

World Wetlands Day

Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction

High-level Roundtable Discussion on “Healthy Wetlands, Resilient Communities”

2 February 2017

11:00 – 12:40 hrs

followed by
light refreshments

VENUE:

**Centre International
de Conférences
Genève (CICG)**

17 Rue de Varembe
CH - 1211 Genève 20

The frequency of disasters worldwide has more than doubled in just 35 years. Disasters are a major setback to development, resulting in loss of lives, livelihoods, critical assets and disruption of services.

In celebration of World Wetlands Day 2017, this Roundtable Discussion will feature the role of wetlands in protecting people and enhancing their resilience to disasters. It will focus on how wetlands can be optimized to reduce the risk of **floods, droughts** and **storm surges** in rural and urban areas. Drawing from practical examples, the Roundtable will discuss how sustainable wetlands management can contribute towards more resilient development.

The Roundtable will represent different perspectives, including speakers from Governments, civil society, humanitarian and development agencies. It will be conducted as an interactive, free-flowing dialogue between speakers as well as with the public audience.

Outcomes of the discussion are expected to reflect on the following:

- Challenges and solutions in harnessing wetlands for disaster risk reduction;
- Opportunities for increasing/scaling-up investments in wetland management solutions for disaster risk reduction (including in post-disaster recovery and reconstruction).

The outcomes of the Roundtable will be shared as a contribution to the 2017 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, which will be held on 22-26 May in Cancun, Mexico.

SPEAKERS

Ms. Maria Teresa Almojuela

Charge d’Affaires, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, Geneva

Ms. Inger Andersen

Director General, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Dr. Garry Conille

Under Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Dr. Robert Glasser

Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

Ms. Jane Madgwick

Chief Executive Officer, Wetlands International (WI), *Chair of the Roundtable*

Mr. Naohisa Okuda

Director, Biodiversity Policy Division, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan (MOEJ)

Ms. Martha Rojas-Urrego

Secretary General, Ramsar Convention On Wetlands

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World
Wetlands Day
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