

Press release

July 29, 2014 - UNISDR 2014

UN (UNISDR) and Peace Boat NGO Voyage through Central America to promote disaster resilience

Panama City, Panama, July 28, 2014 –With the goal of strengthening the knowledge and capacity for team work to reduce the impact of disasters caused by natural hazards and enhance community resilience, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), through its Regional Office for the Americas, will join the world voyage of the UN Peace Boat in its El Salvador-Nicaragua-Panama segment, and will provide workshops on disaster prevention and resilience building to young leaders from Central America.

The journey will serve as the framework for the official launch of the cooperation agreement between UNISDR and the Peace Boat that was signed in June 2014, by which the international NGO agreed to raise awareness for the "Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!" Global Campaign - led by UNISDR since 2010- at each of the 60 ports of call of its educational voyage around the world between 2014 and 2015.

During the tour in Central America that starts on August 1, eight young people from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama will join the 800 passengers aboard this multicultural boat. They will attend a training course and share initiatives and experiences on disaster risk reduction and resilience building in their communities and countries. This will be carried out through the Youth Programme for Strengthening Disaster Resilience in Central America, led by the Peace Boat in coordination with UNISDR.

The participants will evaluate both the existing challenges to strengthening resilience and potential solutions, and will have the opportunity to propose mechanisms for resilience building in the region. They will also discuss lessons learned from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan with survivors and volunteers from the affected areas.

The programme will be held from 1 to 8 August during the Latin American segment of the 84th Peace Boat' Global Voyage, departing from Acajutla, El Salvador. The Peace Boat will make stops in Santa Tecla (El Salvador) and Corinto (Nicaragua), and will make a tour on the Panama Canal, before disembarking in Cristobal (Panama) on August 7. At each port, activities with national authorities will be conducted, along with field visits related to disaster risk reduction. Further information on these will be provided at a later date.

UNISDR - Peace Boat Resilience Tour

- Friday, August 1: Acajutla, El Salvador (Boarding)
- Saturday, August 2: Santa Tecla, El Salvador
- Sunday, August 3: Corinto, Nicaragua. Press Conference and Symposium

- Monday, August 4: Onboard programme
- Tuesday, August 5: Onboard programme
- Wednesday, August 5: Onboard programme. Crossing of the Panama Canal
- Thursday, 7 August: Cristobal, Panama (Disembarking). Visit to the UNISDR Regional Office for the Americas
- Friday, August 8: End of programme and return to home countries

About the Peace Boat

Peace Boat is an international non-profit and non-governmental organization that works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment through global educational programmes on global peace voyages.

Peace Boat has carried out emergency relief operations for the past 18 years in affected areas all over the world by delivering emergency assistance and raising funds, as well as coordinating the dispatch of experienced logisticians, interpreters and volunteer teams.. One of their operations was the coordination, training and dispatch of thousands of volunteers after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in March 2011.

About the "Making Cities Resilient" Global Campaign

1980 cities around the world have joined the UNISDR-led campaign and are working to make their communities more resilient to disasters.

The Global Campaign is based on 10 essentials for developing local resilience, which in turn build on the 5 priorities for action of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), adopted by UN Member States for the period 2005-2015 to increase the resilience of communities and nations through disaster risk reduction.

Related links:

[Making Cities Resilient Global Campaign](#)
[UNISDR- Peace Boat Cooperation Agreement \(English\)](#)
[UNISDR - The Americas Press Room](#)
[Peace Boat Press room](#)

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About UNISDR: UNISDR is the UN office dedicated to disaster risk reduction. The office is headed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction. It supports the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. The HFA seeks a "substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries."