



# **HIGH LEVEL RISK FORUM**

**NEWSLETTER  
JULY 2013**





# OECD HIGH LEVEL RISK FORUM Newsletter - July 2013

## RECENT EVENTS

20 – 24 May 2013. GLOBAL PLATFORM ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



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**GENEVA.** The OECD High Level Risk Forum participated in the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction organised by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) in Geneva from 20 to 24 May 2013. Deputy Secretary-General Yves Leterme presented the G20/OECD Framework on Risk Assessment and Disaster Risk Financing in a roundtable including Ministers from Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Niger and the World Bank. The High Level Panel emphasized the need for governments to develop a comprehensive risk management strategy based on whole-of-government and multi-hazard risk assessment. These strategies should provide clear rules for deciding how much should be invested in disaster risk prevention and tailor the appropriate risk transfer financial mechanisms for different types of risks. Cross-government co-ordination is fundamental for developing such a national strategy. The OECD is working with APEC on the implementation of this framework and the on-going analysis of National Risk Assessment practices carried out by the High Level Risk Forum will further deepen this guidance to countries.

15-16 May 2013. OECD PRESENTS THE G20/OECD FRAMEWORK ON DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK FINANCING AT THE 4<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION PLATFORM

**BRUSSELS.** The High Level Risk Forum Secretariat presented its findings from the G20/OECD framework on 15-16 May in a session on “Disaster management finance – available funding in times of economic crisis”. Jack Radisch joined a panel with European government officials, Swiss Re, and the European Commission to discuss current challenges in the availability of disaster management finance, public and private, for all phases of the disaster management cycle.



Participants recognised that in a time of fiscal consolidation, governments are not increasing investment in civil protection and other forms of risk reduction. Their current strategy is to ensure more efficient use of available resources. The importance of risk assessment for this purpose was singled out as paramount for prioritising resources whether for risk prevention/mitigation, preparedness and response or recovery. Centres of government need to take a portfolio view of risks across ministries and establish a common framework to prioritise the measures to manage them. Many governments in the European Union have found it difficult to articulate a portfolio view of risk, but the draft legislation on civil protection could support broader uptake of national risk assessments and a peer review mechanism. Some EU members find it difficult to complete complex risk assessments underpinned by probabilistic models. The OECD suggested that different types of risk assessments are appropriate for different purposes, and that proposals to build civil protection capabilities should not require the same highly detailed risk assessments that a major infrastructure project would require to conduct cost benefit analysis. In the future, the OECD will collaborate with the European Commission in the field of civil protection on issues related to National Risk Assessment.

## 9 – 11 January 2013. IRGC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2013: FROM CRISIS MANAGEMENT TO RISK GOVERNANCE

**BEIJING.** The OECD Secretariat participated in the “Expert Workshop on National Risk Assessment and Risk Management at the Country Level”. The workshop was organised as part of the International Risk Governance Council (IRGC) International Conference 2013 held in Beijing, China. The objective of this workshop was to introduce methods for All-Hazards National Risk Assessment and Whole-of-Government Risk Management at the country level (IRGC, 2013).

The workshop was co-chaired by Prof. Hui DING, President, Beijing Academy of Science and Technology and by Mr. Donald JOHNSTON, former Secretary-General of the OECD and Chairman of IRGC. Stéphane Jacobzone provided information and highlights of the OECD approach used for Country Risk Assessment and Management. The OECD’s participation focused on the assessment aspect of the OECD High Level Risk Forum work on promoting an integrated risk management approach among member countries. The recent experience of the OECD in developing a voluntary framework for risk assessment and financing in the context of the G20 underscores the value of countries sharing experiences in risk management. Mr. Michal Osborne (Fellow, Oxford University) presented how, in the past few years, several governments have worked to develop an “all-hazards national risk assessment” and “whole-of-government approaches to risk management at the country level”.

