



United Nations, DPI/NGO Resource Centre, Room L-1B-31
Tel: (212) 963-7233, 7234, 7078 * Fax: (212) 963-2819 * E-mail: dpingo@un.org

The DPI/NGO Section invites you to a

Briefing

On

The Psychological Impact of Natural Disasters

In Observance of the International Day for Mental Health (10 October) & the
International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (10 October)

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11 October 2007

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

at the

Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium

Background Information:

In the recent years, the world has been plagued with various disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, typhoons and tsunamis; the latter claiming about 229,866 lives. Human vulnerability, exacerbated by the lack of planning or lack of appropriate emergency management, leads to financial, structural, and human losses. The resulting loss depends on the capacity of the population to support or resist the disaster, their resilience. Although victims may recover from financial losses and other material losses, the psychological impacts of natural disasters often have long lasting effects on the victims. The briefing will look into the psychological impact of natural disasters and how organizations and humanitarian agencies can help survivors of natural disasters survive the trauma.

Speakers:

Dr. Gerard A. Jacobs, Director, Disaster Mental Health Institute

Ms. Anne Cubilie, Policy & Guidance Management Office, Policy Development & Studies Branch, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Mr. Nassim Agazade, Critical Incident Stress Management Unit, Department of Safety of Security, United Nations

Mr. Luis Alberto Amorós Nunez, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations (invited)

A video from the “UN in the 21 Century” series entitled, *Aftershock: The Earthquake in Pakistan*, as well as two “UN in Action” videos, *Nias Rebuilds After Earthquake*, and *UN Project Aims to Prevent Loss of Life When Natural Disasters Strike* will be screened at 10:00 a.m. sharp

Representatives of NGOs are encouraged to participate during the Q & A segment.

The event may be webcast. If so, it will be available at www.un.org/dpi/ngosection.

Preview of Next Week’s Briefing:

Next week’s DPI/NGO Briefing entitled *Linking Human Rights and Poverty* will be held in Observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Briefings are held in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. United Nations-produced videos relevant to the briefing theme are usually screened at 10:00 a.m. on the morning of the briefing.

For briefing information please call the DPI/NGO Information Line at +1-212-963-7232, or e-mail dpingo@un.org. To receive the briefing information electronically and to be added to our e-mailing list, please e-mail dpingo@un.org. You can also visit the DPI/NGO Section website at www.un.org/dpi/ngosection, where an archived webcast of the briefings may also be available.

Should you require a guest pass to attend an NGO briefing, please fax your name and affiliation to +1-212-963-2819 no later than two days before a briefing. All guest passes should be picked up at the Pass & ID Office on the morning of the briefing, which is located on the corner of First Avenue and 45th Street at the ground level.

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