Meeting Documents for Agenda Items 5-17

***Readers' guidance**: *I - For Information; *C - For Comment; *D - For Decision*

IRDR
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

12th Meeting of the IRDR Science Committee
ICSU Secretariat, Paris, France, 13-15 November 2014

Item 5: Report from NC Workshop (reviews / previews from NCs if requested)

Following discussions at earlier SC meetings, comments received notably from IRDR Japan—about the desirability and need to expand the network of IRDR National Committees (NCs); requests from interested parties in other countries (UK) to have a better sense of the operations and remits of different NCs and hence the potential for collaborations; a request from UNISDR to better connect national S&T communities with the existing and emerging ISDR multi-stakeholder National Platforms; as well as comments received from existing NCs who believe they would benefit from closer interaction among NCs also beyond the traditional SC meeting presentations, an invitation by UKCDS to host a meeting of IRDR NCs came at a timely moment (London, at Wellcome Trust, on 11-12 November (lunchtime to lunchtime).

NCs were contacted for input into the process leading up to the 3rd WCDRR. It was found that, while some were incorporated into their respective delegations to Geneva (e.g. Germany), others felt they were too distant from their respective governments to provide input. Some NCs and RC were represented on the ICSU-organised Major Group delegation to PrepCom1 (e.g. Australia; ROLAC). A similar situation is expected to pertain to PrepCom2.

Under HFA2, many new opportunities will open up that will require better coordination across levels (from local to national, regional, and global) and between sectors (science, practitioners and policy-makers). Following discussions with the IRDR Co-Sponsors, governance and partners, it is clear that the IRDR National Committees will have a particularly important role to play in connecting the global programme to local contexts, in articulating research needs and knowledge gaps, and enabling cross-sectoral collaboration of all sorts. This was the core rationale for convening the meeting.

A report from the meeting with some preliminary results, recommendations, requests and perspectives for the way forward will be presented.

The agenda foresees that during the meeting, which precedes the SC meeting, NCs will inform each other on their respective governance structures, mandates and missions, share information on their memberships, interests and intentions, and report on their role in connecting non-academic stakeholders to DRR science. More specifically, NCs/RCs are to use the meeting (1) to present best practices in developing and supporting the complex relationship of science, practitioners, policy environments and society at large, including through the ISDR National Platforms; (2) to see clarified and comment on the Terms of Reference for NCs/RCs in the light of opportunities and requirements under the emerging

new Hyogo Framework; (3) to articulate and develop perspectives and ideas for future joint activities with a view to better connecting IRDR-related activities at all levels.

NC/RC's had been invited to submit lists of (or provide links to) ongoing (as of 2014) and recently completed (as in 2012-2014) projects that are operating in areas of interest with a view to comprehensively map such activities and enable actors to network for fundraising and better disseminate the results of their work.

In turn, NCs were also alerted to opportunities for liaising more closely with ICoEs and SC members in their countries. Also explored were options to better connect with ongoing regional activities in both the ICSU and ISDR networks.

Attachments:

5.1 1st Consultative Meeting of IRDR NCs Agenda

Action:

5.1 The SC is invited to discuss the presentations and to reflect on the input received.

5.2 The SC is invited to suggest ways in which to better connect NC/RC activities to the programme, notably also to the Working Groups and ICoE activities.

1st Consultative Meeting of IRDR National & Regional Committees (IRDR NCs and RCs)
UKCDS, The Wellcome Trust, London, UK - 11-12 November 2014

Agenda

Day 1: Tuesday, 11 November 2014	
12:30 – 13:30	**L U N C H**
13:30 – 15:30	Introductions *1.* Welcome and Tour de Table *(UKCDS / IRDR SC Chair)* *2.* Overview of the IRDR Programme *(IRDR ED)* 3. Presentation of UKCDS/UK National Platform *(John Rees, Julie Calkins, Steven …)* *4.* Overview of the work of current NCs *(delegates)* • IRDR Australia • IRDR Canada • IRDR China • IRDR Colombia • IRDR France • IRDR Germany • IRDR Japan • IRDR New Zealand *Presentations should include:* • *governance and institutional affiliation (incl. leadership, finances etc)* • *relationship to government (all levels) and to the ISDR National Platforms* • *extent of their remit and of the role of science in their activities* • *overview over research, education or outreach and engagement projects* • *publications and other products* • *elements of the IRDR Science Plan that they are interested in* • *funding environment and needs* • *ideas for two initiatives that IRDR as a global programme should play a role in* 5. Summary of the presentations: convergences and complementarities
15:30 – 16:00	**C O F F E E B R E A K**

16:00 – 18:00	Policy Context session (reporting) 6. IRDR / DRR Science at the Regional Level: Integrating with Co-Sponsors' Programmes • IRDR Regional Committees / ICSU Regional Offices • ISDR Regional Offices • HFA II regional consultations 7. IRDR at the Global Level: Towards the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction • Working science into the agenda of the 3rd WCDRR : two examples / one strategy o ISDR Asian Partnership and a possible role of IRDR NCs o Calls for S&T under HFA-II in national positions delivered at PrepCom • STEP4DRR: "Science and Technology Partnership for DRR"
19:00	**N E T W O R K I N G D I N N E R**

Day 2: Wednesday, 12 November 2014	
09:00 – 12:30	Preparing for the post-2015 environment: planning 1. Engagements with Stakeholders: Best Practices • Civil Society • Private Sector (business and industry) • Public administration 2. Strengthening the Science - Policy Interface : interactions with governments at all levels 3. Platforms for co-design of DRR research and capacity building : the role of NCs/RCs 4. Addressing funding issues - towards collaborative initiatives: priorities, types and balance of activities, networking 5. Expanding the network of NC/RCs: rationale and process 6. Proposals for concrete next steps to enhance better intra-programme collaboration, such as • Sharing information about projects, events, people, publications through IRDR IPO (incl.: providing a communications contact point): Mapping and connecting IRDR-related research globally • Strengthening the presence of the S&T representation in the National Platforms

	• Devising opportunities for peer learning and collaborative activities (incl. fundraising) • Revisiting Terms of Reference? *Closing of the meeting*
12:30 – 13:30	**L U N C H**

IRDR
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

12th Meeting of the IRDR Science Committee
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Item 6: Reports / Previews from ICoEs

- IRDR ICoE-Taipei
- IRDR ICoE in Vulnerability and Resilience Metrics (IRDR ICoE-VaRM)
- IRDR ICoE in Community Resilience (IRDR ICoE-CR)
- IRDR ICoE in Understanding Risk & Safety (IRDR ICoE-UR&S)
- IRDR ICoE for Risk Education and Learning (IRDR ICoE-REaL)
- Presentations on planned ICoEs in Germany, the UK and Canada

Reports will be given by representatives / chairs of the ICoEs; guidelines on the presentations have been provided prior to the meeting.

Whereas the (one slide) presentation during the Networking and Partnership session is for information purposes, this longer presentation will serve the purpose of reviewing the progress and role played by ICoEs in supporting and expanding the IRDR programme.

ICoE reports will therefore include sections on:

1. Reporting, which should cover:
   - purpose of the ICoE in the context of the IRDR Programme (thematic focus; references to the IRDR Strategic Plan and to the ICSU Science Plan for IRDR);
   - review (activities in 2014, including November and December, or since the last SC meeting): events, ongoing IRDR-related research projects, publications, appointments/awards, exchanges with other institutes, interactions with non-academic stakeholders; successful fundraising;
   - references to internal IRDR networking, on relations with other IRDR bodies, including National Committees (NCs), will be helpful; also references to exchanges/contacts with key programme partners will be welcome, including ICSU and UNISDR regional and national bodies etc.;

N.B.: as complete a catalogue as possible will make it easier to compile the IRDR Annual Report 2014.

2. Planning:
   - Activities for 2015, or since the last SC meeting: events, expected collaboration exchanges with other institutes or interactions with non-academic stakeholders;

envisaged fundraising, and support that may be needed);

- Expressions of interest for input from/exchanges with other IRDR bodies will be helpful; also references to envisaged exchanges/contacts with key programme partners will be welcome, including ICSU and UNISDR regional and national bodies etc.;

N.B.: as complete a catalogue as possible will facilitate preparing / managing communications in 2015.

Against the background of an analysis of the Terms of Reference and observations of current communication patterns between ICoEs and the programme as a whole, both the Communications Plan 2014/15 and the proposed guidelines comprise a number of recommendations that might be discussed after the presentations.

The exercise also serves the purpose of preparing the Programme evaluation that will occur in 2015.

It is expected that here will also be presentations for planned ICoEs from Germany, the UK and Canada.

Attachments:

6.1 Guidance notes for reporting
6.2 ICoE Terms of Reference

Actions:

6.1 The SC is invited to note the reports, to comment on the progress of the ICoEs in the context of the Programme, and to make recommendations, if appropriate, as to steps that can be taken to enhance the coherence of the ICoEs with activities within the programme, including, but not limited to, WGs, NCs, etc., as well as between IRDR and partners.

6.2 The SC is invited to comment and/or decide on the plans for new ICoEs, combining an assessment of the elements of the forward planning for these ICoEs shared in the presentations against the background of the ToR and an interpretation of programme needs.

IRDR
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

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Guidance Note for ICoEs Presentations

ICoE reports at the SC meeting should:

- Allow the SC to review progress of the ICoE in the domain for which it had been established;
- Help prepare the compilation of the Annual Report 2014;
- Help prepare the communication <and, if necessary, support> activities in 2015

Broadly speaking, ICoE reports should have three sections:

- Purpose of the ICoE in the context of the IRDR Programme (thematic focus; references to the IRDR Strategic Plan and to the ICSU Science Plan for IRDR; composition of the Board);
- Review (activities in 2014, including November and December, or since the last SC meeting): events, ongoing IRDR-related research projects, publications, appointments / awards, exchanges with other institutes, interactions with non-academic stakeholders);
- References to internal IRDR networking, on relations with other IRDR bodies (incl. National Committees) will be helpful; also references to exchanges / contacts with key Programme partners will be welcome (incl. ICSU and UNISDR regional and national bodies etc.);
- In particular, international activities and exchanges are important to report, as these are ICoEs;
- Equally, references to exchanges with the bodies identified in the ToRs of the ICoE are to be reported.

N.B.: as complete a catalogue as possible will make it easier to compile the IRDR Annual Report 2014

- Planning (activities for 2015, or since the last SC meeting): events, expected collaboration exchanges with other institutes or interactions with non-academic stakeholders);
- Expressions of interest for input from / exchanges with other IRDR bodies will be

helpful; also references to envisaged exchanges / contacts with key Programme partners will be welcome (incl. ICSU and UNISDR regional and national bodies etc);

- In particular, envisaged international activities and exchanges are important to mention;

- Equally, references to the bodies identified in the ToRs of the ICoE are important to mention.

Integrated Research on Disaster Risk
International Centres of Excellence
(IRDR ICoEs)

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Co-sponsored by the International Council for Science (ICSU), International Social Science Council (ISSC), and United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), a ten-year **Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Programme (IRDR)** was launched to address the major challenges of natural and human-induced environmental hazards. It aims to adopt an international, transdisciplinary and cross-hazard approach to conduct disaster risk reduction (DRR) research, and to reduce the impacts as well as losses induced by natural disasters.

The IRDR Programme is directed by the **Science Committee of the IRDR (IRDR SC)**. The **International Programme Office (IPO)** was also established to support the work of the Science Committee and to help promote and disseminate its scientific results to target audiences at various levels.

A limited number of **International Centres of Excellence (ICoE)** will be established to make contributions during the term of IRDR and to make IRDR's further development possible and sustainable. The ICoEs can be based on existing institutions focusing on disaster risk education, research and technical cooperation. They should operate as network mechanisms engaging other similar institutions in their region, country or city.

Objectives of IRDR ICoE

Generally, each ICoE will be developed to contribute to IRDR's main principles, objectives and studying domains and to promote and disseminate widely the IRDR concepts, approaches and methodologies. The ICoEs would not only be committed to supporting SC and IPO in facilitating IRDR but also to be developing as a global network for IRDR knowledge, expertise and researchers. Specifically, ICoEs will envision 3 objectives for their activity in IRDR. **Firstly**, each ICoE research programme will embody an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction that directly contributes to the IRDR Science Plan and its objectives: the scientific characterization of natural and human-induced environmental hazards, vulnerability and risk; the understanding of decision-making in complex and changing risk contexts; and the reduction of risk and curbing losses through

knowledge-based actions. The ICoE will also contribute to the cross-cutting themes of: capacity building; case studies and demonstration projects; and assessment, data management and monitoring. The ICoE and the IRDR projects will collaborate to provide global contributions towards achieving the IRDR legacy. The ICoE will, in particular, enable regional scientific activities through geographically-focused contributions based on more localized inputs and by being visible centres of research motivate participation in the IRDR. **Secondly**, ICoEs will be supportive in developing and strengthening powerful partnership with UN Agencies and organizations at international, regional and national levels working on disaster risk, which will provide a reserved supply of intelligent and informational resources for IRDR. **Thirdly**, the ICoEs will further extend their core function as facilitators of IRDR and will be an international center for providing support for decision-making, promulgating achievements of DRR research, as well as fostering DRR senior researchers and practitioners. All the above with a view to ensure the shift of focus towards disaster risk reduction in research and policy-making.

