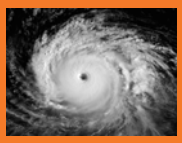
Disasters this Week – June 08, 2012

Headlines of Major Natural Events in the Americas this Week



Organization of American States

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The OAS General Assembly endorses **the *Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance*** at its XLII ordinary meeting, in the city of Cochabamba of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

During his inauguration speech, Secretary General José Miguel Insulza stated: "I believe that a great step forward has been taken with the adoption of ***the Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance***, prepared by the Working Group of OAS member States. In that it contains concrete suggestions related to risk management and the coordination of international humanitarian assistance within a framework of national sovereignty and with active citizen participation, this Plan will serve as our foundation for furthering the agreements on this topic reached at the Summit…"
More

Recent Natural Events

Strong earthquake strikes south of Panama
The center of the quake was roughly 215 miles south of David, Panama, and almost 330 miles southwest of the capital, Panama City, the USGS said. Read

Colombia's rainy season leaves 55 dead
But this year's rainy season has been far less intense than the previous two years, thanks to the cooling influence of La Niña on ocean currents near the Equator. Read

Drought threatens Indigenous People in Northern Mexico
The federal government is planning to send 100,000 aid packages – including food, water and blankets – to the neediest Raramuri communities in the Sierra Tarahumara region. Read

National Weather Service confirms 9 tornadoes for D.C. metro area
The National Weather Service has confirmed that nine tornadoes touched down, all of them in Maryland. Read

Snow in Chile and Argentina
Three weeks before the official first day of winter (June 20, 2012), southern Chile and Argentina were covered with snow. Read

Other Disasters Related News

Brazil spends $1.3 mln to ease NE drought: Rousseff
Brazil will spend $1.3 million to send water to the drought-ravaged northeast which is in the grips of its worst dry spell in a half-century, President Dilma Rousseff announced Monday. Read

Peru needs glacier loss monitoring: dire UN warning
Peru needs a permanent monitoring system to gauge Andean mountain glacier shrinkage caused by global warming, and its effect on people who depend on the ice for water, UN experts warned. Read

Mexico's president enacts climate change legislation
The law, which sets targets on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the use of renewable energy, is only the second of its kind in the world. Read

How an Argentine resort town rose from volcano's ashes
The eruption of the Puyehue volcano, in neighboring Chile, caused massive disruption throughout the Patagonia region of southern Argentina, but Villa La Angostura, the town closest to the volcano, was the worst hit. Read

Japan's tsunami dock washed up in US state of Oregon
A huge dock torn from a Japanese port by the 2011 tsunami has washed up 8,050km (5,000 miles) away on the US West Coast after crossing the Pacific. Read

Chihuahua: Is It a Drought or Climate Change?
Although northern Mexico has historically been semi-arid, the current drought has gone on for an unprecedented length of time. It has also been preceded by other severe droughts. Read

*On behalf of the **Section for Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change, RISK-MACC**, Department of Sustainable Development, Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, General Secretariat of the Organization of American States*
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