

Asian MetaCentre Workshop on

Differential Vulnerability to Flooding Events:  
Special Focus on Education and the Tsunami

Phuket (Thailand), February 25, 2010

As part of the collaboration between IIASA's World Population Program and the College for Population Studies (Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok) on a major project on "Forecasting Societies' Adaptive Capacities to Climate Change" financed by the ERC (European Research Council) Advanced Investigator Grant Scheme, this is one of the meetings aimed at assessing the empirical evidence about differential vulnerability of different members of the population (by age, sex, place of residence, education, income and other dimensions) to natural disasters which would partly resemble the kinds of threats that societies would be increasingly exposed to under future conditions of climate change.

While previous studies on vulnerability have predominantly focused on the spatial dimension (where are people exposed to the risks) the main purpose of this series of studies is to try to distinguish between different socio-economic dimensions that also can be influenced by different policies. In particular we would like to differentiate between the effect of educational attainment on the one hand and that of income/wealth on the other hand. While typically there is a high correlation between these two dimensions it is important to distinguish between the two because the policies that would enhance education versus those generating more income/wealth could be quite different. In particular we want to understand to what degree better education can be a strategy to reducing future vulnerability not such natural disasters.

The meeting will primarily focus on studies of the victims of the Asian tsunami (from Indonesia, Thailand, India and Sri Lanka) but would also be open to studies on the differential vulnerability to other flooding events in Asia.

For a limited number of participants who can present data analysis along the lines described above travel and accommodation can be covered. Others are free to attend the meeting at their own expense. The deadline for applications to participate is 31 January 2010.

Please contact Prof Wolfgang Lutz ([lutz@iiasa.ac.at](mailto:lutz@iiasa.ac.at)) or Prof Vipin ([Vipan.P@chula.ac.th](mailto:Vipan.P@chula.ac.th)) for more information.