy brings together 85 participants – mainly grassroots women - from 16 countries speaking 13 different languages. While the majority of grassroots leaders were Asian, they were also joined by experienced grassroots leaders from Kenya, Uganda, Nicaragua and Honduras who were interested in learning about Asian women's resilience building strategies. While we have held Grassroots Academies since 2000, this is the first time the Huairou Commission has organized such an Academy in Asia.

Read the full report:

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/resources/gwia.pdf>

Women build resilient communities



DISASTER BRIEF

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OUR PRACTICE

THIS UPDATE IS BROUGHT TO
YOU BY SWAYAM SHIKSHAN PRAYOG
FOR HUAIROU COMMISSION AND GROOTS INTERNATIONAL

**Grassroots Women's Initiatives in
Reconstruction and Governance**

**Latin American Grassroots women's Practices
for Building Resilient Communities**

More than 50 leaders representing 25 grassroots and indigenous organisations participated in a three day workshop in Guatemala City. The consultation brought together women living in diverse situations spanning rural and coastal communities who are isolated and/or marginalised from government by geography and culture/ethnic identity.

http://huairou.org/assets/download/guatemala_press_release.pdf

Community Hazard Mapping

**Learning Exchange on Resilience in Honduras,
July 18, 2008**

Twenty eight community leaders from Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras – primarily grassroots women - together with a large number of local residents gathered in Guadalupe to prepare a community map of this small hurricane prone coastal town in Honduras. This community hazard mapping exercise was part of a four-day, four country learning exchange, sponsored by GROOTS International's Community Resilience Program and hosted by Comite de Emergencia Garifuna.

http://www.disasterwatch.net/resources/mapping_honduras.pdf

Recipes for Resilience

On December 6th and 7th women representing community-based organizations in seven countries in Central and South America visited a number of projects that members of the Union of Housing Movements of São Paulo (UMMSP) are currently developing to redress social exclusion, stimulate in urban reform, and ensure all residents have permanent and dignified housing.

http://www.huairou.org/knowledge/News/2007/12-07-Brazil_exch_1.html

**International Community Visit &
Exchange Workshop**



August 18-22, 2008, Tamil Nadu, India

Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) on behalf of GROOTS International facilitated a learning exchange between grassroots communities from Sri Lanka and India. The exchange took place in the districts of Cuddalore and Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu from August 18th to 22nd 2008, and gave an opportunity for grassroots women to share their learning, initiatives and best practices in rebuilding resilience among communities.

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/resources/Slnkaexchange-report-08-2008.pdf>

**Grassroots Women at World Urban
Forum-IV, Nanjing, China**



The World Urban Forum IV, under the theme Harmonious Cities, convened from 3-6 November in Nanjing, China. The Huairou Commission with its delegation of over 25 women from around the world highlighted the fact that grassroots women are at the heart of harmonious cities and sustainable urbanization!

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/update/WUF-IV.pdf>

Responding to earthquakes 2008 - Learning from earthquake relief and recovery operations

This briefing paper provides a distillation of the learning from thirty years of humanitarian response to earthquakes, looking at preparedness, relief and recovery. The paper is intended for operational decision-makers and relief programme managers working in the response to such sudden-onset natural disasters. The paper was jointly developed by ALNAP and ProVention. It is available in English and in Chinese.

http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/ALNAP-ProVention_earthquake08.pdf

Manila Declaration for Global Action on Gender, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Climate change is not a neutral process; first of all, women are, in general, more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, not just because they represent the majority of the world's poor but also because they are more than proportionally dependent on natural resources that are threatened. The technological change and instruments that are being proposed to mitigate carbon emissions, which are implicitly presented as gender-neutral, are in fact quite gender-biased and may negatively affect women or bypass them.

<http://www.capwip.org/manila%20declarationfinal.pdf>

Indian Ocean Tsunami through the Gender Lens: Insights from Tamil Nadu, India

This is a compelling uncovering of how gendered realities resulted in the aftermath of Tsunami. The study also analyses some of the good and replicable practices and policy stances by both NGOs and Government which attempt to expand the spaces for women in order to achieve the outcomes of gender equality both in the disaster management and development processes.

http://thinkbeyondboundaries.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&qid=17&Itemid=38

Linking Climate Change adaptation

Tearfund is working with partner organisations and governments on climate change and disaster prevention and preparedness. These reports have been written as part of this work.