Main Roles of IRDR ICoEs

In order to comply with the objectives of IRDR Science Plan and its own objectives, roles of ICoE would be broadly categorized as below:

- Conduct integrated research on disaster risk at local, regional, and global scale, meeting with objectives of 4 IRDR Working Groups;
- Provide specifically-designed technical cooperation on disaster risk and reduction management for policy and decision-making;
- Provide technical support for formulating regional, national or local disaster risk reduction programs based on integrated research;
- Promote IRDR research by conducting regular trainings, workshops or other activities for disaster managers, decision- makers, and junior researchers.
- Facilitate and participate in IRDR events;
- Contribute to disaster risk researchers' network or platform

Criteria for designation of IRDR ICoE

The ICoE will be sited in various locations around the world chosen by IRDR SC to provide broad geographic distribution and a mix of disciplinary and hazard foci. The Centres will be designated on the basis of the following criteria:

- A good track record in, or commitment to, transdisciplinary research on disaster risk, combining social science, natural science, engineering as well as policy, etc.;
- Provision of unhindered access to researchers from participating countries and international visitors;
- Proven multi-national experience in research excellence related to disaster risk reduction;
- Internal capabilities to manage multi-national research teams;

- Commitments to provide appropriate support, including funding and in-kind for the national and international components consistent with IRDR objectives;
- Provision of fully equipped office space and supporting services;

Selection Process of IRDR ICoE

The IRDR ICoE selection round could be conducted through the following competitive process.

Submission of Application
Interested organizations, foundations, institutions, academies, universities, and other capable entities can submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the IRDR IPO directly via email: connect@irdrinternational.org;

These EOIs will be reviewed by IRDR. They should incorporate the following parts:

- A description of the organization requesting IRDR ICoE, including its basic organizational structure, key personnel, funding sources, scientific research capacity, linkage with international disaster risk research network
- An overview of the professional activities for the past years, including past and ongoing programme with regard to disaster risk research..
- A plan of incorporating IRDR objectives into its own missions and its implementation.
- A vision to develop the IRDR ICoE
- Identification of funding and other support

Review and Evaluation of Application
IRDR will review and assess applications in accordance with criteria. Recommendations will be made to the IRDR Science Committee. The IRDR Science Committee will have final decision.

Organization of IRDR ICoE Network

The ICoEs will vary in their structure and include the possible establishment of a Centre to act as a host institution and coordinating mechanism shared between several institutions in different countries, within one country or one city. The Host Institution will be agreed between the participating organizations and the IRDR Science Committee (SC).

Each ICoE will have both local and international components. The local component will consist of a strong cadre of disaster risk reduction academics and researchers from universities, academies of science, institutes and centres within the host country (or countries). The international component will consist of short- and longer-term (6-12 month) visiting scientists from developed and developing countries and support to host workshops, colloquia and 2 scientific meetings that bring together scientists on, for example, case

studies or forensic investigations. These could then be extended to other countries in longer-term cooperative studies.

As a contribution to international science and the IRDR Programme, the ICoE is expected to provide for openness of data, information and outputs for all to use. The ICoE is expected to be sustained for at least 5 years.

The IRDR ICoE network and each ICoE will be overseen by an international advisory board (IAB) of 5 to 9 members appointed by the IRDR SC in consultation with the Host Institution. Each ICoE shall be headed by a Director, who shall be responsible for the administration and operation of the Centre and appointed by the Host Institution in consultation with the IAB and IRDR SC.

As a part of IRDR initiative in the structure diagram, the IRDR ICoE will function independently and work closely with IRDR Regional and National Committees and the IPO, under the overall guidance and supervision of the IRDR SC. IRDR ICoE should provide bi-annual reports to the IPO prior to the IRDR SC meetings. At a minimum, the ICoE shall submit their work plan and annual report to the IPO for the SC on a yearly basis.

Funding for IRDR ICoE

The funding for each ICoE will be provided by the Host Agencies/Organizations for the duration of the Centre's life. The Host Institution will be expected to provide and mobilize funding for all day-to-day operations as well as for projects and visiting scientists. Fundraising would be undertaken jointly with the IRDR IPO and supported by SC members as needed.

IRDR
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

12th Meeting of the IRDR Science Committee
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Item 7: Review of ToRs for IRDR Programme Bodies (Part 1: ICoEs / AP)

Item 7.1: Draft Guidance Note for Implementation of IRDR ICoEs

During its 11th meeting, the SC had accepted a new ICoE that is multi-site in nature (IRDR ICoE REaL). In order to accommodate an ever growing number of different ICoEs it was suggested to review the currently applying ToR (for both ICoEs and NCs) and to make more specific about the functions and roles of these bodies in the programme.

An initial review of the current ToR by the IPO found that the text allows for a good mix of flexibility and encouragement to collaboration and openness, but that it lacks guidance for the implementation and requirements that would allow for measuring progress over time.

It is therefore proposed that prior to changing the ToR they are interpreted in a way that would allow for better reporting (also with a view to the upcoming critical year 2015) on programme coherence and impact.

Providing guidance for this interpretation of the ToR, giving all parties (SC, ICoE leadership and IPO) the tools to seek to comply with their respective roles (oversight, implementation, support, respectively), is the purpose of the draft guidance note.

The objective is to more visibly connect the ICoEs to the programme-wide activities, but also to relevant organisations and activities at regional and national levels, and to let them exercise their pull-function in their respective sub-areas of IRDR research by better advertising their achievements and profiles.

Attachments

7.1.1. ToRs IRDR ICoEs
7.1.2. Draft Guidance Note for Implementation of IRDR ICoEs

Action 7.1.:

7.1.1. SC members, including ICoE leaders in their capacity as SC members, are invited to discuss the proposed guidance note online prior to the meeting, so as to identify discussion and decision items for the plenary meeting.

7.1.2. The SC meeting is invited to decide on the guidance note proposing, if necessary, amendments.

Item 7.2: Draft Revised ToRs for IRDR NCs and RCs

Against the background of the recently held consultative workshop with existing and emerging IRDR NCs and RCs, a brief oral report will be given which will include, by way of conclusion and recommendations for follow-up, possible elements for a guidance note for the implementation of NC,/RCs, following the same approach as is proposed for the ICoEs.

At a later stage (once the requirements and opportunities under HFA2 have become clear, a more thorough review of the ToR proper may need to be undertaken.

Attachments

7.2.1. ToRs for IRDR National Committees
7.2.2. Reference to List of Attachments on NC/RC for Item 4

Action 7.2.:

7.3.1. SC members are invited to discuss the report and to consider possible elements for a proposed guidance note for the implementation of NCs/RCs.

Item 7.3: Draft ToR for IRDR Flagship Projects

At the 10th and 11th SC meetings, a project proposal by one of the IRDR ICoEs was evaluated that gave rise to a discussion on the desirability of having IRDR Flagship Projects.

The SC had decided that it was premature to decide on a project to be adopted as Flagship Project, as no ToR had been adopted yet. It was suggested to have a draft document prepared to be submitted to the next SC meeting for discussion and decision.

Through its Co-Sponsors, IRDR has become a key actor in the preparations for the 3rd WCDRR. As such, the programme has been instrumental in making the case for a stronger science-driven evidence base for decision-making in DRR-related policy and practice. Judging by the discussions so far, the appeal of having IRDR Flagship Projects would be to define locales for this implementation and action-focused to this ambition and approach within the programme itself. It seeks to respond to demands from Co-Sponsors for co-design and implementation of research in real life DRR contexts at different levels.

The proposal takes into account the concern, expressed by SC members in their roles as WG co-chairs, that it might be overstretching the capacities of the WG and the WG-related projects if such an outreach and implementation function was expected from them on a large scale. This is why the proposal allocates to WGs and projects the responsibility of fulfilling an input function, whereas the implementation functions is allocated to the flagship sites and owners. Unless they express the wish to assume a leading role in co-design of

implementation projects, WGs/project co-chairs are seen as resource persons to inform the implementation process, and to reflect on results in subsequent research aimed at refining the IRDR products.

The proposal therefore, while subscribing in its spirit to the notion of co-design and demand-driven research, inscribes itself, through the proposed practice, in the traditional mode of supply-driven research, with subsequent reviews based on test-bed applications.

Partners in the process of identifying appropriate test-bed sites for flagship projects can be all IRDR bodies, Co-Sponsors and Major Group partners, as well as others identified through the SC. Flagship projects should be demand-driven and offer concrete opportunities for demonstrating the use of IRDR products stemming from at least three WGs and related work identified as relevant by co-chairs and other IRDR bodies.

The several rounds of discussions during the 10th and 11th SC plenaries, among members of the Task Group and between the ICoE Board and leadership and the IPO, had produced a number of elements that have been synthesised into a draft ToR text that reflects both context, objectives and operational elements, both for the selection and implementation of IRDR Flagship Projects. Options are offered for a number of elements.

It is envisaged that there could be an open call for candidatures. In order to capture as large as possible an audience, a first Call could either be issued in conjunction with the 3rd WCDRR (Sendai, Japan, mid-March 2015), or, at the very least, the first consultative forum held after the Sendai conference could be used to co-design the call with partners.

Attachment:

7.3.1. Draft Terms of Reference for IRDR Flagship Projects
7.3.2. Slide “Flagship Project”

Action 7.3.:

7.3.1. The SC is invited to discuss the Draft ToR for IRDR Flagship Projects in the light of the programme objectives and in terms of opportunities for the programme to liaise with non-academic stakeholders and to increase the impact of its products through application in concrete case studies.

7.3.2. The SC is invited to decide on the ToR, including on whether or not options should be kept, and suggesting amendments or changes to the text.

Item 7.4: Draft ToR for IRDR Associated Projects and Programmes (AP)

At its 11th meeting, the IRDR SC decided that it would consider establishing a new category of programme related activities, described as Associated Projects and Programmes (AP).

In line with good practice in other ICSU-related programmes, it was suggested that IRDR would benefit in terms of impact and strengthen its centrality in integrated DRR science worldwide by recognising, next to the formally established IRDR bodies, a number of

Associated Projects and Programmes (AP) that, due to the methodologies and approaches employed and/or due to their stated objectives and/or due to existing personal or institutional links, show strong affinities with the IRDR programme and its goals, and/or that complement its activities in important ways.

Attachment

7.4.1. Draft ToR for IRDR Associated Projects and Programmes (AP)
7.4.2. Current list of Associated Projects linked on the IRDR Website

Action 7.4.:

7.4.1. SC members (especially members of the Task Group) are invited to discuss the proposed ToRs online prior to the meeting, so as to identify discussion and decision items for the plenary meeting.

7.4.2. The SC meeting is invited to decide on the ToRs, requesting, if necessary, amendments to the proposed ToRs.

7.4.3. Provided the notion of APs is approved, SC members are invited to suggest possible candidates for APs.

Integrated Research on Disaster Risk
International Centres of Excellence
(IRDR ICoEs)

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

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The IRDR Programme is directed by the **Science Committee of the IRDR (IRDR SC)**. The **International Programme Office (IPO)** was also established to support the work of the Science Committee and to help promote and disseminate its scientific results to target audiences at various levels.

A limited number of **International Centres of Excellence (ICoE)** will be established to make contributions during the term of IRDR and to make IRDR's further development possible and sustainable. The ICoEs can be based on existing institutions focusing on disaster risk education, research and technical cooperation. They should operate as network mechanisms engaging other similar institutions in their region, country or city.

Objectives of IRDR ICoE

Generally, each ICoE will be developed to contribute to IRDR's main principles, objectives and studying domains and to promote and disseminate widely the IRDR concepts, approaches and methodologies. The ICoEs would not only be committed to supporting SC and IPO in facilitating IRDR but also to be developing as a global network for IRDR knowledge, expertise and researchers. Specifically, ICoEs will envision 3 objectives for their activity in IRDR. **Firstly**, each ICoE research programme will embody an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction that directly contributes to the IRDR Science Plan and its objectives: the scientific characterization of natural and human-induced environmental hazards, vulnerability and risk; the understanding of decision-making in complex and changing risk contexts; and the reduction of risk and curbing losses through

knowledge-based actions. The ICoE will also contribute to the cross-cutting themes of: capacity building; case studies and demonstration projects; and assessment, data management and monitoring. The ICoE and the IRDR projects will collaborate to provide global contributions towards achieving the IRDR legacy. The ICoE will, in particular, enable regional scientific activities through geographically-focused contributions based on more localized inputs and by being visible centres of research motivate participation in the IRDR. **Secondly**, ICoEs will be supportive in developing and strengthening powerful partnership with UN Agencies and organizations at international, regional and national levels working on disaster risk, which will provide a reserved supply of intelligent and informational resources for IRDR. **Thirdly**, the ICoEs will further extend their core function as facilitators of IRDR and will be an international center for providing support for decision-making, promulgating achievements of DRR research, as well as fostering DRR senior researchers and practitioners. All the above with a view to ensure the shift of focus towards disaster risk reduction in research and policy-making.

