

Multi-year Expert Meeting
on Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade
Facilitation:

**Third Session:
Small Island Developing States:
Transport and Trade Logistics
Challenges**

24 – 26 November 2014

Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

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Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

- Towards a climate and disaster risk reduction programme
- Foster sustainable development as a follow-up to Samoa and Sendai
- Action to reduce risk and catastrophic events: a high regional priority
- To be effective, need to enlarge focus to cover whole DRR spectrum
- Operational activities for DRR and ACC must be closely integrated while preserving the separate identity of constituencies

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What is the ISLANDS Financial Protection Program?

- A ground-breaking regional program to help 4 IOC islands deal with catastrophic risk, by transferring modern technology to local experts
- Developed with EU financing in close collaboration with key external specialists: UNISDR and World Bank
- A tool kit for the specific needs of each island, offering better predictive tools to identify future risks and calculate their likely economic impacts
- Outputs: accurate economic loss data base; realistic risk profiles; guidance for effective development policies; guidance for risk investment and budgetary policies

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New Climatic and Disaster Risk Reduction Program

- A major shift in thinking over the past decade: “in order for development activities to be sustainable they must reduce risk”
- DRR and CCA activities concern the population as a whole: NGO’s, the business community, emergency teams
- A holistic approach: **Risk Identification; Risk Reduction; Financial Protection; Preparedness; Post-disaster Reconstruction**
- Particular attention to infrastructure reinforcement and protection of critical infrastructure

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Distinctive features of Program

DRR’s acquired experience is institutionalized and incorporated into a structured and solid base:

- Separate units: DRR; ACC; communication unit; under one director
- Regional Platform to associate all countries: need for a coordinated approach; a hosting agency in each country
- Precise work program focusing on key activities with measurable goals, indicators of success
- Selecting specialized institutions to benefit from corporate knowledge and backstopping (example of UNISDR in ISLANDS)
- Emphasis on transfer of knowledge and expertise to locals.

In conclusion ...

- Need for small scientific and technical capacity for backstopping: the issue in the context of distant islands
- Problem of coordinated approach from donors including UN funds: who are the local contacts?
- The challenge of sustainability
- Mastering information age technology: use of open source tools: critical infrastructure. Needed but who pays for it?

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