

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **Good Practices in Natural Disasters Mitigation – Cooperation between SIDS**

Throughout the Small Islands Developing States Conference held in Mauritius from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> January 2005, reference has been made to the urgent need to promote global partnerships to increase the capacities of SIDS to prevent disasters such as the recent tsunami in the Indian Ocean region. The United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Anan, mentioned in his address at the Conference “the need to heed the warning signs [of natural disaster], [to] come together well in advance of calamity, and sustain a collective effort”.

The United Nations Development Programme, through its South-South Cooperation Unit, carries out the UN mandate to mobilize international support to sustain South-South Cooperation for development. It encourages developing countries to become important providers of multilateral cooperation. The Unit has been established nearly 30 years ago when developing countries called upon UNDP to promote cooperation between themselves.

The UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation has published 11 volumes of the series, Sharing Innovative Experiences. This series of publications is dedicated to documenting and bringing to the public successful experiences of developing countries following a knowledge sharing methodology.

At Les Pailles Convention Center in Mauritius, Ms. Joyce Yu - UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau - held a press briefing, together with Mr. Vinesh Hookoomsing, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius and Mr. Philippe Boulé, UN Expert for SIDS meeting and Specialist in Disaster Risk Management.

Ms. Yu introduced a new initiative on behalf of UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation: the publication of the Volume 12 of the series will be dedicated to mitigation of natural disasters in SIDS: Successful Practices to Reduce Impact. The initiative will be run through a partnership between UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, the Third World Academy of Sciences and the University of Mauritius.

In her speech, Ms. Yu stressed that “the South-South Cooperation is founded on the belief that common experiences, challenges, opportunities and obstacles which developing nations face must have a platform so that they can bring forward solutions that are closer to their own realities”. UNDP’s role is to facilitate South-South Cooperation to meet development challenges through exchanges, documentation, networking and training. The forthcoming Volume 12 of the series on Sharing Innovative Experiences is one initiative that reflects this role.

Issues covered in previous issues include examples of successful initiatives in science and technology; good practices in social policies, indigenous and traditional knowledge, and appropriate technology; examples of innovative social organizations and practices; examples of successful renewable energy sources; example of successful conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; conservation and wide use of indigenous and medicinal plants; examples of successful economic, environmental and sustainable livelihood initiatives; examples of successful initiatives in agriculture and rural development; and examples of successful initiatives in Small Islands Developing States.

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