

# **African Centre for Disaster Studies**

## **Bi-monthly Newsletter**

**March 2007**

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### **1. Research on the impact of drought on older people**

The ACDS in conjunction with the department of psychology at North-West University has been commissioned by Help the Aged (HtA) a London based Non-Governmental Organisation to conduct an African case study on the impact of drought on older people (people above 60). This forms part of a larger study aimed at assessing the impact of various emergency situations on older people across the globe, focussing on both negative effects and

the role of older people as a community resource in times of drought.

For this purpose the North-West University research team visited Tosca, Ganyesa and Vryburg in the Bophirima district in the North-West Province of South Africa from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2007.



### **A focus group interview conducted in Ganyesa**

For more information contact Dr. Dewald van Niekerk at

[Dewald.Vanniekerk@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Dewald.Vanniekerk@nwu.ac.za) or Prof. Vera Roos at [Vera.Roos@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Vera.Roos@nwu.ac.za).

## **2. Tshwane Municipality Disaster Risk Management Framework**

The ACDS is currently developing a disaster risk management framework for the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality (CTMM) in South Africa. The framework was developed in line with the “key performance areas” (KPAs) and “enablers” outlined in the National disaster management framework as well as the Gauteng provincial framework. A process of wide consultation with various internal role players was used. This will be followed by a public participation process in order to insure that the inputs of external role players will also be taken into account.

## **3. Tshwane Disaster Risk Management Plan**

The ACDS in partnership with MetroGis has been apportioned to develop a disaster risk management plan for the CTMM. The plan will include a macro level risk assessment serving as a foundation for developing the plan further. In the process all departments in the municipality will be consulted in order to enable them each to develop their own disaster risk management plan. The plan will also identify residual

risks which will be addressed by means of contingency plans. The entire process will be linked to Tshwane’s development planning.

## **4. Draft Regulations on Volunteers**

The ACDS recently took part in a workshop on the draft regulations pertaining to volunteers as it relates to the Disaster Management Act of South Africa, hosted by the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC). The draft regulations were developed by Henk van Elst from Low Risk Disaster Management Consultants. The workshop was well attended by all three tiers of government

The ACDS is also a member of a task team appointed by the workshop to incorporate feedback into the final draft, which will be presented to the national assembly, the national council of provinces and national portfolio committees. For more information contact the NDMC. <http://sandmc.pwv.gov.za/Newsite/default.htm>

## **5. Special publication regarding educational technology in disaster risk reduction,**

Following a workshop with the same theme held at the International Disaster Reduction Conference in Davos Switzerland in 2006, the UNISDR, UNDP and ETH-Zurich request contributions to a special publication. The publication will deal with the fundamentals of educational technology in disaster risk reduction and management. Papers may address any of the following issues:

- 1) Educational technology and its relevance to the expanding field of disaster risk reduction.
- 2) Recognition of the opportunities afforded by an educational technology-based approach.
- 3) Contextual relevance of educational technology, where different professional interests come together in the field of disaster risk reduction.
- 4) Critiques of merits and/or limitations to the wider or more effective use of educational technology in the realm of DRR/DRM

Articles will be peer reviewed. Please indicate your intention to submit by the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2007. The deadline for submissions is the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2007. For information and article guidelines please contact Andrew Kos at [andrew.kos@erdw.ethz.ch](mailto:andrew.kos@erdw.ethz.ch)

## **6. Training offered**

**PLEASE NOTE:** You are kindly requested **not to** contact the ACDS with queries on specific training activities displayed here. Please make use of the contact details provided under each advertisement.

### South Africa

#### **Southern Business School**

SBS is registered with the Department of Education as a private higher distance education institution under the Higher Education Act, 1997. SBS offers the following registered pro-programmes in Disaster Risk Reduction:

- Certificate in Management - Disaster Risk Reduction;
- Diploma in Management - Disaster Risk Reduction;
- Advanced Diploma in Management - Disaster Risk Reduction;
- A range of short courses in DRR.

For more information contact: Jenny Coles at [Jenny@sbsonline.co.za](mailto:Jenny@sbsonline.co.za) or on +27 (0)82 889 7773.

### **7. Call for papers**

The ACDS will publish the second issue of its e-journal Jàmbá in May 2007. The theme of this edition will be “The multidisciplinary nature of disaster risk reduction”. All interested academics, practitioners and students are invited to contribute papers. For information contact Gideon van Riet [Gideon.Vanriet@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Gideon.Vanriet@nwu.ac.za) or visit our website at [www.acds.co.za](http://www.acds.co.za).

### **8. Contribute to this newsletter**

The ACDS Newsletter aims to provide relevant information to various stakeholders in the field of disaster risk management on the continent. This might for example include information on training opportunities, conferences and funding opportunities for research.

If you have any relevant information you would like us to include in this newsletter, please forward it to Gideon van Riet at [Gideon.Vanriet@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Gideon.Vanriet@nwu.ac.za). Please include contact details (e-mail, telephone numbers and internet link), but **keep details brief**. The ACDS reserves the right to edit submissions.

The next newsletter will be distributed in April 2007. Please forward your information by Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2007.

**AFRICAN CENTRE FOR DISASTER STUDIES**

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