Main Roles of IRDR ICoEs

In order to comply with the objectives of IRDR Science Plan and its own objectives, roles of ICoE would be broadly categorized as below:

- Conduct integrated research on disaster risk at local, regional, and global scale, meeting with objectives of 4 IRDR Working Groups;
- Provide specifically-designed technical cooperation on disaster risk and reduction management for policy and decision-making;
- Provide technical support for formulating regional, national or local disaster risk reduction programs based on integrated research;
- Promote IRDR research by conducting regular trainings, workshops or other activities for disaster managers, decision- makers, and junior researchers.
- Facilitate and participate in IRDR events;
- Contribute to disaster risk researchers' network or platform

Criteria for designation of IRDR ICoE

The ICoE will be sited in various locations around the world chosen by IRDR SC to provide broad geographic distribution and a mix of disciplinary and hazard foci. The Centres will be designated on the basis of the following criteria:

- A good track record in, or commitment to, transdisciplinary research on disaster risk, combining social science, natural science, engineering as well as policy, etc.;
- Provision of unhindered access to researchers from participating countries and international visitors;
- Proven multi-national experience in research excellence related to disaster risk reduction;
- Internal capabilities to manage multi-national research teams;

- Commitments to provide appropriate support, including funding and in-kind for the national and international components consistent with IRDR objectives;
- Provision of fully equipped office space and supporting services;

Selection Process of IRDR ICoE

The IRDR ICoE selection round could be conducted through the following competitive process.

Submission of Application
Interested organizations, foundations, institutions, academies, universities, and other capable entities can submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the IRDR IPO directly via email: connect@irdrinternational.org;

These EOIs will be reviewed by IRDR. They should incorporate the following parts:

- A description of the organization requesting IRDR ICoE, including its basic organizational structure, key personnel, funding sources, scientific research capacity, linkage with international disaster risk research network
- An overview of the professional activities for the past years, including past and ongoing programme with regard to disaster risk research..
- A plan of incorporating IRDR objectives into its own missions and its implementation.
- A vision to develop the IRDR ICoE
- Identification of funding and other support

Review and Evaluation of Application
IRDR will review and assess applications in accordance with criteria. Recommendations will be made to the IRDR Science Committee. The IRDR Science Committee will have final decision.

Organization of IRDR ICoE Network

The ICoEs will vary in their structure and include the possible establishment of a Centre to act as a host institution and coordinating mechanism shared between several institutions in different countries, within one country or one city. The Host Institution will be agreed between the participating organizations and the IRDR Science Committee (SC).

Each ICoE will have both local and international components. The local component will consist of a strong cadre of disaster risk reduction academics and researchers from universities, academies of science, institutes and centres within the host country (or countries). The international component will consist of short- and longer-term (6-12 month) visiting scientists from developed and developing countries and support to host workshops, colloquia and 2 scientific meetings that bring together scientists on, for example, case

studies or forensic investigations. These could then be extended to other countries in longer-term cooperative studies.

As a contribution to international science and the IRDR Programme, the ICoE is expected to provide for openness of data, information and outputs for all to use. The ICoE is expected to be sustained for at least 5 years.

The IRDR ICoE network and each ICoE will be overseen by an international advisory board (IAB) of 5 to 9 members appointed by the IRDR SC in consultation with the Host Institution. Each ICoE shall be headed by a Director, who shall be responsible for the administration and operation of the Centre and appointed by the Host Institution in consultation with the IAB and IRDR SC.

As a part of IRDR initiative in the structure diagram, the IRDR ICoE will function independently and work closely with IRDR Regional and National Committees and the IPO, under the overall guidance and supervision of the IRDR SC. IRDR ICoE should provide bi-annual reports to the IPO prior to the IRDR SC meetings. At a minimum, the ICoE shall submit their work plan and annual report to the IPO for the SC on a yearly basis.

Funding for IRDR ICoE

The funding for each ICoE will be provided by the Host Agencies/Organizations for the duration of the Centre's life. The Host Institution will be expected to provide and mobilize funding for all day-to-day operations as well as for projects and visiting scientists. Fundraising would be undertaken jointly with the IRDR IPO and supported by SC members as needed.

Draft Guidance Note for Implementation of ICoEs: Increasing Visibility and Strengthening Network Centrality

Summary of Main Functions of ICoEs

ICoEs should:

- Be recognised globally as leaders in their field of Integrated Research on Disaster Risk.

- Operate as network hubs
  - that engage other institutions in their region, country or city in IRDR-inspired approaches, and
  - that strengthen, with its specific thematically defined activities and products, the international global network for IRDR knowledge, expertise, research and education.

- Contribute to the objectives of the IRDR science and strategic plans, which refers to the broad areas of
  - characterising natural and human-induced environmental hazards,
  - vulnerability and risk;
  - understanding decision-making in complex and changing risk contexts; and
  - reducing risk and curbing losses through knowledge-based actions, as well ass
  - capacity building;
  - case studies and demonstration projects;
  - assessment, data management and monitoring.

- Work with the IRDR projects / Working Groups to seek to enhance the inclusion of their specific DRR-related expertise into IRDR.

- Develop partnerships with
  - relevant UN agencies and
  - organisations at international, regional, national and local levels that work on disaster risk,

  providing support for decision-making in the spirit of the IRDR approaches (incl. training, technical cooperation DRR and DRM programmes;
  - other DRR research networks or platforms etc.), also by engaging proactively
  - other IRDR bodies in the region (National and Regional Committees), as well as
  - S&T related bodies established as part of UNISDR's National and Regional Platforms.

It would be desirable to see these functions reflected in the annual reporting to the IRDR SC (both in the retrospective and in the planning sections).

ICoE can expect (and can ask for) support services in the areas of

- Communication:
  - requesting for ICoE information to be placed on the IRDR website,
  - making announcements at the bi-annual IRDR SC meetings,
  - being featured in the globally distributed IRDR Annual Report.

  It is expected that draft minutes of the ICoE Board meetings be sent to the IPO, so that also proactive action can be taken in terms of networking planned initiatives.

- Fundraising:
  - submitting a project plan for distinct projects that contribute to the IRDR objectives, that requests specific support by SC members and the IPO towards fundraising, implementation and international networking.

- Quality Control:
  - Involving the SC members on the IAB in the strategic planning and networking of the ICoE, in order to ensure ongoing external quality control.

For the communication function in particular, the following lists provide key information are needed.

Main elements for the description of ICoEs (for website and reporting):

- IRDR ICoE status, function, role and activities on institute website and in other promotional material.

- Geographic location (and role in the regional context), thematic and/or hazard focus.

- Composition of the ICoE International Advisory Board (as agreed upon between the host institution and the IRDR SC)

- Composition of internal and international research teams (preferably with evidence for a commitment to transdisciplinary DRR research, combining social science, natural science, engineering as well as policy engagement, etc.), identifying notably director and contact persons;

- Specific foci of IRDR-related activities (research, education, outreach, stakeholder engagement) and their status in the ICoE overall work plans (such as: visiting faculty; workshops; activities at the interface with policy and practice), incl. links to national and regional IRDR bodies.

- International collaborations (inside and beyond the IRDR network), listing relevant networks and projects / programmes in integrated DRR research and related areas, as well as indicators of international recognition of excellence;

- Infrastructural and funding support underpinning the ICoE's operations (five-year-plan), and what rules apply for foreign scientists so as for the Centre to be open also to other IRDR partners or members;

- Reference to data policy to ensure open access to results (data, publications, applications and tools), ideally documenting use and impact or timeline of measures to put one in place;

- Reference, over time, to progress towards identified IRDR-related goals as ICoE.

In practical terms, the necessary communication services – aimed at demonstrating the role of the ICoE in the programme and its contributions to IRDR and global innovative DRR science can only be fulfilled if the IPO can rely on:

- access to a communications counterpart (contact person);
- regular updates on activities, events, publications etc as per above;
- timely submission of annual reports and forward plans (typically on occasion of the autumn meeting of the IRDR SC).

The IRDR Communications Plan and Strategy wil comprise more detailed action points that will be subject for discussions between the IPO Communications Officer and the Conact Person at the ICoE.

Integrated Research on Disaster Risk
National Committee/Regional Committee
(IRDR NC/RC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

1. Background

Co-sponsored by the International Council for Science (ICSU), International Social Science Council (ISSC), and United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), a ten-year Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Programme (IRDR) was launched to address the major challenges of natural and human-induced environmental hazards. It aims to adopt an international, transdisciplinary and cross-hazard approach to conduct disaster risk reduction (DRR) research, and to reduce the impacts as well as losses induced by natural hazards.

The IRDR Programme is directed by the Science Committee of the IRDR (IRDR SC). The International Programme Office (IPO) was established to support IRDR SC and to help promote and disseminate its scientific results to target audiences at various levels. IRDR National Committees (NC) and Regional Committees (RC) are designated to promote the visions and legacies of IRDR and expand its work at the national and regional levels.

2. Objectives of IRDR NC/RC

First, IRDR NC/RCs are encouraged as mechanisms to mainstream integrated research into disaster risk reduction efforts at national and regional on an institutionalized basis, to enhance the coordination and cooperation among multi-stakeholders for the sustainability of the integrated research, and to improve the capacity of countries and regions in the field of disaster risk reduction. **Second,** IRDR NC/RC is to serve as focal point to promote IRDR-related research initiatives of host countries, and to enhance the links between national and international disaster risk research programmes and activities**. Third,** IRDR NC/RCs is to couple with IRDR SC, IPO and IRDR partners in pursuit of IRDR objectives, the identification of research priority, the development of research plan, implementation of programme and other activities to achieve IRDR goals.

3. Selection Criteria and Process

IRDR NC/RC should build on existing systems/entities relevant to disaster risk research and practice. The organization (preferably an academic institution) leading the IRDR NC/RC should be a permanent structure that is in a sufficiently high position to have a strong leadership and

capacity to coordinate other sectors within the country or region, to leverage political commitment and to mobilize resources for the IRDR purposes.

Each IRDR NC/RC will be designated on the basis of the following criteria:

- A good track record in, or commitment to, trans-disciplinary research related to disaster risk, combining social science, natural science, engineering as well as policy, etc.;
- Provision of unhindered access to researchers from participating countries and international visitors in region;
- Proven multi-national experience in research excellence related to disaster risk reduction;
- Internal capabilities to manage multi-national research teams;
- Commitments to provide appropriate support (funding or in kind) for the national, regional and international components consistent with IRDR objectives.

Admission of IRDR NC/RCs will follow these steps:

Submission of Application
Interested entities should submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the IRDR IPO via email: connect@irdrinternational.org.

The EOIs should include:

- A description of the organization, including its basic organizational structure, key personnel, funding sources, scientific research capacity, linkage with national and international disaster risk research and reduction networks.
- An overview of the professional activities for the past years, including past and ongoing programme with regard to disaster risk research.
- A vision and proposal to develop the IRDR NC/RC in its country (NC) or region (RC), including the incorporation of IRDR objectives into its own mission and its implementation as well as a description of existing organizations, programmes and other relevant DRR activities in the country and/or region.

Review and Evaluation of Application
IRDR will review and assess EOI in accordance with criterion, and the IRDR Science Committee will make the final designation.

4. Designation and Composition

Each IRDR NCs are expected to include, in their make-up, researchers from the natural, social, health and engineering sciences, along with policy makers and practitioners related to disaster risk reduction and management, and to maintain a close relationship with other interested organizations, such as UNISDR National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction where such a body exists and ICSU and ISSC representatives or relevant contacts.

IRDR RCs are designed for the purposes of IRDR as a grouping of spatially contiguous countries which search to promote common and complementary advance in disaster risk reduction and research in a common region or common language. IRDR RCs could be proposed by leading

authority, institution, academy of a country in certain region, or reputed, capable or by international organization which is committed to IRDR.

5. Governance

Each IRDR NC should be self-organized and be governed in accordance with their respective national institutions (relevant policies, legislation and organizational arrangements). IRDR NC/RC will function individually, but maintain close interaction with IRDR SC and IRDR IPO.

6. Tasks and Activities

In support of IRDR Science Committee, IRDR NC/RC will undertake the following activities:

- Foster and support participation in IRDR on the part of institutions and individual scientists.
- Serve as the national or regional focal point for IRDR.
- Foster networking and collaboration among domestic, regional and international disaster risk reduction science and technology activities.
- Improve scientific knowledge and enhance the integration of science in disaster risk reduction planning, policies and programmes domestically, regionally and internationally.
- Support efforts to update and report on national and regional disaster risk reduction activities aligned with the Hyogo Framework of Action's strategic priorities, with emphasis on the science and technology activities and engage in the discussions for the post-2015 regime on disaster risk reduction and contribute to the national or regional discussions for other relevant global negotiations (climate change adaptation, earth systems, etc.).
- Provide scientific advice to policy-makers, taking into consideration on national and regional disaster risk reduction initiatives.
- Assist in fundraising for IRDR activities and projects.

