

PUBLIC FORUM EVENT

**“Towards disaster resilience: reducing risks from technological accidents
“triggered by natural hazards (Natech)”**

**Tohoku University, Kawauchi-Kita Campus, Room A106
Sendai, Japan, 16 March 2015, 9:00-12:00**

The European Commission’s Joint Research Centre and the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI) of Kyoto University in collaboration with UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) are pleased to invite you to attend this Public Forum side event on 16 March. Please find below the rationale and objectives of the session, as well as the programme.

Rationale

The last years set a record in the number of natural disasters accompanied by major damage to industrial facilities and other infrastructures housing hazardous materials, e.g. nuclear power plants, chemical facilities, and oil refineries. The resulting fires, explosions and toxic or radioactive releases – so-called “Natech” accidents – have often had significant social, environmental and economic impacts. These events raise the question of whether disaster risk reduction and management frameworks adequately address the issue of technological hazards.

Natech risk is predicted to increase due to more hazards (climate change, growing industrialisation) coupled with a higher vulnerability of society (community encroachment on exposed areas, interdependencies). It is therefore necessary to revisit existing expertise and practices in risk assessment and emergency-response planning at industrial facilities and in potentially affected communities. Moreover, dedicated measures for Natech risk reduction are required at national and local levels, and at policy and practical level.

At this side event, experts from academia, government, the EU, and international organisations will share their experiences with Natech risk management, present dedicated research and implementation programmes, including existing guidance and tools, and discuss future needs for effective technological and Natech risk reduction.

Objectives and outcome

- Promotion of an integrated and comprehensive disaster risk management framework including the development of guidance for industry and authorities to support future disaster planning and industrial risk management;
- Acknowledgement of the importance of preparedness for Natech events and environmental emergencies in general, and its broader implications for sustainable development;
- Improvement of knowledge and skills concerning tools, good practices, and policies and programmes in support of Natech risk reduction, in particular in the face of climate change;
- Advocating for the mainstreaming of Natech disaster risk reduction into disaster prevention, preparedness and response;
- Encouragement of efforts to address environmental aspects and technological hazards during the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- Identification of gaps and future needs in support of technological and Natech risk reduction in a post-2015 DRR framework.

PROGRAMME

- 9:00 – 9:10** **Event setup**
- 9:10 – 9:15** **Welcome and introduction**
Mrs. Elisabeth Krausmann, Principal Administrator, European Commission Joint Research Centre
- 9:15 – 9:30** **Keynote speech**
Mr. Vladimir Sucha, Director General, European Commission Joint Research Centre
- 9:30 – 11:55** **Plenary**
Chairs: Mr. Shane Wright (Asian Disaster Preparedness Center)
 Mrs. Elisabeth Krausmann (European Commission, Joint Research Centre)
- 9:30 – 9:50 Mr. Shane Wright, Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
"Damage and loss from Natech and possible interventions in Asia"
- 9:50 – 10:10 Mr. Ernesto Salzano, Professor, National Research Council, Italy
"The vulnerability of oil and gas installations and pipelines to earthquake and tsunami"
- 10:10 – 10:30 Ms. Wendy Cue, Chief, UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit
"Saving Lives and Livelihoods: Natech Risk Reduction from a Humanitarian Perspective"
- 10:30 – 10:50 Mrs. Elisabeth Krausmann, Principal Administrator, European Commission Joint Research Centre
"Decision support tool RAPID-N for Natech risk assessment and mapping"
- 10:50 – 11:10 Mr. Dave Applegate, Associate Director for Natural Hazards, USGS
"Delivering strategic science during environmental crises: Lessons learned from Deepwater Horizon and Hurricane Sandy"
- 11:10 – 11:30 Mr. Roland Fendler, Scientific Staff Member, Federal Environment Agency, Germany
"Results of the OECD Natech Workshop 2012 and related recommendations of the OECD"
- 11:30 – 11:55** **Discussion and conclusions**
Mrs. Ana Maria Cruz, Professor, Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Japan
Wrap-up and conclusions including summary of outcomes from the 2015 International Symposium on Natural Disaster Impacts to Large Industrial Parks