



Dear Tom Downing,

Together with the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), the American Red Cross invites you to celebrate the third issue of the Climate and Society publication series, *A Better Climate for Disaster Risk Management*, on June 21 at the American Red Cross Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The event will run from 3:00-4:30 p.m. A reception will follow.

Globally, climate-related disasters such as floods, droughts and cyclones cause tens of thousands of deaths, hundreds of thousands of injuries, and billions of dollars in economic losses every year. This new book explores the use of climate information in managing disaster risks and illustrates how partnerships between humanitarian actors and climate information providers can improve disaster response time, protect livelihoods and save lives. The publication is the result of an ongoing collaboration between the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the World Food Programme, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the CGIAR’s Challenge Program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security and the IRI.

Led by former UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Jan Egeland, the launch event will bring together a range of experts to explore developments at the nexus of climate information and disaster risk management. Particular attention will be paid to prioritizing investments necessary to improve the quality and accessibility of information and to incorporating information more fully and effectively into practice. A full agenda of the event will be forthcoming.

We are excited about the potential to improve disaster risk management through the use of climate information and look forward to sharing the lessons captured in *A Better Climate for Disaster Risk Management*. We are also eager to learn from your experience in this regard and sincerely hope you will be able to join us for this important event. **Kindly R.S.V.P by Friday, June 10 to Maria Salgado (msalgado@iri.columbia.edu).**

Yours sincerely,

David Meltzer
Sr. Vice President – International Services
American Red Cross

Stephen Zebiak
Director General
Int’l Research Inst. for Climate and Society