7. Reporting

The IRDR NC/RC will provide semi-annual reports to the IRDR SC via IRDR IPO prior to each IRDR SC Meeting. At a minimum, IRDR NC/RC will submit a yearly work plan and an annual summary report.

Draft Terms of Reference for IRDR Flagship Projects

Background

The Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) programme is a decade-long integrated research initiative co-sponsored by the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC), and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) – the Co-Sponsors. It is a global, trans-disciplinary research programme created to address the major challenges of natural and human-induced environmental hazards. The complexity of the task is such that it requires the full integration of research expertise from the natural, socio-economic, health and engineering sciences as well as policy-making, coupled with an understanding of the role of communications, and public and political responses to reduce the risk.

The programme has been established and is being supported by its three co—sponsors in order to respond, with science-driven analysis and products, to real life needs of improved and innovative disaster risk reduction. It focuses on disasters arising out of natural hazards; epidemiological and technical hazards are touched upon only in so far as they are fall within the remit of the research and action questions asked by the projects.

IRDR projects focus on Forensic Investigations of Disasters (FORIN), as combined results of natural hazards and underlying socio-economic root causes, requiring a comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction (DRR); improved quality, accessibility, comparability, complementarity and interconnectivity of DRR-related datasets via the Disaster Loss Data (DATA); and on Risk Interpretation and Action (RIA), which seeks to understand risk literacy aspects related to the implementation of risk reduction measures, such as early warning systems, educational and community involvement etc. Associated programmes focus on specific hazard types, such as climate and water-related hazards, seismic hazards, etc.

Through its Co-Sponsors, IRDR has become a key actor in the preparations of the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR). As such, the programme has been instrumental in making the case for a stronger science-driven evidence base for decision-making in DRR-related policy and practice (STEP4DRR: Science and Technology Partnership for DRR).

IRDR flagship projects would define locales for the testing and implementation of this ambition and approach within the programme. They would respond to demands from the Co-Sponsors for co-design and implementation of research in real life DRR contexts at different levels.

IRDR flagship projects subscribe to the notion of co-design and demand-driven research, but also build on and tests cutting-edge research products available after several years of IRDR-related activities.
The notion of IRDR flagship projects is driven by the need to explore possibilities for closer interaction between scientific knowledge and knowledge-based action to curb disaster-related

losses at levels other than national governments or intergovernmental bodies.

Functions

An IRDR flagship project should:

- Provide a real life, clearly defined locale in which to test the implementation of products from three or more IRDR projects;
- Offer an opportunity for decision-makers in any set of real life organisational environments (governments at all level, public administrations, business, NGO's, communities etc.) to familiarise themselves with the IRDR projects, their approaches and products;
- Offer feedback on the usefulness, usability and experiences with the use made of IRDR products in the chosen test-bed sites.

Relationship to IRDR

IRDR Flagship Projects are:

- An integral part of the IRDR programme upon selection / approval by the SC. In the spirit of co-design of research it aims at the testing and review of initial products arising from IRDR research.
- Closely linked to the IRDR working groups through co-chairs and working group members, who will inform about working group products and can, if they so wish, also assume a leadership role in the implementation project.
- Invited to resort WG / project co-chairs as resource persons through the test-bed phase.
- To report on the usefulness, usability and experiences with the use of IRDR products to the working group / project co-chairs, the IPO and the SC, for the co-chairs to reflect on possible subsequent research aimed at refining their products.

Characteristics of IRDR Flagship Projects

IRDR Flagship Projects should:

- Show an interest to test / implement / adapt products arising from three or more IRDR WG / projects.
- Identify a contact person in their organisation who has the responsibility to maintain links with the relevant IRDR programme bodies.
- Take an integrated approach to DRR measures (i.e. combine scientific, technological, participatory, inclusive, preventive modes of mobilising against disaster risk).
- Make a commitment to communicate, within their remit, on the purpose and use of the IRDR tools / products introduced and, ideally, offer an opportunity also for community members to comment on these.
- Make a commitment to provide feedback to the working group / project and the SC on experiences with the tools / products tested, and demonstrate a willingness to engage in a co-re-design if appropriate (the format for this follow-up interaction will be defined by all parties concerned and must be demand-driven)

IRDR expertise is offered at no cost to the beneficiary party except for the reimbursement of

costs incurred (no consultancy fees). Details may need to be fixed in contracts on a case-by-case basis.

Selection of Candidates for Flagship Projects

Proposals for test-bed sites for flagship projects can be made based on input from:

- All IRDR bodies and Co-Sponsors.
- Major Group partners, as well as others identified through the Science Committee.
- Network Partners.

Such proposals, when coming from outside the IRDR Programme, can also accommodate the combination with non-IRDR tools / products, provided they correspond to the integrated approach advocated and practiced by IRDR.

There would be a widely circulated Open Call for proposals – with terms of reference further refined by a dedicated SC Task Group – and a selection process, the criteria for which will be published in the Call. The selection criteria would reflect the ToR.

Process

IRDR bodies would be expected to propose specific tools / projects for testing.

For proposals solicited from other partners, an induction stage is necessary, where a series of possible products is explained and proposed, and an opportunity is given to decision-makers (governments at all levels, public administrations, businesses, NGOs, communities etc.) to familiarise themselves with the IRDR projects, their approaches and products. Candidates should be prepared to offer feedback on the usefulness, usability and experiences with the use made of IRDR products in the chosen test-bed sites.

The locale for such exposure could be, for example, future IRDR Consultative Fora.
Proposals can initially focus on a single hazard, but it is recommended that in an introductory phase interaction with IRDR experts clarify whether a multi-hazard approach is needed.

Project Implementation

Responsibility for implementing IRDR flagship projects lies with the successful candidates. It is expected that they liaise closely with appropriate IRDR bodies to assist in the success of the project (thematic and geographical proximity and relevant experience being criteria).

The purpose of IRDR Flagship Projects is to explore the integrated nature of IRDR applied to a real life setting. Decision-makers and communities in a given organisational environment (governments at all levels, public administrations, businesses, NGOs, communities etc.) should become familiar with the potential benefits of IRDR tools / projects and the underlying approaches, and be given an opportunity to contribute to adapting and improving these tools / products.

During or at the end of the project they should offer feedback on the usefulness, usability and experiences with the use made of IRDR products in the chosen test-bed sites.

IRDR flagship projects should comprise a strong communication function, both internally and with the communities served, and externally, showcasing the pioneering nature of these innovative science – society interactions.

Expected Outcomes

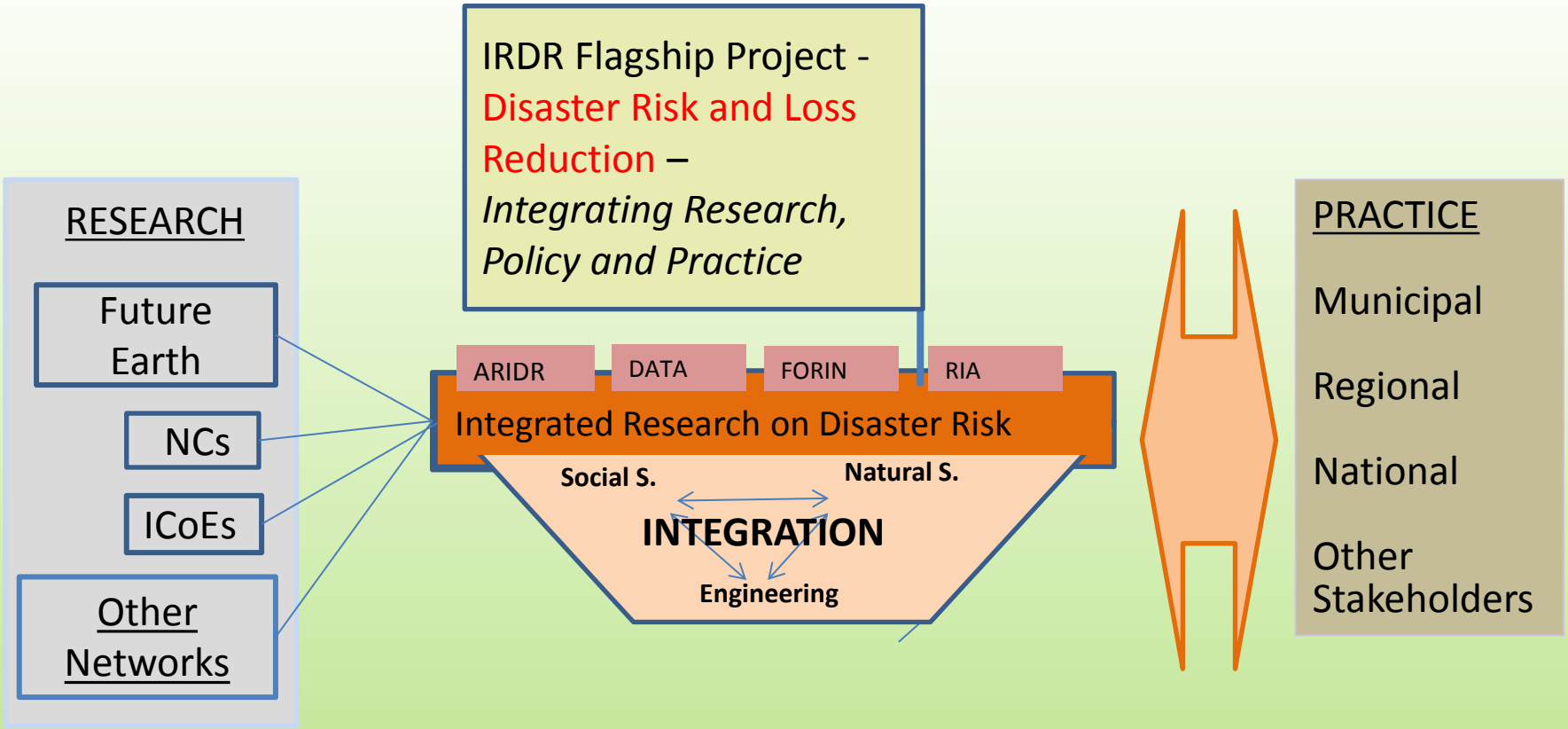
The process of testing and implementation is deliberately open-ended:

- Outcomes can be an adoption and/or adaptation of IRDR products, or their rejection as being immature for implementation.
- Outcomes can consist in training seminars for specific products or approaches (or request for life-long learning offers), or in requests for admission at ICoE or related universities for Masters or advanced research degrees by members of staff under a locally applicable training scheme.

In order to ensure follow-up it is mandatory for the successful candidate and the relevant working group / project co-chairs (and other parties as appropriate) to draw up a document on the respective roles, responsibilities, expectations, milestones and deliverables.

IRDR Flagship: Disaster Risk and Loss Reduction – Integrating Research, Policy and Practice

Mission of the Virgin Voyage: Integrate Science & Technology to Achieve HFA2 & SDG on DRR



Draft ToR for IRDR Associated Projects and Programmes (AP)

IRDR considers it useful, and in line with good practice in other ICSU-related programmes, to recognise next to the formally established IRDR bodies, a number of Associated Projects and Programmes (AP) that, due to the methodologies and approaches employed and/or due to their stated objectives and/or due to existing personal or institutional links, show strong affinities with the IRDR programme and its goals, and/or that complement its activities in important ways.

For the status of Associated Project or Programme to be applied, it should be demonstrable that and how such projects or programmes have made (or are firmly planning to make) theirs important elements of the IRDR approach in research, education / capacity building and outreach / stakeholder engagement. APs should contribute meaningfully to the IRDR research and action agenda, including the up- and down-scaling of results, such as synthesis work and case studies.

The status of AP would allow projects that for whatever reasons need to maintain a specific and independent focus of their activities to signal a commitment to what is emerging as the reference for integrated research on disaster risk.

The status of AP can be obtained by application on the part of interested initiatives themselves or by invitation from any of the IRDR bodies. In either case, it is suggested that a recognised member of the existing IRDR community be identified as an IRDR champion / mentor / liaison person for an AP to ensure continued exchanges with the IRDR Programme.

Any application or invitation should be accompanied by either a short project description, with sufficient elements to satisfy these Terms of Reference, or a link to a sufficiently substantial web-presence and/or publication(s), accompanied, if necessary, with statement of the rationale for the proposal.

A registration form is available to compile and communicate such key information.

In line with the IRDR approach, candidate APs must show evidence for excellence in their activities, defined according to industry-specific recognised standards (which will differ between the domains of research, education, outreach, stakeholder engagement).

