After the Typhoon: Help for the City of Tacloban

Fund-raising Event at KIT: Donations for the Reconstruction of Tacloban College - Scientific Presentations on Tropical Cyclones and Damage Analyses

The super-typhoon Haiyan caused severe damage on the Philippines. Among the most affected regions is the island of Leyte with the city of Tacloban and its more than 220,000 inhabitants. At a fund-raising event on Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 19.30 hrs on KIT Campus South (Redtenbacher-Hörsaal, building 10.91), KIT scientists will provide information on facts of the disaster, on the formation of tropical cyclones, and damage analysis. Interested citizens are cordially invited. During the event organized by the KIT Climate and Environment Center, funds will be raised for the reconstruction of the University of the Philippines Visayas – Tacloban College.

"At the moment, local emergency relief is of highest priority," says geographer Jürgen Christmann. Before he started to work at the KIT Institute of Geography and Geoecology/WWF Institute for Floodplains Ecology, he spent five years as a consultant for geographic information systems and remote sounding at a university in Tacloban. "Immediately afterwards, however, infrastructure will have to be restored. This will also include rapid reconstruction of education institutions. Here, we want to help." At the event, Christmann will speak about the susceptibility of the Philippines to disasters and about his personal relationship to the country and the people. "Natural disasters, such as floods and storms, turn into a hazard as soon as humans and their goods are affected. The risk for a region among others depends on its geographical exposure and its vulnerability."

In addition, meteorologist Bernhard Mühr from the KIT Institute of Meteorology and Climate Research will speak about tropical cyclones and answer the question whether such weather events are also possible in Europe. "Haiyan was the fourth strongest tropical cyclone ever observed – and the strongest ever hitting land. Mean wind speeds were in the range of 300 km per hour," Mühr says. "The Philippines are located in a region with a very high risk of cyclones: Every year, the archipelago is affected by an average of nine tropical storms or typhoons."

KIT Climate and Environment Center: For an environment worth living in

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On behalf of the Center for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Technology (CEDIM), an interdisciplinary research institution of the Helmholtz Centre Potsdam – German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ) and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in the area of disaster management, James Daniell will give an overview of the damage caused by typhoon Haiyan: “14 million people are affected by the storm, these are far more people than the population of Baden-Württemberg. The typhoon caused more than 4000 dead people. One million buildings were destroyed or damaged. Presumably, the damage will total more than EUR 10 billion,” Daniell says referring to first estimates of CEDIM.

Jürgen Bordt, Head of the district fire department, will provide information on disaster management in Karlsruhe and give advice for individual arrangements.

At the event organized by the KIT Climate and Environment Center, funds will be raised for the reconstruction of Tacloban College:

BW-Bank Karlsruhe
Account: 7 495 500 149
Bank Code Number (BLZ): 600 501 01
Reference:
PSP 2000 666 666
Uni Tacloban

The Program
Start: 19.30 hrs

Disaster Management in the District of Karlsruhe
Jürgen Bordt, Karlsruhe District Administration

Tropical Cyclones
Bernhard Mühr, Institute of Meteorology and Climate Research, KIT

Damage Analysis Relating to Typhoon Haiyan
James Daniell, Center for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Technology (CEDIM), KIT

Tacloban before and after Haiyan
Jürgen Christmann, Institute of Geography and Geoecology/WWF Institute for Floodplains Ecology, KIT

The KIT Climate and Environment Center develops strategies and technologies to secure the natural bases of life. For this purpose, 660 employees of 32 institutes produce fundamental and application-oriented knowledge relating to climate and environmental change. It is not only aimed at eliminating the causes of environmental problems, but increasingly at adapting to changed conditions.

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation according to the legislation of the state of Baden-Württemberg. It fulfills the mission of a university and the mission of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. Research activities focus on energy, the natural and built environment as well as on society and technology and cover the whole range extending from fundamental aspects to application. With about 9000 employees, including nearly 6000 staff members in the science and education sector, and 24000 students, KIT is one of the biggest research and education institutions in Europe. Work of KIT is based on the knowledge triangle of research, teaching, and innovation.

This press release is available on the internet at www.kit.edu.