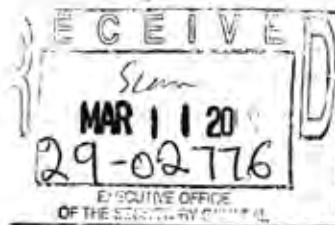




February 2, 2009

Excellency,

Received by the
during meeting w/
PK of Bahrain today
11 March. SW



COCHA

Bahrain

same as 1-1735478

A series of recent catastrophic events have yet again reminded us of the **degree** to which disaster risk now underlies and threatens development across the world. While some progress has been made in implementing the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015* in past years, it is evident that much remains to be done at the international, national and community levels.

In the context of international commitment to the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) the Secretary General of the United Nations will **launch** the 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction entitled *Reducing Risk: Reducing Poverty*. This report is a collaborative effort undertaken by UN agencies and partners, member states, the World Bank, regional inter-governmental and technical institutions, civil society networks, academic institutions and other ISDR system partners.

The launch of the 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction will aim to focus global media and political attention on the problem of disaster risk and to strengthen countries' commitment to reduce the increasing loss of life, livelihood and economic assets through natural disasters. The Report will present a global risk analysis on emerging disaster and climatic risk patterns and trends, in particular relation to poverty and human development concerns. It will also present a comprehensive review of progress by countries in implementing disaster risk reduction measures, within the context of achieving sustainable development goals.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is delighted to have the opportunity to extend substantial financial support towards the production of this important Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, and has the pleasure to host its global launch in May 2009.

The Kingdom of Bahrain, UNISDR, and the UN Development Programme, are **pleased to invite you** to the launch of this landmark **assessment report** in the **Kingdom of Bahrain**, scheduled for **11-12 May 2009**, in **advance of the second session of the ISDR Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (16-19 June 2009 in Geneva)**.

We hope this launch event will provide a powerful stimulus to global efforts to reduce disaster risk and will serve as a vehicle to strengthen commitment and support to disaster risk reduction by other countries in the Middle East and North Africa region, including those from the Gulf Cooperation Council, in support of the efforts of the United Nations to address one of the critical development challenges of our time.

We are expecting a number of high level interventions on 11th May 2009, including the participation of the United Nations Secretary General, ministers and **heads of regional institutions**. Please confirm your availability to Ms Afnan Saeed (afnan.saeed@undp.org) with a copy to gar@unisdr-wana.org by 1 March 2009. Further details on the organization and logistics of the event will be **confirmed** to your office by mid-March 2009.

We look forward to your active participation in this important event at the highest possible level.

Please be assured of our highest consideration.

Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Kingdom of Bahrain

17 May as alternative
Sunday date
John Holmes

John Holmes
Under-Secretary-General 2009
Emergency Relief Coordinator
and Chair of the ISDR system

MAY 11 2009