The status of AP confers the right to:

- Use the IRDR logo in promotional material (primarily in the area of internationalisation and global networking); and to have
- Priority access to information circulated through the global IRDR communication channels (especially “pushed” announcements);
- Direct exposure to IRDR Co-Sponsors, such as the International Council for Science (ICSU and its 150+ national and global members of funders and scientific unions), the International

Social Science Council ISSC (which has a similarly structured membership), and the partner agencies in the UN system;
- As well as the privilege to see AP announcements disseminated through the programme's global network channels.

APs will see their activities featured in the globally circulated IRDR Annual Reports and Newsletters that convey information on progress in DRR research to global and national science funding, science policy and intergovernmental organisations, as well as to private and public donors in the development domain.

The status of AP is part of a network building; it

- Does not entail any formally facilitated access to financial resources.
- Does not preempt peer-reviewing and other selection mechanisms put in place by IRDR as appropriate for participation in networking, training or science policy activities.
- IRDR is willing, however, to endorse and support applications for funding if appropriate.

The status of AP entails:

- The need to nominate an IRDR contact person (typically an institutional or intellectual leader, as well as a person responsible for communications), as well as
- The responsibility to submit, as they become available, products and reports arising from the project work.
- It is also expected that announcements of interest for the wider IRDR community be shared; and that
- Presentations by the AP should refer to IRDR as a reference.

IRDR
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

Affiliated Projects

1. Belmont Forum

The Belmont Forum coordinates funding for collaborative research actions. These high-priority research activities improve the way funding agencies collaborate with each other and develop opportunities for research.

Click here to read more about Belmont Forum: http://www.belmontforum.org/

2. emBRACE – Building Resilience Amongst Communities in Europe

Using interdisciplinary, socially inclusive and collaborative methods, emBRACE develops a conceptual and methodological approach to clarify how the resilience capacity of a society confronted with natural hazards and disasters can be characterized, defined and measured.

Click here to read more about emBRACE: http://www.embrace-eu.org/home

3. PEARL

The PEARL project aims at developing adaptive risk management strategies for coastal communities focusing on extreme hydro-meteorological events, with a multidisciplinary approach integrating social, environmental and technical research and innovation.

Click here to read more about PEARL: http://www.pearl-fp7.eu/

4. Transformation and Resilience on Urban Coasts (TRUC)

TRUC is focused on the relationship between resilience and transformation on highly urbanized coasts, particularly in five coastal megacities: Kolkata, Lagos, London, New York and Tokyo (with Shanghai also being studied in a funded sister project). TRUC will build an original integrated, participatory framework in collaboration with stakeholders to first characterise and then identify interactions between bio-physical, land-use and decision making processes.

To know more about TRUC, contact:
Mr. Mark Pelling
Leading Principal Investigator
King's College London
mark.pelling@kcl.ac.uk

Click here to read more about TRUC: http://www.loicz.org/science/challenges/belmont/truc/index.html.en

5. Coastal Cities at Risk (CCAR)

The overall objective of the CCaR program is to develop the knowledge base, and enhance the capacity of megacities to successfully adapt and cope with risks posed by the effects of climate change – including sea level rise – in the context of urban growth and development. The CCaR project takes an interdisciplinary approach involving natural, engineering, socio-political-economic and health scientists and builds upon leading programs, which are also partners in the research program.

Click here to read more about CCAR: http://coastalcitiesatrisk.org/

IRDR
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

12th Meeting of the IRDR Science Committee
ICSU Secretariat, Paris, France, 13-15 November 2014

Item 8: Towards an IRDR Communications Plan

The SC had, in the past, repeatedly discussed, in a generic fashion, the need to enhance the communications services of the IPO; a more news and impact focused approach had been suggested during the 11th SC meeting.

The IPO staff has been working on a communication plan for 2014/15. The CO will provide an overview of existing communication tools, and refer to shortcomings of the current set-up (in terms of input received from the IRDR network, restrictions on communications at the IPO location, staffing, etc.). The presentation refers to some perceived strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and strengths (SWOT) of IRDR communications.

A more detailed document is currently being revised and will be uploaded as soon as possible. This document will comprise proposed targets and measures for all parties concerned, including IRDR bodies.

This more specific approach should make it possible to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the communications activities as part of the programme evaluation.

Attachment

8.1 Draft Communications Plan (yet to be uploaded)

Actions:

8.1 The SC is invited to comment on the proposed communications plan and to suggest measures to increase the impact of IRDR through such a plan.

8.2 The SC may also, as part of this discussion, comment on some of the key messages that an emerging communications strategy should focus on.

8.3 The SC is invited to include recommendations on communications actions in the discussion on the forward planning to occur during day 3.

IRDR
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

12th Meeting of the IRDR Science Committee
ICSU Secretariat, Paris, France, 13-15 November 2014

Item 9: Reports / Previews from Co-Sponsors

Co-Sponsors will provide the meeting with short reports on recent, ongoing and planned developments of relevance to IRDR.

They will point to opportunities for connecting to related programmes, for joint activities and to grants available for the development towards the programme aims.

9.1 ICSU

ICSU's interim Executive Director, Peter Liss, will give a brief account on the recent ICSU General Assembly.

A brief update will be given on recent developments regarding Future Earth (FE). The activities of its global secretariat and of the science and engagement committee will be presented.

It is hoped that after its initial meeting in Argentina, a first oral report on the operations of the engagement committee can be given.

SC Chair and Executive Director will report on their contacts with their current counterparts at FE.

Attachments:

9.1.1. ICSU Press Releases on General Assembly
9.1.2. ICSU Press Release on FE Global Secretariat

Action:

9.1.2. The SC is invited to discuss in which areas it wishes to collaborate with FE in the future, given that the science profile of the emerging sister programme is still in flux.

9.2 ISSC

The ISSC ex-officio member, Vivi Stavrou, will give an update on recent, ongoing and planned developments of relevance to IRDR.

Action:

9.2.1. The SC is invited to discuss the proposed activities and to collect sufficient information from the ex-officio member to ensure that they can proceed to prioritisations and division of tasks during the strategic forward planning on Day 3.

9.3 UNISDR

The UNISDR ex-officio member, Feng Min Kan, will give an update on recent, ongoing and planned developments of relevance to IRDR, notably as regards the 3rd WCDRR, and ongoing and envisaged activities in Asia.

Attachments:

9.3.1. Documents relating to the role of ICSU and its programmes in the process leading up to the 3rd WCDRR are comprised under Item 4

Action:

9.3.1. The SC is invited to note the updates on the work of UNISDR.

ICSU
International Council for Science

PRESS RELEASE

Leading scientists from around the world gather in Auckland for key strategy summit of global scientific organizations

Gathering in Auckland for the tri-annual General Assembly of the International Council for Science (ICSU), the representatives of the scientific community will take key decisions that define the direction of international science for the coming years.

Auckland, New Zealand (August 31) – New Zealand Prime Minister John Key opened the 31st General Assembly of the International Council for Science with a speech stressing New Zealand's unique environmental challenges and its contributions to international research..

Outgoing ICSU President, Nobel Prize laureate Professor Yuan-Tseh Lee in his speech paid tribute to the achievements of the global environmental change research programmes which will soon merge into Future Earth. "Without them, we would hardly understand so much about our changing earth," he said.

"Let us remember why we are here," he urged, "It is to strengthen international science to help humanity cope with global challenges and achieve sustainable transformation."

The meeting is hosted by New Zealand's Royal Society, whose President David Skegg noted that of the previous ICSU General Assemblies only three had been held in the southern hemisphere and this was the first in the South Pacific.

Peter Gluckman, Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of New Zealand, made a keynote speech in which he warned that researchers had to respond to the challenge of responding to disruptive changes that were underway in science.

"The rise of open science and the massive expansion of the scientific endeavour accompanied by the rise of the celebrity scientist and the very individualistic reward system of public science has exposed a number of issues about the integrity of the science system itself."

Gluckman stressed the importance of public trust in science – which is essential for solving the key challenges society faces in the 21st century. "Science systems are changing rapidly, and if we do not manage these changes properly, they can contribute to loss of public trust," he said.

Over the course of the next three days, delegates from ICSU's national members and unions will discuss priorities for international science in the coming years, vote in a new leadership including its next President-elect and Executive Board and will consider an official statement on open access to scientific publications.

Media enquiries
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Johannes Mengel, Communications Officer, ICSU email: johannes.mengel@icsu.org

About ICSU

ICSU
International Council for Science

Founded in 1931, ICSU is a non-governmental organization with a global membership of national scientific bodies (120 Members, representing 140 countries) and International Scientific Unions (31 Members). The Council's activities focus on three areas: planning and coordinating research; science for policy; and strengthening the Universality of Science. ICSU is frequently called upon to speak on behalf of the global scientific community and to act as an advisor in matters ranging from the environment to conduct in science. www.icsu.org

ICSU
International Council for Science

PRESS RELEASE

Celebrating 30 years of global change research

The global science community celebrates 30 years of research collaboration which has contributed to fundamental breakthroughs in our understanding of the Earth System

Auckland, New Zealand (Sept 1) – Three decades of research collaboration amongst thousands of volunteer scientists across the globe to deepen our understanding of the Earth System was celebrated today on the first day of the General Assembly of the International Council for Science (ICSU).

Delegates to the major three-day scientific conference heard how the combined efforts of the four global change programmes in the past decades have shaped our understanding of the Earth System and underpinned the major policy assessments such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

“The value of the global change programmes is putting together the big picture. The sum is greater than the parts,” said Sybil Seitzinger, Executive Director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP).

The World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) was set up in 1980, followed by IGBP. In 1989 a UN General Assembly resolution called on countries around the world to “increase their activities in support of WCRP and IGBP.” DIVERSITAS – biodiversity science was established soon after, then the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP) in 1996, followed by the Earth System Science Partnership in 2001.

IGBP was established as the major international programme to increase understanding of the biogeochemistry of the Earth system. At a meeting in Mexico in 2000, IGBP Vice Chair Nobel Laureate Paul Crutzen said that Earth system changes were so great that we could no longer be said to be in the Holocene. He coined the term Anthropocene at that meeting. “It was a major shift in our understanding in the dynamics of the Earth system and human activities,”Seitzinger said.

“Twenty years ago we knew very little about the magnitude of change humans were having on the nitrogen cycle. The scientific community was fragmented and we didn’t have an Earth System perspective. Coordination through IGBP has led to major advances and we can now quantify the magnitude of human impact on the nitrogen cycle.”

Director of the World Climate Research Programme Dave Carlson thanked the thousands of volunteer scientists who contributed to the realization of the WCRP vision. He added that“what is important is to look at the big picture across these projects, where a small number of people in a small number of secretariats organized these things.”

Anne-Helene Prieur-Richard, Acting Executive Director of DIVERSITAS – which has focused on understanding the biodiversity component of the Earth system – described the changes in the focus of biodiversity research over the past three decades.

Starting from the 1980s, when research looked at questions like “What is biodiversity? Where is it in the world?”, in the 1990s the focus shifted to how biodiversity contributes to ecosystem processes and functions.

Prieur-Richard also paid tribute to the legacy of IHDP, highlighting work on the consequences of urbanization, new metrics to measure human and natural capital and understanding how different institutional systems shapes human behaviour and decision-making processes.

Seitzinger stressed that all the global change programmes provided a way for policymakers to access the research community and vice versa. “They are a platform for engagement and this is one of the big success stories of IGBP,” she said. For example, more than 100 IGBP scientists have been involved as authors and reviewers in the IPCC Fifth Annual Assessment released in the past year. Another significant policy product is the annual Global Carbon Budget which is a timely update on global emissions and carbon sinks.

The legacy of global change research will be carried on by the new Future Earth programme, into which IGBP, IHDP and DIVERSITAS will be merged in 2015.

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About ICSU

Founded in 1931, ICSU is a non-governmental organization with a global membership of national scientific bodies (120 Members, representing 140 countries) and International Scientific Unions (31 Members). The Council’s activities focus on three areas: planning and coordinating research; science for policy; and strengthening the Universality of Science. ICSU is frequently called upon to speak on behalf of the global scientific community and to act as an advisor in matters ranging from the environment to conduct in science. www.icsu.org

ICSU
International Council for Science

PRESS RELEASE

International Council for Science endorses open access to scientific record; cautions against misuse of metrics

The General Assembly of the International Council for Science today endorsed open access principles and provided key recommendations guarding against the misuse of metrics in the evaluation of research performance.

Auckland, 2 September – In a strong show of support for open access to the scientific record, the Assembly, which unites representatives of 120 national scientific academies and 31 international scientific unions, today voted for the statement which stakes out 5 key goals for open access, and offers 12 recommendations that pave the road for attaining them.

"Open Access is a key mechanism to support the development of science and of vital importance to all scientists both young and old," said Prof. John Ball, who led the ICSU working group that developed the statement. "It is a powerful tool for creating and validating knowledge, and for supporting science as a public good, and not as something carried out behind closed doors," he added.

