

# EDITORIAL

The BHRC is in the process of greatly increasing its online profile. Two new sites have gone live in the past month and these will be joined by two more later in the year. The well established TSR (Tropical Storm Risk) Storm Tracker now has a companion site, Eurotempest. Funded by Benfield, the Royal & Sun Alliance and GE, and led by the BHRC's Mark Saunders, with Ben Lloyd Hughes and others. This new online tool provides an interactive web-based warning service for European windstorms; offering clear, real-time forecasts of their timing, route and localised potential wind damage out to 5 days ahead. A second weather-focused site, Global Drought Monitor, was also developed by Mark Saunders and Ben Lloyd-Hughes. This unique site monitors drought intensity worldwide and is expected to prove particularly invaluable to humanitarian agencies by assisting warnings of potential food, water and health problems. Easy-to-read, colour coded maps are based on assessment periods ranging from 1 to 36 months. The product is updated monthly and has a spatial resolution of 100km. Later in the year, Eurotempest and Global Drought Monitor will be joined by DisasterReductionGateway, a comprehensive online resource centre for disaster reduction information, and InTERRAgate, an online gateway aimed at disaster management NGOs and humanitarian agencies that will provide a natural hazard inventory for every country in the world. The principal BHRC website continues to attract high numbers of hits. During 2005 total hits were 1.8 million averaging 150,000 per month. All new sites are accessible via [www.benfieldhrc.org](http://www.benfieldhrc.org).