

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Community Based DRR Course Begins January 16, 2013

Dear HPN Colleagues,

It is estimated that over 70% of all disasters are now related to extreme weather events. Because of this, disaster risk reduction should become an integral part of both development and adaptation projects. The Center for Sustainable Development—CSDi—is launching a winter quarter course on Community Based DRR that begins on January 16. This course is one of eight courses that make up our Online Diploma in [Integrated CBA, DRR, & Rural Development](#).

This past year CSDi has participated in a number of DRR partner projects worldwide. We are seeing tremendous similarities between the projects: chiefly disasters caused by extreme weather events, drought, flooding—and a lack of knowledge of effective techniques for disaster risk reduction. The disasters seen in student projects have led to reduced harvests for smallholder farmers, reduced incomes, reduced food security, the destruction of homes and assets and the displacement of families.

The solutions that students have been developing activities for their projects include:

- land management plans
- watershed/forest restorations
- community-based disaster preparedness and risk reduction programs
- community-based flood mitigation programs
- community-based flash flood and landslide prevention programs
- advocacy programs for obtaining government support
- consciousness-raising among community members about DRR challenges
- early warning systems
- training teams in evacuation, and search and rescue
- identifying and prioritizing mitigation strategies

Course participants then conduct capacity building workshops on these new DRR practices that are appropriate for the community.

OL 345. Community Based DRR. January 16, 2013—March 11, 2013: 8 weeks.

Students analyze disaster related risks and facilitate the development of a community-based DRR committee for developing a DRR plan that includes DRR consciousness raising, an early warning system, organizing specialized DRR teams, and a risk reduction and mitigation workshop for community members. [See a full course syllabus.](#)

Course fees range from \$150 for citizens/residents of developed nations to \$100 for citizens/residents of developing nations. Registration and Payment; there are only 2 steps for enrolling in the course: 1. Pay the course fee. 2. Fill out the Student Information form.

Complete information and course syllabi:

<http://www.csd-i.org/ol-345-community-based-drr/>

CSDi provides the following continuing learning resources

All learning resources and course materials are freely downloadable from the course site and include:

Scholarship opportunities for citizens of developing nations

200 manuals & field guides

300 Development and DRR field activities

Instructors that provide project consulting, suggestions, and encouragement individually for each student's assignment

Online course participants are using CSDi courses to develop on-the-ground projects with real communities; students from [143 different countries](#) and 450 organizations have developed projects impacting 275,000 community members. To learn more about the students, the DRR projects they have developed and about their communities, be sure and read our [CBA Newsletter](#), and our [Facebook Page](#) and [CSDi Development Community](#) to see student's regular postings—and join 750 colleagues in sharing resources & collaborating online.

Who should participate? Course participants are of all different ages, genders and professions—and have included Northern and Southern staff from INGOs, field staff from in-country NGOs, donors, executive directors, students, scientists, consultants and people who would like to transition into development work. Northern participants who don't have community access are partnered with Southern participants that do have community access.

Questions? Please contact: Online.Learning@csd-i.org

Sincerely,

Tim Magee, Executive Director
Center for Sustainable Development

The Center for Sustainable Development is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization specializing in providing sound, evidence-based information, tools and training for humanitarian development professionals worldwide.

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