The five goals in the statement assert that access to the scientific record should be free of financial barriers for any researcher to contribute to; free of financial barriers for any user to access immediately on publication; made available without restriction on reuse for any purpose, subject to proper attribution; quality-assured and published in a timely manner; and archived and made available in perpetuity.

The statement also makes twelve recommendations for achieving these goals, including recommendations on metrics, stating that these, when used as an aid to the evaluation of research and researchers, should help promote open access and open science. It also cautions that metrics should be regarded as an aid, and not a substitute, for good decision-making. They should not normally be used in isolation to assess the performance of researchers, to determine appointments, or to distribute funds to individuals or research groups, for which it says expert review is indispensable.

The Council's position takes account of the specific situation related to research data, asserting that publishers should require authors to provide explicit references to the datasets underlying published research. They also should require clear assurances that these datasets are deposited and available in trusted and sustainable digital repositories. Citing datasets in reference lists using an accepted standard format should be considered the norm.

The statement also suggests that terms of contracts governing the purchase of scientific periodicals and databases by libraries serving universities and research establishments should be publicly accessible.

The full statement can be downloaded from the Council's website at

http://www.icsu.org

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE

The International Council for Science (ICSU) is a non-governmental organisation with a global membership of national scientific bodies (121 Members, representing 141 countries) and International Scientific Unions (31 Members). It mobilizes the knowledge and resources of the international scientific community to strengthen international science for the benefit of society.

ABOUT PROF. JOHN BALL

Sir John Ball is Sedleian Professor of Natural Philosophy at the University of Oxford. He was the President of the International Mathematical Union from 2003–06 and is a Fellow of The Queen's College, Oxford. He was educated at the University of Cambridge and Sussex University, and prior to taking up his Oxford post was a professor of mathematics at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. He is also a member of the Executive Board of the International Council for Science (ICSU).

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ICSU
International Council for Science

PRESS RELEASE

South African mathematician elected as next President of the International Council for Science

Professor Daya Reddy, an internationally recognized mathematician from South Africa, today became the new President-elect of the International Council for Science

Auckland, New Zealand (Sept 3) – At the conclusion of the organization's 31st General Assembly in Auckland, Reddy today was named the future President of the International Council for Science (ICSU). He was elected by representatives from ICSU's 120 National Members and 31 Scientific Unions attending the meeting.

Reddy will take over from the current ICSU President, Gordon McBean, in October 2017.

Reddy was born in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. He obtained his PhD degree in civil engineering from the University of Cape Town, and a PhD degree from Cambridge University.

He was appointed professor of applied mathematics at the University of Cape Town in 1989, and served as dean of its science faculty from 1999 – 2005. He currently holds the South African Research Chair in Computational Mechanics. He is President of the Academy of Science of South Africa, and serves as Co-Chair of the InterAcademy Council, a body which produces reports on scientific, technological and health issues for governments and global organizations. He is an elected fellow of TWAS and the African Academy of Sciences. He is a recipient of the Order of Mapungubwe (Bronze), awarded by the President of South Africa for distinguished contributions to science, and of the Georg Forster Research Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany.

Daya Reddy's research interests lie at the intersection of applied mathematics and engineering sciences. Much of his work is concerned with analysis and computational simulation in solid and fluid mechanics, and concerns the development of mathematical models of material behaviour, analysis of these models, and the construction and implementation of algorithms for their numerical solution. His work is motivated by applications in areas such as materials science and biomechanics.

He thanked Professor Lee for his contribution to the global science community, and said: "I am deeply honoured by the confidence that has been shown to me."

Reddy said that "ICSU is in a special position to promote the values of science and to provide leadership in seeking scientific approaches to the world's problems." He added "I look forward very much to working with my colleagues in ICSU in the task of realising these goals. I am particularly keen to ensure that ICSU becomes as inclusive as possible, so that as the voice of science we are in fact able to involve the entire community worldwide."

ICSU
International Council for Science

Other Members elected to the ICSU Executive Board

Officers:
Vice-President for Scientific Planning and Review: Li Jinghai (chemical engineering/computational science/energy technology, China: CAST)

Vice-President for External Relations: Michael Clegg (plant biology, USA)

Secretary General: David Black (chemistry, Australia)

Treasurer: Barbara Erazmus (physics, France)

Ordinary Members:

From National Members:

John Ball (mathematics, UK)

Raghavendra Gadagkar (genetics and developmental biology, India)

Nicole Moreau
(Chemistry/medicinal/chemistry/biochemistry/enzymology/bacteriology, France)

Kazuyuki Tatsumi (chemical engineering, Japan)

From Union Members

Manuel de León (physical, chemical and mathematical sciences, Spain)

John Buckeridge (biological sciences, Australia)

Orhan Altan (earth and space sciences, Turkey)

Cheryl de la Rey (social sciences, South Africa)

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ICSU
International Council for Science

PRESS RELEASE

Canadian climate scientist is new President of the International Council for Science

Professor Gordon McBean, an internationally recognized meteorologist and climate change expert, today became the new President of the International Council for Science (ICSU).

Auckland, New Zealand (September 3) – At the conclusion of the organization's 31st General Assembly in Auckland, McBean today assumed the presidency, to which he had been elected by representatives from ICSU's 120 National Members and 31 International Scientific Union Members at the previous General Assembly in Rome, Italy in 2011. An established member of the ICSU community, McBean succeeds the previous ICSU President, Yuan Tseh Lee, and is the second Canadian to take up this office.

Professor McBean was born and educated in Canada, and obtained a PhD in physics from the University of British Colombia (UBC), Vancouver. After an academic and research career that included serving as Professor of Atmospheric and Oceanographic Sciences at UBC, he was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister in Environment Canada, and was, from 1994 to 2000, responsible for climate, weather and air quality sciences and services in the federal government. He currently holds professorships in the Departments of Geography, Political Science and Physics at the University of Western Ontario, London, Canada, and is Director of Policy Studies at the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction and Co-Director of the Centre for Environment and Sustainability there.

For many years McBean has been involved in ICSU and ICSU-related affairs, including the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the planning of a new decade-long interdisciplinary research programme Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR), whose Scientific Committee he chaired until 1 November 2011.

As a member of the Future Earth Transition Team, he played a key role in defining the research initiative's organizational design and objectives. He is also President of Global Change START International, an organization which supports regional networks and capacity enhancement in Africa and Asia, and notably in the context of ICSU’s international global change programmes. He is chair of the International Advisory Board, IRDR International Centre of Excellence, China: Taipei; the Ontario Climate Consortium and member of several other international and national committees.

His service and achievements in the fields of climate change and natural hazards research have been recognized with the Orders of Canada (2008) and Ontario (2010). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. As a lead author and review editor for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), he was a member of the team that was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

ICSU
International Council for Science

In his inaugural address, McBean said that he was "very proud of the role the Council has played, and will continue to play, in planning, coordinating and 'making happen' global scale research for the benefits for all societies."

He emphasized that the Council "will continue to provide societies and governments with policy relevant science that can and should form the basis policy making."

"I am very proud to be your new President and look forward to working with you now and in the future," he concluded.

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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ICSU
International Council for Science

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S SCIENCE ADVISOR
Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, KNZM FRSNZ FMedSci FRS
Chief Science Advisor

Science advice to governments comes of age at Auckland conference

Responding to the increasingly global nature of societal challenges, practitioners of science advice to governments formed a global network to share practice and strengthen their ties, at the first global conference on science advice to governments, which was held in Auckland, New Zealand this week.

Auckland, New Zealand (29 August) — Science advice to governments has emerged as a discipline in its own right, which is both art and science. This is what delegates to the world's first summit of science advice heard at a meeting in Auckland, which closed today with a strong call to strengthen international collaboration, an agreement to formalise the network and meet again in 2016.

Convened by the International Council for Science (ICSU) and hosted by New Zealand's Chief Science Advisor, Sir Peter Gluckman, this historic summit marks a turning point in the global awareness that robust and credible science has an important place in public policy making. The conference brought together some 200 participants including science advisors, senior officials, representatives of national academies, experts and scholars from more than 40 countries across Africa, the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, the United States, Canada and Latin America.

"Our goal was to start a global conversation on the practices and challenges of conveying science advice to governments," said **Sir Peter Gluckman.** "As brokers of knowledge, science advice practitioners aim to communicate what is known and what is not known in such a way as to assist decision makers in balancing evidence, social values and other imperatives in the policy process. This is no small task, particularly in contentious areas of policy, where public concern is high and the science is inevitably uncertain."

"The meeting has highlighted a real thirst among practitioners to share models and lessons. I think we have experienced an unprecedented moment of awareness which we should seize and harness for action globally," said Sir Peter.

The role of science advisor can at times be controversial. Science Advisor to EU President Jose-Manuel Barroso, Anne Glover gave a candid account of some of the challenges she has faced. "There is no point having a Chief Science Advisor and not taking advantage of them," she said.

"The diversity of cultural approaches to science advice cannot be underestimated, and one size does not fit all. Without networks which connect practitioners of science advice, we are missing something," she added, referring to the opportunities presented by conference.

Participants agreed that science advice was critical for underpinning everything from economic growth through poverty alleviation, international trade, diplomacy, sustainable development to disaster risk management.

"Many governments around the world have recognised the need to inform their policy decisions with the best knowledge available," said **Steven Wilson,** Executive Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU). "I am thrilled that the practitioners working at this critical interface are strengthening their ties to build the practice and learn from each other."

Another focus of discussion was the experience of early career scientists who are often at the leading edge of new scientific thinking. **Jacqueline McGlade,** Chief Scientist at UNEP, said one of the roles of science advisors was to protect and nurture these new perspectives in order to ensure continual progress in the provision of science advice.

Speaking at the summit, **Romain Murenzi,** the executive director of The World Academy of Science (TWAS), which represents the academies of the developing world, underlined the importance of strengthening collaboration among science advisory structures worldwide. "We need to get to a place where the science culture is pervasive and where we can truly say there is scientifically literate society. The role of science advice to government plays a big role in this," he said.

The two-day summit was designed to promote open discussion on the provision of science advice in some of the most challenging policy contexts: situations of crisis; when evidence is in conflict with political views; and when evidence must cross geopolitical borders and cultures. Key themes that emerged from the delegates' discussions included the importance of recognising the broad social context in which science is undertaken and applied; the value of involving policy makers and public alike in shaping the questions that science can begin to answer; and a commitment to greater collaboration amongst practitioners of advice to advance principles and accountabilities in brokering knowledge that can both honour and transcend our diversity.

The summit ended with a strong call to build upon the energy and enthusiasm generated within this growing network of practitioners. Sir Peter will chair the lead the development of a more formal network supported by an expanded organising committee. Multinational organisations **ICSU** and the **OECD Global Science Forum** are working with organisers to take the initiative forward. Workshops on specific issues will be held over the next two years and a 2nd Global Conference on Science Advice to Governments will be held in Europe in 2016.

Full details of the meeting proceedings are available here: http://www.globalscienceadvice.org/

The conference organising committee comprises:

Dr. John Boright, Executive Director of International Affairs at US National Academies
Dr. Claus Hviid Christensen, former Chair of Danish Council for Research Policy
Sir Peter Gluckman, Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, New Zealand
Dr. Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Adviser to the President of the European Commission
Dr. Romain Murenzi, Executive Director of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)
Dr. Carlos Nobre, National Secretary, Research and Development, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Brazil; and appointed member of UN Scientific Advisory Board
Sir Mark Walport, Government Chief Science Adviser, UK
Dr. James Wilsdon, Professor of Science and Democracy, University of Sussex
Dr. Steven Wilson, Executive Director of International Council for Science (ICSU)
Dr. Hamid Zakri, Prime Minister's Science Advisor, Malaysia; founding Chair of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); and appointed member of the UN Scientific Advisory Board.

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ICSU
International Council for Science

Future Earth to get globally distributed secretariat

Paris, 2 July 2014 – Future Earth, a new international programme for global sustainability which brings together thousands of the world's leading researchers on global environmental change, will have a new secretariat with a unique and innovative structure that spans three continents.

The announcement came today from the International Council for Science, on behalf of the members of the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability (the Alliance).

The preferred bidder comprises five global hubs which will function as a single entity, and are located in Canada (Montreal), France (Paris), Japan (Tokyo), Sweden (Stockholm) and the United States (Colorado).

Yuan-Tseh Lee, President of the International Council for Science (ICSU) said: "*Solutions to the major sustainability challenges facing humanity require integrated science and a closer relationship with policy makers and stakeholders than we have seen to date. Future Earth has been designed to respond to these urgent needs, and I am impressed by the innovative consortium that has come together to drive the programme forward. The consortium will work with tens of thousands of scientists already engaged in excellent global environmental change research, attract new communities, and build new partnerships to achieve the goals of global sustainability*"

Over 20 expressions of interest were received for the Future Earth secretariat. Following a two-day bidder's conference hosted in Paris, consolidated final bids were reviewed on the basis of their vision, capability, organisational model and management plan and funding.

