

Europa Re takes part in the Year's Biggest Conference on Climate Change in Doha

10 December 2012 - Europa Re, the regional catastrophe and weather risk reinsurer in the process of formation for Southeast Europe (SEE), participated in the *Adaptation Practitioners Days* (APD) event as part of the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commenced on 26th November, 2012 in Doha, Qatar.



Facilitated by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) - Europa Re's largest donor contributor - in cooperation with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and under the sponsorship of the Governments of Germany, Gambia and Tuvalu, *Adaptation Practitioners Days* addressed the issue "what is adaptation in practice". The main purpose was to bring together pioneers of climate change adaptation to share experiences of climate-resilient development/implementation programmes in action. This two-day event (1-2 December, 2012) offered presentations and films showing practical solutions for innovative adaptation financing in different parts of the world.

Europa Re's Head of Business Development, Mr. Riccardo Ciccozzi, presented the Facility's regional (re-) insurance initiative during the session featuring "Adaptation in Disaster Risk Management/ Coastal Zone Management/ Health", held on 2 December, 2012. "We received a great deal of questions from the audience about Europa Re's business model and our innovative approach to integrating various web-based insurance technologies aimed at facilitating the creation of catastrophe and weather risk insurance markets in the SEE region", said Mr Ciccozzi.

GEF's representatives Ms. Saliha Dobardzic (Climate Change Specialist) and Dr. Junu Shrestha (Climate Change Analyst) expressed particular interest in the project's current implementation phase, while the rest of the audience raised interesting questions following the interactive joint discussions.



Europa Re's technical capabilities, disaster risk prevention and preparedness mechanisms are specifically designed to mitigate adverse effects in SEE countries highly vulnerable to earthquakes, floods and extreme weather.

Commenting on the experience after the Conference, Mr. Ciccozzi explained: "The positive experience from this event and the expressed satisfaction from our largest donor GEF with the progress of our catastrophe risk (re-) insurance programme thus far, make us even more confident in our work on developing the web-based insurance market infrastructure to support the launch of Europa Re products in the FYR of Macedonia, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Serbia in Autumn 2013."

To view Europa Re's Adaptation Practitioners Days presentation material, click here.

Image Source: Photo courtesy by IISD