

## **Natural Disaster Deaths should be Cut to Half, U.N.**

On Friday the United Nations asked for more funds, so that countries get ready for natural disasters before they occur rather than responding to them. By taking simple steps we can reduce the deaths caused by natural disasters.

How to survive crises should be taught to people. For that about 10 % of humanitarian aid and 30% of climate change response funds should be spent on it, said by John Holmes, U.N.'s emergency relief coordinator. He added further that we can't stop the disasters but we can minimize its destruction and up to some extent can save lives of the people. According to Holmes at the end of a week-long U.N. by utilizing the foreign assistance we can guard the lives of the people especially in those countries which are greatly exposed to natural disasters like earthquakes, cyclones and storms.

According to U.N. findings last year major destruction occurred in China. About 236,000 people killed and about \$181 billion in economic damage occurred due to natural disasters. The countries that are at greater risks are China and Bangladesh. Here the majority of deaths are occurred due to floods, landslides and other hazards. These disasters are expected to increase in future.

Holmes further said that Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar and China experienced the big earthquake. By doing proper preparation we can reduce the number of casualties.

U.N. was planning to reconsider the structural reliability of all the schools and hospitals during disasters. Along with the recommended measures, some extra ordinary efforts should be made. Holmes also said that almost \$3 billion should be spent a year to minimize the disaster risks. Countries like Australia, Sweden, United States, Britain and Germany have already allocated about 10% of humanitarian aid to these efforts.

According to the U.N. officials, some basic steps can be taken to protect the lives of the people without spending too much. He further added that it does not really require some sophisticated technology to create awareness among people of when to and how to search for shelters when water level is rising and it will not be requiring huge funds.