Irina Bokova, Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said: "*I am delighted that we are now in a position to establish a permanent secretariat for Future Earth, which will facilitate its full implementation. I am particularly satisfied with its excellent geographic representation, which is underpinned by a truly decentralized secretariat. UNESCO looks forward to continuing to support Future Earth and to working with its permanent secretariat, including by helping to connect its various hubs and nodes with UNESCO's specialized networks and centres throughout the world*".

ICSU
International Council for Science

Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP said: "*I welcome the establishment of a globally distributed permanent secretariat for the Future Earth research initiative. UNEP and its regional offices are looking forward to continued collaboration with the secretariat and its regional centres across the science policy agenda. Future Earth constitutes a strong asset to the world community of science as well as to support UNEP's mandate to bring the latest findings from science into the policy agenda in order to keep the global environment under review. Global and regional assessments and engaging with communities of practice are central to building the new process for our Global Environmental outlook, GEO, developing IPBES, contributing to the IPCC and the work of the Global Environment Facility, GEF.*"

World Meteorological Organization Secretary General, Michel Jarraud, welcomed the decision to establish the globally distributed permanent secretariat for the Future Earth programme. "*Distributing the Secretariat among different regions will strengthen the ability of Future Earth to build bridges between communities of researchers and stakeholders worldwide. WMO looks forward to continued strong engagement with the World Climate Research Programme, the WMO-led Global Framework for Climate Services and other strategic partnerships, so that Future Earth can gain access to some of the best available research for addressing the most pressing needs of society.*"

The preferred bid includes a series of regional hubs, from which it is expected new regional networks will develop. These cover Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa, Europe and Asia. Discussions to develop an African hub are underway, with plans in other regions also under consideration. To assist researchers internationally, the Secretariat will support five core functions: coordination, communication and outreach, research enabling, capacity building, synthesis and foresight.

"*This is an innovative model for traditional academic approaches to research and engagement, but one increasingly adopted throughout the private sector, because a globalized world demands innovative and collaborative approaches. We believe a globally distributed leadership model will serve the international community best in advancing new knowledge and novel approaches to solve humanity's most pressing global sustainability challenges*" said the international consortium, in a joint statement.

The preferred bidder consortium is currently working with the Alliance to refine details of their proposal ahead of agreeing a Memorandum of Understanding. Members of the consortium are also in discussion with the Future Earth Interim Secretariat and the Science and Engagement Committees in order to plan a smooth transition with a view to becoming operational by the end of 2014.

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ABOUT FUTURE EARTH

Future Earth is a new 10-year global research platform providing the knowledge and support to accelerate our transformations to a sustainable world. It will bring together three global environmental change programmes: the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP) and Diversitas, engage closely with the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and attract new research and stakeholder communities. Future Earth seeks to pioneer new approaches to international research bringing together many disciplines around a common research agenda. It will also provide an international platform for engagement to ensure that knowledge is generated in partnership with society and users of science.

ABOUT THE PREFERRED BIDDER

The preferred bidder is the winning consortium from a competitive process to select a secretariat for Future Earth. The consortium is currently working with members of the Alliance to refine aspects of their proposal and this work is expected to be completed by September 2014.

The preferred bidder is an international consortium of several lead organisations: Montreal International (Montreal, Canada), the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (Paris, France), the Science Council of Japan (Tokyo, Japan), Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (Stockholm Sweden), and in Colorado, USA, the University of Colorado (Boulder) and Colorado State University (Fort Collins).

These organisations are complemented by regional hubs co-ordinated by: the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (for Latin America), the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (for Asia), the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research (for Europe) and The Cyprus Institute (for the Middle East and North Africa). Discussions to develop an African hub are underway, with plans in other regions also under consideration.

ABOUT THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability is an informal international partnership which brings together members from research, funding and the international sectors that sponsor Future Earth.

The core membership of the Alliance includes the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the IGFA/Belmont Forum, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the United Nations University (UNU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE (ICSU)

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ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE (UNESCO)

Since its creation in 1945, UNESCO has pursued its mission of promoting science at the service of sustainable development and peace. It focuses on policy development and building capacities in science, technology and innovation and promoting and strengthening science education and engineering. UNESCO fosters the sustainable management of freshwater, oceans and terrestrial resources, the protection of biodiversity, and using the power of science to cope with climate change and natural hazards. The Organization also works to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to promote equality between men and women, especially in scientific research.

ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing,

and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. UNEP’s participation in the Alliance allows it to promote and implement environmental stewardship initiatives.

ABOUT THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION
The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources.

IRDR
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

12th Meeting of the IRDR Science Committee
ICSU Secretariat, Paris, France, 13-15 November 2014

Item 10: Networking and Partnership Session

The SC will discuss the networking and partnership session with particular reference to:

- Expanding the impact of IRDR's work through closer collaboration with UN agencies. Given that the invited presentations present merely a fraction of such activities, and that other contacts occur and have occurred in other fora as well, a proper inventory would be desirable. Comments are invited on such existing contacts, and how they can be used to advance the impact of the programme.

- Expanding the reach of the IRDR programme (and ultimately also its impact) by systematically using the Major Groups framework to interact with organisations representing civil society, both with a view to advancing the co-design mode of research (encouraged by all three Co-Sponsors), for example through the IRDR consultative forum, and in terms of continued interaction in the framework of the implementation of HFA2.

10.1 Consultative Forum

The ICSU Science Plan had foreseen that already in the first three years of the programme a consultative forum be launched that would lay the foundations for the co-design of research with the involvement of multiple stakeholder organisations.

Such stakeholder consultation fora would serve the purpose of both receiving input and reviewing the progress of the programme. As an ongoing stakeholder engagement process, the Consultative Forum would be used as part evaluating and enhancing the impact of the programme. After ten years, the Science Plan suggested, it would be appropriate for the sponsors, together with the then ongoing consultative forum, to review the programme and the investments made to see how well the vision and legacy has been achieved.

It is suggested to build on the contacts developed with scientific and non-academic partners and stakeholders and to convene a Consultative Forum after the World Conference, so as to engage with all partners on the role IRDR could play in the implementation of recommendations issued by the conference. This may also be the moment, half-way through the programme, to decide on the possible inclusion of new projects or programme components.

Attachments:

10.1.1. N.B.: Documents regarding the partners among the Major Groups are comprised

under Item 4.

10.1.2. List of current partner organisations (preliminary document; yet to be uploaded)

10.1.3. References to Consultative Forum in the Science Plan (ICSU 2008) 9see item 4.5.1)

Actions:

10.1.1. The SC is invited to comment on and to develop the concept of the consultative forum as envisaged originally by the ICSU Science Plan for IRDR.

10.1.2. The SC is invited to decide on the formation of a Task Group to prepare this Consultative Forum together with the SC Chair and the ED. The Task Group would propose a work plan towards the forum, including partners to be involved, timeline, venue, resources and objectives to work towards.

10.1.3. SC members are invited to volunteer to be members of the Task Group. All transactions of the Task Group will be conducted online.

IRDR
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

12th Meeting of the IRDR Science Committee
ICSU Secretariat, Paris, France, 13-15 November 2014

Item 11: Previews

11.1 Evaluation of the IRDR Programme

ICSU will explain the timeline and modalities for the envisaged IRDR programme evaluation. The SC had learnt at its 11th meeting that ICSU is obligated to evaluate its interdisciplinary programmes. The evaluation of the IRDR programme will begin in mid-2015.

The SC is reminded that the Science Plan for IRDR had already identified (pg. 50) a number of possible criteria for the evaluation:

1. Co-Sponsors are in place and actively engaged in the programme;
2. Partnerships are agreed to and function;
3. Projects are in place with viable and strong scientific teams, appropriate geographical representation and adequate funding, so as to enable them to meet their objectives within the overall framework of the Programme objectives;
4. Working Groups are established and FORIN has completed several case studies in the first three years of the programme.

Action:

11.1 The SC is invited to discuss whether any specific actions are necessary to prepare for the evaluation and bear in mind the relevance of the evaluation for activities in 2015.

11.2 SC Membership

In June 2015, four SC members (Cardona, Cutter, Johnston and Takeuchi) will come to the end of their second three-year terms. Their memberships cannot be renewed. Three of them are also SC Executive members.

A list of the SC membership is included in the meeting documents. A matrix of the distribution of countries, areas of expertise, sector and gender is currently being prepared. It is to be recalled that Co-Sponsor ISSC already at the 11th SC meeting had requested that the gender balance of the Committee be proactively addressed for upcoming replacements.

As regards the SC Executive, it is to be recalled that on 31 December 2014, Cutter will step down as Vice-Chair, staying on as an SC member until 30 June 2015. She will be replaced by

Lwasa as Vice-Chair on 31 December 2014. As of June 2015, two new SC Executive members will need to be elected; one of them being the new SC Chair.

Attachments

11.2.1. List of SC members (as of 22 September 2014)
11.2.2. Current distribution of SC members according to geographic regions and gender (including projection after end-of-term of four SC members)
11.2.3. Matrix of SC member profiles (yet to be uploaded)

Action:

11.2 The SC is invited to discuss the future composition of the SC, identifying in particular relevant shortcomings in terms of current or envisaged geographical, disciplinary or gender distribution.

IRDR
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

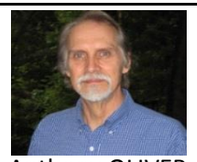
*Science Committee (SC) Members
(as of 22 September 2014)

**** SC Members shall serve for an initial term of three years, renewable once.***

No.	Name	Nationality	Affiliation	Website	Areas of Specialisation	Role on SC	Terms as SC Member			Contact
							Start	1st Term Expiry	Extension	
EXECUTIVE										
1	 Irasema ALCÁNTARA-AYALA	Mexico	Professor, Institute of Geography, National Autonomous University of Mexico (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México - UNAM), Mexico City, Mexico	http://www.igeograf.unam.mx/sigg/investigacion/geo_fis/personal.php?cual_personal=14	geography; geomorphology; landslides	Vice-Chair; FORIN Project Co-Chair	2012	30 June 2015		irasema@igg.unam.mx
2	 Susan CUTTER	USA	Carolina Distinguished Professor; Director, Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute, University of South Carolina, Columbia, USA	http://webra.cas.sc.edu/hvri/	geography; post-event field studies	Vice-Chair; DATA Project Co-Chair; Director, ICoE-VaRM	2009	2012	30 June 2015	scutter@sc.edu
3	 David JOHNSTON	New Zealand	Director, Joint Centre for Disaster Research, School of Psychology, Massey University, Wellington, New Zealand	http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/departments/school-of-psychology/research/disaster-research/disaster-research_home.cfm	earth sciences; volcanology; disaster management	SC Chair; Director, ICoE-CR	2009	2012	30 June 2015	david.johnston@gns.cri.nz

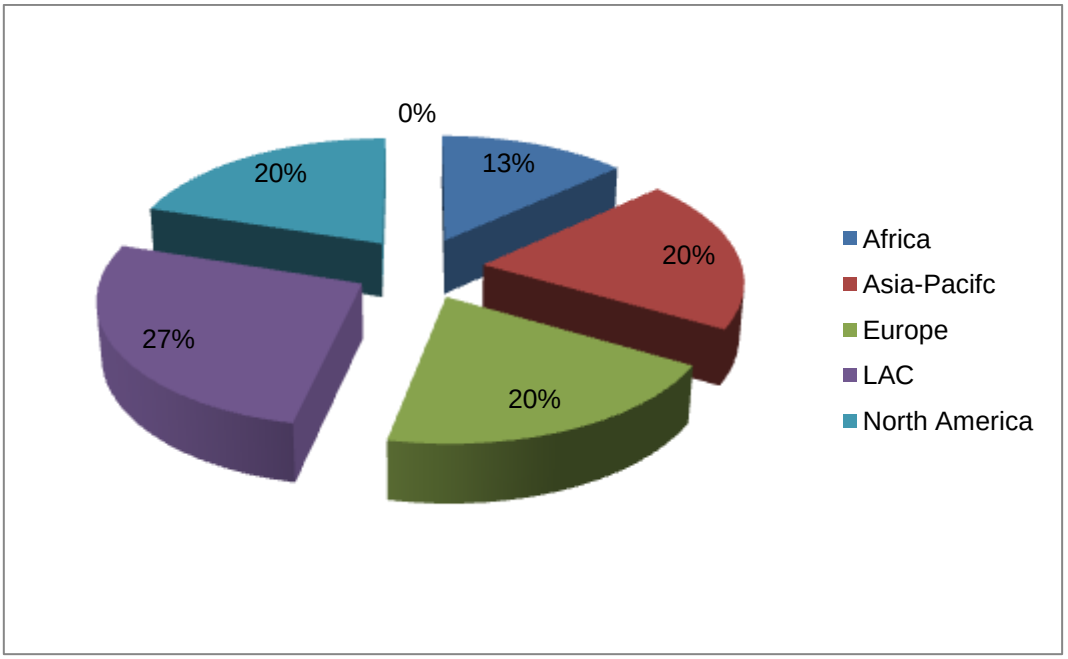
4	 Kuniyoshi TAKEUCHI	Japan	Director, International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), Tsukuba, Japan	http://www.icharm.pwri.go.jp/	hydrology; civil engineering	Vice-Chair	2009	2012	30 June 2015	kuni.t@pwri.go.jp
MEMBERS										
5	 Djillali BENOUAR	Algeria	Director, Built Environment Research Laboratory (LBE), University of Bab Ezzouar, Algiers, Algeria		earthquake engineering		2010	15 Nov. 2013	31 Dec. 2016	dbenouar@usthb.dz dbenouar@gmail.com dbenouar@yahoo.com
6	 Jörn BIRKMANN	Germany	Head of Section, Vulnerability Assessment, Risk Management and Adaptive Planning; Academic Officer, United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)	http://ehs.unu.edu/article/read/vulnerability-assessment-risk-management-adaptive-planning	vulnerability and risk; spatial planning and adaptation		2014	30 June 2017		birkmann@ehs.unu.edu
7	 Ann BOSTROM	USA	Weyerhaeuser Endowed Professor in Environmental Policy, Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington, Seattle, USA	http://evans.uw.edu/profile/bostrom	decision and risk analysis; environmental policy; perception and communication of risk	RIA Project Co-Chair	2012	30 June 2015		abostrom@uw.edu

