

The World Bank



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World Bank Partners in Disaster Management Hackathon

SAN FRANCISCO, November 12, 2009 –The World Bank, supported by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), Google, Microsoft, NASA and Yahoo! launched today a *hackathon* event where programmers and coders from Silicon Valley and around the globe will get together to develop practical software solutions for disaster response and assessment.

Over the course of two days, 150 programmers will convene at the Hacker Dojo Community Center in San Francisco to work with international first responders and disaster risk management experts to develop software solutions to priority areas in the disaster response field.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the World Bank to partner with software development leaders from the private sector to generate public goods," said **Christian Delvoie, World Bank Director for Knowledge and Strategy**. *"We see the Random Hacks of Kindness event in Silicon Valley as the first step in building a community that will generate innovative solutions to support sustainable development,"* he added.

Coined "Random Hacks of Kindness" (RHoK) to indicate the open source and free nature of the coding, this is the first of a series of "give camps" that will be held around the globe over the next couple of years.

The inaugural RHoK event in San Francisco focuses on a series of project definitions that have been outlined by subject matter experts prior to the event. Examples include: creating a system to submit found or missing people reports; programmatically being able to determine the trustworthiness of crowd sourced data points; a live update Triage map; and a people-finder mobile-device upload, confirmation, comment, and inquiry system. The software created at this first event will continue to be developed at subsequent RHoK events.

"Through our Yahoo! for Good initiative, we are committed to sharing our knowledge, resources, technical expertise and good fortune with our community and the world," said **Meg Garlinghouse, Senior Director of Yahoo! For Good**. *"Yahoo! is thrilled to be a part of the RHoK effort, and extend our technical knowledge and expertise to create a developer community committed to tackling critical disaster relief issues,"* she added.

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For more information on the event, please visit:

<http://randomhacksofkindness.eventbrite.com>

For more information on the World Bank's work on Disaster Risk Management, please visit:

<http://go.worldbank.org/BCQUXRROW0>

For more information on the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR,) please visit:

<http://gfdrr.org>