

SPECIAL EVENT

SE 27: Global Change and Wildfire

Thursday 18 June 2009, 08:30 – 09:30 AM – Room 15
Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP 09)

The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) in its function of Secretariat of the UNISDR global Wildland Fire Network, the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group and United Nations University (UNU) is conducting the Special Event.

The GFMC will present the most recent findings and conclusions of the science community and the UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network on the consequences of climate change and land-use change on fire regimes, the environment and society, summarized in the “White Paper on Vegetation Fires and Global Change”. It will address measures of mitigation and adaptation in order to protect the world’s vegetation resources from wildfire disasters, excessive fire application in land use and land-use change, as well as appropriate use of fire in ecosystem management.

The Special Event invites international organizations involved in sustainable management and protection of vegetation resources from various sectoral and institutional perspectives and responsibilities, as well as representatives of civil society promoting fire management at local level. The role of Earth Observation in wildfire disaster risk reduction by early warning, monitoring and impact assessment will be highlighted.

Expected results and links to the GP09 outcomes

The event will address the GP09 themes “Reducing Disaster Risk in a Changing Climate” and “Enabling Community-led Resilience through Preventive Action” and formulate recommendations for the development of relevant informed policies, based on the draft “White Paper” and suggestions by attendees of the Event.

Invitations have been sent to the Global Wildland Fire Network and member and associated UN agencies of the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group. In addition the UNISDR Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), through its UN-SPIDER programme, which are also organizing separate Special Events (SE2 / SE5), will participate.

Chair: Johann G. Goldammer, Director of GFMC (johann.goldammer@fire.uni-freiburg.de)

Moderator: Juan Carlos Villagrán de León (UNOOSA / UN-SPIDER)