## 5-6 March 2013. UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL THEMATIC SESSION ON WATER AND DISASTERS

**NEW YORK.** The High Level Risk Forum secretariat was invited to present its views in the context of the UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters. The side event was organised under the auspices of the High-Level Expert and Leader’s Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) of the United Nations Secretary-Generals’ Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB).

The speeches and high level participation demonstrated that, after Hurricane Sandy, Fukushima, and the other major flood events which happened in the last years in Bangkok, Australia, and Pakistan, “water and disaster” is a topic of growing concern and attention for many governments, and international organisations including the UN. Charles Baubion described why sound risk management policy needs to be based on two complementary approaches at the same level: prevention on one side and crisis management and response on the other side.

Debates over the two-day event highlighted that water disasters are affecting all nations, and argued that investment in risk prevention is cost-efficient and should be a priority. The discussions pointed out the need for broader implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and called for further engagement of the donor community in this domain, especially as 2013 is the international year for water co-operation. Participants insisted on the need to think about new policy approaches based on resilience.

The event provided the OECD High-Level Risk Forum an opportunity to showcase its work to the widest possible collection of countries, and to discuss potential linkages between the HLRF and the United Nations; in particular UNISDR, and the UNSGAB High Level Expert Panel on Water and Disasters.

## 2-3 April 2013. THE 1st MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON CHARTING ILLICIT TRADE

**PARIS.** The First Meeting of the Task Force on Charting Illicit Trade (TF-CIT) took place on 2-3 April 2013 in Paris. The activities of transnational illicit networks lead to a range of societal ills, provide financial support for corruption, undermine the rule of law and the investment environment, and deteriorate economic conditions for competitiveness. Due to its illegal nature, an accurate estimate of the market values in the global illegal economy is difficult to achieve.

Increasing knowledge around orders of magnitude is needed to set targets for prevention strategies and more efficient regulations. Moreover, a common platform for policy makers, business leaders and academics promotes a better understanding of trends and impacts. It also helps to identify and quantify vulnerabilities of society, markets and legitimate businesses to illicit trade and develop a co-ordinated, multi-stakeholder strategy that is necessary to combat it.

To address these needs, the 1st Meeting of the OECD Task Force on Charting Illicit Trade (TF-CIT) gathered over 80 delegates, representing 11 countries, including participation from international organisations (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Europol, Interpol, IOM, OSCE, WCO, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, and

Transparency International), as well as from academia the private sector and the World Economic Forum. Discussions at this meeting centered around the development of sector specific methodologies and visualisation tools to better target prevention and mitigation strategies, effective information-sharing between private and public sectors as well as on public policies as both countermeasures to and drivers of illicit trade.



**STUTTGART.** The High Level Risk Forum Secretariat conducted a seminar on outputs of the High Level Risk Forum at the 2013 iNTEg-Risk workshop. iNTEg Risk supports system science and technology transfers, and also fosters collaboration between industry and the public sector.

The *OECD/Integ Risk Workshop on Advanced Methods and Tools for Dealing with Systemic Global Risks* highlighted new development trends and tools for understanding and managing systemic risks and making sense of them for crisis managers. Pierre-Allain Schieb presented the work of 'Future Global Shocks' and an update related to the potential of space based technologies. Stéphane Jacobzone presented the G20/ OECD framework for disaster risk assessment and financing, drawing on concrete examples and links to technologies. The workshop was enriched with presentations from international experts on advanced methods and tools for risk management. Distinguished experts participating in the dynamic panel discussion included Prof. Kenneth Oye, from the Center for International Studies at MIT, Dr. Nishimura from the University of Tokyo Japan, and Eric Rigaud from Mines Paris Tech.

## 19-20 June 2013. 2nd OECD WORKSHOP ON STRATEGIC CRISIS MANAGEMENT

**GENEVA** The focus of [this year's workshop](#) was on building multi-disciplinary expertise to support crisis management in fields such as early warning systems and situation analysis. It follows on the first OECD workshop on Strategic Crisis Management held in June 2012, organised jointly by the OECD and the Swiss Federal Crisis Management Training (CMT) of the Swiss Federal Chancellery. Mr. André Simonazzi, (Vice-Chancellor, Swiss Confederation) and Mr. Rolf Alter (Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD) provided introductory remarks focusing on the importance for governments to develop new foresight capacities to help detect signals, as well as prepare for the unknown and the so-called "Black Swan" events.

The workshop discussed how to better integrate analytical tools and systems into the decision-making process during a crisis and other emergency situations. These increasingly require the harnessing of multi-disciplinary expertise through inter-agency and inter-sectoral co-ordination. It also brought together government crisis managers and practitioners from industry and leading think-tanks to share strategic insights and cutting-edge

policy responses, drawing on the expertise of the members of the OECD High Level Risk Forum. It helped identify good practices across OECD countries as well as strengthen collaborative relationships amongst crisis managers.

The issues addressed in this second workshop were identified as part of the cross-cutting governance issues that crisis management policies and practices need to consider, including national frameworks for managing both classic and novel crises, and the need for co-ordinating multidisciplinary expertise for Early Warning Systems and sense-making during crises.

For more information on the workshop please contact [charles.baubion@oecd.org](mailto:charles.baubion@oecd.org).

## PEER REVIEWS



### 11 June 2013. LAUNCH OF THE OECD REVIEW OF THE MEXICAN NATIONAL CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEM

**MEXICO CITY.** The OECD presented main findings of the peerreview of Mexico's National Civil Protection System to senior Mexican authorities, led by the Ministry of the Interior. The OECD Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Yves Leterme, led the OECD contingent of Stéphane Jacobzone and Charles Baubion in addition to Mr. Alejandro de la Campa (Head of the Caribbean Division, U.S. FEMA) in presenting the findings. The review highlights the progressive advances of SINAPROC since its creation in 1986 and makes recommendations to shift its emphasis to disaster risk prevention.

High level officials present from Mexico included Mr. Luis Felipe Puente Espinosa (General Co-ordinator of Civil Protection) and Mr. José María Tapia Franco (Director-General of Risk Management) charted the way forward for implementing the recommendations through follow-up cooperation with OECD. The importance of these themes was highlighted in the first National Council for Civil Protection held on 28 May and chaired by President Pena-Nieto. The Ministry of the Interior underlined the 6 priorities laid down by the

President, which fully reflect the OECD review are very consistent with these and will help to support policy implementation in Mexico in the future. The event gathered 200 representatives from the three levels of government in Mexico, the private and the social sector and high-level officials from other countries.

Highlights of the report can be viewed here: <http://www.oecd.org/gov/risk/reviewofmexicosnationalcivilprotectionsystem.htm>

## 14 May 2013. PRESENTATION OF THE PEER REVIEW REPORT ON THE UK IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HYOGO FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION 2005-2015

**UNITED KINGDOM.** The OECD participated in the presentation of the *Peer Review Report on the UK Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience Nations and Communities* to the United Kingdom Minister of Political and Constitutional Reform, Ms. Chloe Smith.

Mr. Charles Baubion was part of the tri-partite team that produced and handed over the report to Minister Smith. The United Kingdom is moving forward to ensure that attention is given to business continuity and full partnership with the private sector to foster resilience to disasters. The reports highlights that the development of a database on disaster losses would help to assess the costs of disasters and support cost-benefit analysis needed to direct investment in prevention.

The report is based on findings of September 2012 peer review mission in the UK. Peers from Finland, Italy and Sweden formed a joint team with the European Commission, UNISDR, and OECD to interview more than 90 persons, including representatives from 45 entities such as government departments, NGOs and businesses across the United Kingdom.



The report can be viewed here: <http://www.oecd.org/gov/risk/peer-review-report-united-kingdom.htm>

For more information please contact [charles.baubion@oecd.org](mailto:charles.baubion@oecd.org).