<http://tilz.tearfund.org/Research/Climate+change+reports/>

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Women as equal partners: Gender dimensions of disaster risk management programme: Compilation of good practices

GoI-UNDP DRM programme.
June 2008

Women as Equal Partners' documents significant gender mainstreaming initiatives taken up under Disaster Risk Management Programme. These good practices attempt to capture ongoing gender equity initiatives involving different stake holders. The rationale of bringing out a special publication is to highlight gender dimensions of the programme and to record those initiatives that promote women's participation in areas where women are traditionally not well represented.

<http://data.undp.org.in/dmweb/pub/womenasEqualPartners.pdf>

Linking climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction

This report looks at similarities and differences between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR), and discusses the rationale for adopting a more integrated approach to these issues.

http://www.tearfund.org/webdocs/Website/Campaigning/CCA_and_DRR_web.pdf

Gender Mainstreaming In Emergency Management: Opportunities for Building Community Resilience in Canada

This report builds on international efforts over the past decade to develop more gender-sensitive approaches to disaster risk management, for example by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the humanitarian relief efforts of the Canadian International Development Agency.

http://www.gdnonline.org/resources/Enarson_GenderMainstreamingCanada.pdf

UN Briefing note on Climate Change

International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction

UN Briefing Note 01, September 2008

This Briefing Note outlines the nature and significance of climate change for disaster risk, as well as the main perspectives and approaches of disaster risk reduction and how they can support adaptation strategies. It is aimed at experts and practitioners as well as non-specialists such as teachers and students, journalists and the interested public.

<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/risk-reduction/climate-change/docs/Climate-Change-DRR.pdf>

Driving the Demand for Good Governance

GROOTS International at the World Bank.

Building strong linkages with the World Bank has always been a priority within the Huairou Commission and its member networks. The Demand for Good Governance Learning Summit was an opportunity to re-establish our relationship with the Social Development Unit as well as build new linkages to other units and departments within the Bank.

http://groots.org/news/06-08-wb_governance.html

"From Grassroots to Global: People-Centered Disaster Risk Reduction"

Organized in partnership with the IFRC Zonal Office in Panamá, the 2008 Forum fostered cross-disciplinary and cross-regional linkages and learning by bringing ProVention partners and relevant stakeholders together from around the globe. In addition, the Annual Forum aimed to produce recommendations for government authorities and international actors on how to support bottom-up change related to DRR, and to inform the strategic direction and work plan development of the ProVention Secretariat for 2009 and beyond.

http://www.disasterwatch.net/resources/2008_Forum_Report.pdf

From Risk to Resilience - Benefits and Costs of Disaster Risk Reduction

The purpose of the project on "Risk to Resilience" is to evaluate the benefits and costs of disaster risk reduction across a series of case areas in India, Nepal and Pakistan. It focuses on water related disasters and the manner in which they may change as a consequence of climate change.

http://www.proventionconsortium.org/themes/default/pdfs/CBA/ISSET_resilience.pdf

"The role and power of women and indigenous groups in managing disaster risk"

Video from Antigua workshop on The role and power of women and indigenous groups in disaster risk management which took place on March 12-14, 2008.

<http://in.youtube.com/watch?v=LkEBIXF7Sgo>

Film on Bihar Flood—2008



Flooding causes devastation in the eastern state of Bihar in India with thousands missing, hundreds of villages destroyed and road and rail routes blocked, says ActionAid. This year the river Koshi, which flows into India from Nepal, broke through an embankment changing its path and flowing on a course that it had 100 years ago. The breach area is now over a thousand meter wide, releasing 0.15 Million cusec of water into the villages every day. This has forced two million people from their homes in six districts, where they were unprepared for such a disaster.

