



*"From Thoughts to Action"*

UN-ISDR  
Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction  
Geneva, 9 – 13 May, 2011

## **Official Plenary Statement of the Global Risk Forum GRF Davos**

Delivered by Dr. Walter J. Ammann, President and CEO GRF Davos

on Thursday, 12 May 2011

Ms Chairwoman  
Excellences  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me start with a word of thanks and appreciation. It goes to the ISDR Secretariat with Margareta Wahlstrom and her staff for ISDR's outstanding work accomplished during the last two years, and for providing this excellent platform opportunity to meet and discuss.

I would equally like to thank the World Bank for organizing the World Reconstruction Conference, thus demonstrating the importance and necessity to link DRR with sustainable development.

The Mid-term Review process and the Global Assessment Reports reveal that since the Kobe Conference in 2005 which initiated the HFA process, the international risk reduction and disaster management community has been able to make a "quantum leap" regarding DRR structures, systems, their implementation and the harmonisation with climate change adaptation. The Global Assessment Report, for the first time, also addressed hard, and evidence based facts and economic figures, which - in promoting preventive actions - will show its undeniable importance.

The recent months' disasters have also stressed the existence of emerging, interrelated risks with cascading effects. Hence, a comprehensive, integrative risk reduction and disaster management approach is needed more than ever. This should in particular also address the local, community based actors, precisely one of the weak links which have also been revealed in the GAR.

Capacity building on a local, community, and city level is therefore crucial to save lives, keep critical infrastructure and service functioning, and limit economic losses, in order to achieve safe and sustainable urban and rural development.

The Global Risk Forum GRF Davos through all its activities is fully committed to support the UNISDR system and the Hyogo Framework for Action implementation process. GRF Davos also promotes integrative activities which aim at providing a network for all the many different stakeholders, and which focus on the validation, transfer, and use of the existing and the



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emerging scientific knowledge into practice providing solutions which are technically feasible, economically affordable, and socially and ecologically compatible.

In doing so, GRF Davos is organizing again another IDRC Davos Conference on the 26 – 30 August 2012 in Davos Switzerland to complement the UN-ISDR's Global Platform discussions in its biennial turn from a science and technology, business and practice perspective with a strong link to the risk management at the local level.

Integrative risk management has also to be expanded to other crucial areas of concern, like the health sector. GRF Davos is therefore organizing for the first time an international conference from 19 – 23 February 2012 in Davos focussing on an integrative ONE health approach, which shall link human and animal health, with environmental health as well as with food safety and security.

For further information, I encourage you to visit our exhibition booth in the entrance hall for a direct contact with GRF Davos staff or the GRF Davos homepage [www.grforum.org](http://www.grforum.org).

Thank you.

Dr. Walter J. Ammann, President and CEO GRF Davos  
Dr. Marco Ferrari, Member of the Board of Directors GRF Davos

Davos, Geneva, 12 May 2011