## 7 – 31 May 2013. PEER REVIEW MISSION OF RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES RELATED TO THE RISK OF FLOOD FROM THE SEINE IN THE ÎLE-DE-FRANCE REGION

**PARIS.** The OECD Secretariat held a peer review mission to assess prevention policies related to the risk of flood of the Seine River in the Paris metropolitan area. The mission follows an invitation to the OECD from the River Basin Organisation Seine Grands Lacs, in partnership with the French Ministry of Ecology and the Ile-de-France regional council, to study ways to minimise the risks and limit the costs that would be incurred if the Seine and its tributaries were to flood the Ile-de-France region.

The peer review mission follows the OECD methodology for the review of risk management policies presented during a review kick-off meeting held in March. Twenty five meetings were held with 60 stakeholders from the public, private and social sector. The draft report will be presented and discussed at the High Level Risk Forum in December 2013.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2013

### 12-13 September 2013. OECD EXPERT WORKSHOP ON GOVERNING EFFECTIVE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION OF DISRUPTIVE SHOCKS

**PARIS** This expert meeting will bring together risk prevention and mitigation experts and practitioners across OECD countries to discuss the state-of-the-art in preventing and mitigating disruptive shocks, as well as the existing governance gaps that impede successful implementation. Large scale crises (such as the late spring floods across Central Europe in 2013) highlight what countries have done well, but also where potential weaknesses continue in terms of risk prevention measures. The workshop seeks to distil instances of good practices and share lessons across OECD countries. This includes not only the physical measures that governments have invested in, but also the non-structural measures such the regulatory environment, spatial planning, and risk transfer mechanisms that influence the investment in risk reducing measures among non-state actors (such as the private sector).

The workshop seeks to provide a platform for exchanging experiences and for giving an opportunity to participants to learn from each other's country experiences. At the same time, these discussions should inform the project on risk prevention & mitigation that the OECD High Level Risk Forum is currently developing.

For more information on the workshop please contact [catherine.gamper@oecd.org](mailto:catherine.gamper@oecd.org).

## 19-20 September 2013. TASK FORCE ON CHARTING ILLICIT TRADE: NETWORK DIALOGUE ON COUNTERFEIT CONSUMER GOODS

**DEHLI** The Task Force on Charting Illicit Trade (TF-CIT) will continue to work with countries and partners to identify and quantify scope, scale and impacts related to illicit trade, and to inventory and analyse the mix of policies aimed at disrupting activities at the level of production, transit and consumption that generate revenues for a global illegal economy.

In this regard, future activities for 2013 will include a Network Dialogue on Counterfeit Consumer Goods on 19-20 September in Delhi, India in co-operation with the United States, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and BASCAP.

For more information please visit the Task Force web page: <http://www.oecd.org/gov/risk/oecdtaskforceonchartingillicittradetf-cit.htm> or contact [sabrina.aschemann@oecd.org](mailto:sabrina.aschemann@oecd.org).

## December 2013

### 11-13 December 2013. THIRD OECD HIGH LEVEL RISK FORUM



The Forum brings together policy makers from government and the private sector to exchange experiences on some of the most topical issues in risk management.

In 2012, the 2<sup>nd</sup> HLRF focused on effective risk management. The Forum involved a high level policy panel on reinforcing trust in governments' capacity to manage risk, helping to shape a strategic perspective, and balancing the diverse interests that are at stake in risk management policy.

**Paris (OECD Headquarters)** The Third OECD High-Level Risk Forum (HLRF) will present the substantive outcomes of the Forum's activities in 2013, and pave the way for an exciting menu of work in 2014.

Plenary discussions will focus on development of the OECD Principles for the Governance of National Strategic Risks. In a change of format compared to previous years, the 2013 High Level Risk Forum will include parallel break-out sessions to address several themes in more depth. These will include thematic work on disaster risk prevention, strategic crisis management, as well as national risk assessment. Discussions will also address themes in the scoping stage for 2014, such as a framework for analysis of risk and crisis communication, developing a methodology to estimate the total economic costs of disasters, and how to take a structured approach to lessons learned following disasters.

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