View the film at: http://in.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ox2fvv_3AY



Climate Resilience Cities

Reducing Vulnerabilities to Climate Change Impacts and Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in East Asian Cities

This primer is prepared as a guide for local governments in the East Asia Region to better understand the concepts and consequences of climate change; how climate change consequences contribute to urban vulnerabilities; and what is being done by city governments in East Asia and around the world to actively engage in learning, capacity building, and capital investment programs for building sustainable, resilient communities. The Primer is applicable to a range of cities – from those starting to build awareness on climate change to those with climate change strategies and institutions already in place.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/Resources/climatecities_fullreport.pdf

National Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction, India

National Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction (NADRR) has launched the website www.nadrrindia.org in August 2008.

The NADRR would be an initiative of concerned individuals and agencies committed to integration of disaster risk reduction (DRR) concerns into the mainstream development planning and action on the ground. <http://www.nadrrindia.org/>

Film on Community Resilience

In March of 2008, 55 grassroots and indigenous women gathered in La Antigua, Guatemala to share their experiences in making their communities less vulnerable to disasters. After three days of discussions they drafted a document outlining their plans for increased cooperation between networks and for greater participation in the disaster risk reduction plans of their respective governments.

For all videos please visit:

http://www.youtube.com/profile_videos?user=ProVention



Social Entrepreneur of the Year, India 2008

We are proud to announce that Prema Gopalan, director of Swayam Shikshan Prayog and global leader in our Community Resilience campaign - has been announced as a finalist for Social Entrepreneur of the Year, India 2008.

The Nand & Jeet Khemka Foundation and The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, in association with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) are collaborating to select India's 'Social Entrepreneur Of The Year' 2008. Three finalists have been chosen following an intensive search and selection process including expert reviews and site visits. The winner will be announced in a ceremony coinciding with the India Economic Summit in November 2008.

For more details:

<http://www.sspindia.org/SEY.pdf>

Sizani Ngubane Nominated as a 'Woman of the Year'

Sizani Ngubane, a finalist in last year's SABC 2 'Woman of the Year,' has been honoured by being chosen as one of 23 'Women' Leaders of the World,' invited to the U.S.A. by the Global Women's Leadership Network. The Global Women's Leadership Network (GWLN) sets out to achieve breakthroughs in leadership and communication by empowering each delegate to a new level of effectiveness - so they can return to their respective countries and bring about a culture of opportunity; collaboration, and extraordinary results.

For more details:

http://www.huairou.org/assets/updates/kzn_woman_leader.pdf

Dubai International Award for Best Practices 2008

Huairou Commission member UPLINK in Indonesia to be one of twelve recipients for post-tsunami work in Aceh. An independent jury of five international experts met in Dubai on 12 - 13 November, 2008 to select the 12 winners for the seventh cycle of the Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment (DIABP).

The selection was made from a list of 48 initiatives, which had been shortlisted out of nearly 500 submissions by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which met in Dubai last month. The winners were all deemed to have made outstanding contributions to improving the quality of life in cities and communities.

http://www.disasterwatch.net/update/dubai_award08.pdf

United Nations Climate Change Conference

1-12 December 2008, Poznan, Poland

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is one of the largest international environmental agreements. The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme body of the Convention. Its sessions are organised regularly (once a year) to specify rules for UNFCCC implementation.

The COP 14 agenda includes not only plenary sessions and working group meetings, but also a series of side events (presentations, seminars, happenings, exhibitions) aimed at raising awareness about problems related to global climate change. Non-government organisations, with numerous representatives at the conference, are especially active in this area.

Further details:

Dr Małgorzata Snarska

E-mail: malgorzata.snarska@mos.gov.pl

malgorzata.snarska@cop.14.gov.pl

Phone: +48 22 579 28 59, Fax: + 48 22 579 28 19

UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

2009 Sasakawa award call for nominations now open

Nominations are now open for the 2009 Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction. Nominees should be individuals and institutions from around the world who have contributed to building the resilience of nations and communities to natural hazards through innovative practices and outstanding initiatives. Nominations must be sent to isdr-sasakawa@un.org by 18 March 2009.

There have been some changes to the nomination process and eligibility criteria. All nominees should be sure to read How to apply to find out how their applications will be evaluated by the jury.

Further details:

<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/sasakawa/sasakawa.html>

Disaster Brief E-newsletter from **Disaster Watch**, an initiative of **Huairou Commission** and **GROOTS International** to support grassroots women to build community resilience.
Co-ordinated by Swayam Shikshan Prayog, India

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