



## IORA UPDATE

Disaster Risk Management is receiving increasing attention from international organizations and is fast becoming a major concern for most Member States of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) that are struck by several disasters, whether natural or human-induced, that results in loss of life and property, as well as impacting negatively on the environment.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of United Republic of Tanzania in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Rim Association will host a two-day workshop on “Exploring Preemptive Disaster Risk Management Measures to Ensuring Human Security” in the Indian Ocean region on 20 and 21 April 2015 in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. The workshop on Disaster Risk Management would bring together officials from IORA Member States, as well as Dialogue Partners in a forum to pursue discussion on the greater empowerment of the local community across the rim countries in mitigating disasters and risks. This workshop will serve as a platform for Member States to exchange notes on disaster risk management mechanisms so as to build a culture of safety and resilience within the region through knowledge, innovation and education.

Tanzania, as well as many members of the Association, believes that there is a need to shift from the reactive approach to a more proactive approach where disaster risk management is effectively assessed, evaluated, and planned before disasters actually occur. Effective information and knowledge sharing among Member States is seen as a prerequisite in order to achieve disasters risk management preparedness.

Topics such as disaster risk management and community resilience, early warning systems for disaster risk reduction, country experiences on emergency preparedness, disaster response: search, rescue, and human safety, women empowerment relating to disaster risk management, post-disaster management and rehabilitation and a multisectoral approach to human health care systems are among of the issues to be discussed by experts in this field in order to identify recommendations for IORA Member States. The Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister of the Government of Tanzania and the Director of the Department of Disaster Management will deliver the Opening Statements at the Workshop.

In an attempt to strengthen disaster management capabilities and to enhance regional mechanisms and cooperation for sustainable development, the IORA view this workshop as a commendable initiative. It is worth noting that more than 200 million people are affected by droughts, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, fires, and other hazards every year in the world and that disaster risk management with human security concerns need to be further considered by stakeholders (national governments, non-governmental organisations, regional and international cooperating partners, donors, civil society and the private sector).

The workshop is part of the implementation of IORA Sustainable Development Programme (ISDP) with the main objectives is to encourage peer-to-peer learning, capacity building, sharing information, experience, and best practices among member states on disaster risk management.

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