8	 Sálvano BRICEÑO	France/ Venezuela	Former Director, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat, Geneva, Switzerland		environmental education; law; disaster risk reduction		2011	31 Oct. 2014	30 June 2017	salvanob@gmail.com
9	 Omar Darío CARDONA	Colombia	Professor, Integrated Disaster Risk Management, National University of Colombia, Manizales City, Colombia		earthquake engineering; disaster prevention; risk mitigation	Director, ICoE-UR&S	2009	2012	30 June 2015	odcardonaa@unal.edu.co odcardona@hotmail.com
10	 S.H.M. FAKHRUDDIN	Bangladesh	Consultant Hydrologist, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Thailand	http://www.shmfakhruddin.net/	water engineering and management		2013	31 Dec. 2016		smfwater@gmail.com
11	 Virginia JIMÉNEZ DÍAZ	Venezuela	Coordinator, Network of Social Studies in the Prevention of Disasters in Latin America (LA RED), Panama City, Panama; Research Centre for Risk Management (CIGIR), Mérida, Venezuela	http://www.desenredando.org/ http://www.cigir.org/	integrated risk management in urban areas		2013	31 Dec. 2016		virginiaj20@yahoo.com virginiaj20@gmail.com
12	 Shuaib LWASA	Uganda	Lecturer, Department of Geography, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda	http://www.caes.mak.ac.ug/staff-members/staff-profiles/115-environmental-management/1016-shuaib-lwasa-phd.html	urban land management; application of GIS		2012	30 June 2015		lwasa_s@arts.mak.ac.ug shuaiblwasa@gmail.com

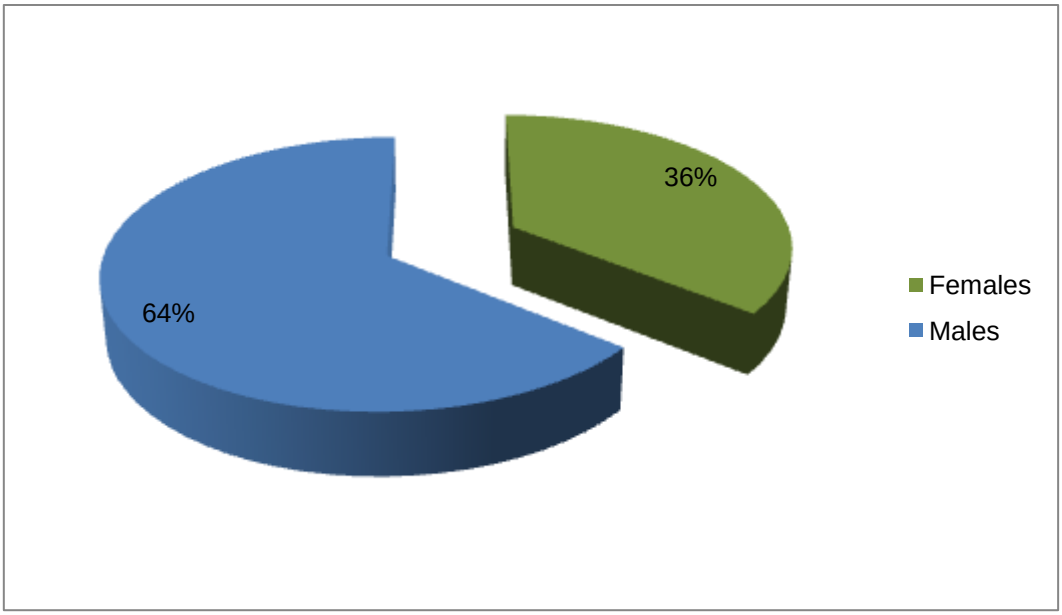
13	 Anthony OLIVER-SMITH	USA	Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA	http://anthonyoliver-smith.net/	social vulnerability; post-event studies	FORIN Project Co-Chair	2011	30 June 2014	30 June 2017	aros@ufl.edu
14	 Mark PELLING	UK	Professor of Human Geography, Kings College London, London, UK	http://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/departments/geography/people/academic/pelling/index.aspx	disaster risk reduction	RIA Project Co-Chair	2011	30 June 2014	30 June 2017	mark.pelling@kcl.ac.uk
15	 Sisi ZLATANOVA	The Netherlands	Associate Professor, OTB Research Institute for the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology, Delft, the Netherlands	http://www.gdmc.nl/zlatanova/	remote sensing; GIS technologies	DATA Project Co-Chair	2012	30 June 2015		s.zlatanova@tudelft.nl

EX-OFFICIOS			
 Huadong GUO Institute of Remote Sensing & Digital Earth (RADI), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) hdguo@ceode.ac.cn hdguo@radi.ac.cn http://english.ceode.cas.cn/	 Vivi STAVROU International Social Science Council (ISSC) vivi@worldsocialscience.org http://www.worldsocialscience.org/	 Feng Min KAN UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) kanf@un.org http://www.unisdr.org/	International Council for Science (ICSU) http://www.icsu.org/

Regional Distribution of IRDR SC Members
(as of 22 September 2014)



Gender Distribution of SC Members
(as of September 2014)



IRDR
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

12th Meeting of the IRDR Science Committee
ICSU Secretariat, Paris, France, 13-15 November 2014

Item 12: IPO Report

The IPO report is divided into three sections.

12.1 IPO Host Organisation, Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth (RADI)

The delegate of the IPO's host organisation, RADI, will give an overview of completed, ongoing and envisaged activities.

Both the activities of the other international programmes based at RADI as well as the IRDR related domestic research activities should be reflected.

12.2 Office Report

The JSO will present an oral report on recent developments in the IPO office (staffing, safety and health report, ICT challenges etc.)

12.3 IPO Relations with Host Organisations

The ED will provide a short oral report about the relationship between the IPO and the host institute RADI, the Chinese hosting organisations Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Chinese Association for Science and Technology (CAST), and partners such as the Chinese Association for Social Sciences (CASS).

Actions

12.1 The SC is invited to note the report and comment on the issues raised that may have an impact on the functioning of the programme in 2015.

IRDR
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Items 13-15: Strategic Programme-wide Forward Planning

Based on the presentations and discussions of days 1 and 2 of the meeting, this last session will proceed to drawing up concrete plans for the progress of the programme and its bodies.

These strategic considerations will be underpinned by a close reading of the challenges posed by:

- The ICSU Science Plan for IRDR:
  - expectations of broad and systematic engagements with non-programme actors and strong coherence and goal-oriented collaborations across programme components

- The IRDR Strategic Plan:
  - generic and yet over-ambitious language, which does only partly correspond to the reality of the programme, and which was adopted in a period despite funding issues being known

- Latest developments re: HFA2:
  - High visibility of IRDR, with expectations that offer opportunities but require strong engagement and close collaboration by all parties

The year 2015 will call not only for a proactive engagement of the programme with external partners (due to the framework imposed by the HFA2 process and other related processes such as the SDG negotiations, progress on CCA, and World Humanitarian Summit), but also for a demonstrably increased level of internal cohesion.

Some of this can be addressed through targeted messaging and the overall communications function of the IPO, which is why active support for the emerging communications plan is urgently needed.

2015 ICSU Evaluation of IRDR

The ICSU-led evaluation of the programme will be launched in the second half of the year. Typically evaluations would look at the outcomes and products of programmes in terms of publications etc. Since IRDR is a somewhat different programme that is seeking to establish a new field of scientific endeavour and of science-and-policy engagement, other factors (focusing on network and community building) may also be considered.

The ICSU Science Plan had mentioned that an evaluation could look at:

1. The active engagement of sponsors in the programme;

2. The level of engagement and impact of partnerships;
3. The viability and functioning of projects/Working Groups and the quality of the scientific teams, including appropriate geographical representation;
4. The funding mobilised so as to enable programme bodies to meet their objectives within the overall framework of the Programme objectives;
5. The functioning of the Working Groups established and FORIN has completed several case studies in the first three years of the programme.

Given the specific framework in which IRDR is operating (i.e. active co-sponsorship by UNISDR) there may be additional elements in the evaluation that refer to science and policy interaction.

The SC should refer to the ToR for SC members to self-assess what activities it might still need to undertake to satisfy the role it has been given.

N.B.: the above are NOT the Terms of Reference for the actual evaluation in 2015, but a summary of the elements contained in the ICSU Science Plan (2008). The presentation from ICSU on day 2 may shed further light on this issue.

The 11th SC meeting had reiterated concerns about the funding situation of the programme. While failures to systematically fundraise over the last few years should not be the subject of discussions at this meeting, the various exchanges between the new ED and SC members suggest that no programme-wide strategy to this effect exist.

The overview of the budgetary situation of the IPO can, against this background, be merely a reminder that while some resources for basic service function support (including some programme promotion travel for SC members) may exist in the IPO, funds for case studies or projects and even for WG meetings etc. must be sought out elsewhere. Given the restrictive currency and payments regime at the IPO location, it is advisable, if requested, that the ED assist with fundraising locally or internationally; but in order to benefit an IRDR body elsewhere.

The absence of a fundraising strategy (and of an acknowledged distribution of roles and responsibilities) means that no fundraising has occurred in the programme in 2013 and 2014 (apart from small grants). It is also against this background that a clearer strategy must emerge that might spell out the value or otherwise of such small scale (yet time-consuming) fundraising.

It would seem critical that SC members share information resources or, otherwise, empower the ED to proactively connect the programme to funding agencies. It is to be borne in mind, however, that results of such an approach will not be available in the short term, whereas activities in 2015 must be taken forward with resources available now.

Report on post-2014 IRDR Conference and pre-2015 Budgetary Situation

It is to be noted that the organisation of the conference had been severely depleting the 2014 budget in ways that had not been anticipated. At the end of the six-month consultancy contract for J. Rovins, all reserves that had been accumulated (whether due to lack of activities or for other reasons) in previous years had been used up. Only with the help of an additional grant from CAST, obtained after intervention on the part of ICSU this autumn,

could the financial situation be stabilised for the transition into 2015.

There had been, it seems, disagreements about the budget years in the past. Whereas IRDR (and hence the IPO) runs on an annual budget from January to December, the host institute that processes IRDR finances in China (RADI) receives its annual grants from the Ministry of Science and Technology of China (MOST) only in May and is ready to pay out from this grant some time in summer. In order for the IPO to remain viable under these conditions in the future, RADI will provide the necessary budgetary support for the first period of the year from its own resources, later to recover that sum from the grant allocated to IRDR/IPO.

As part of the preparations for the approval of the 2015 budget, it is to proceed towards a prioritising agenda for 2015.

Given the centrality of the Working Groups to the progress of IRDR, given the need (in all likelihood) to expand the Working Groups to draw on a wider circle of expertise, and given the shortness of resources, it is expected that the Working Groups reports will provide the necessary background for a priority setting exercise that will capitalise on meeting venues and occasions, resources, and participants (but also, wherever possible, factoring in electronic communication) in goal-oriented way.

Apart from the three projects (DATA, FORIN and RIA) that met on day 1, the plenary will also need to decide on the future of AIRDR. A short progress report will be provided by the co-chair. The ED will report on exchanges he had with parties potentially interested in providing input to bibliometric/bibliographic studies for other linguistic areas, with, possibly, some elements of conceptual reflections (but which, in the absence of a conclusive decision by the SC at its 11th meeting could not be taken forward).

The AIRDR chair will provide a review of the drafting process of the synthesis paper on the state-of-the-art of DRR science, and assess whether this process satisfies the AIRDR criteria.

Previews on the activities of ICoEs, NCs and RCs should be scanned against the backdrop of necessary activities; there may be among such activities and events as were mentioned, some that could serve as potential venues for WG related meetings (possibly of sub-sets of Working Groups to whom specific tasks may have been allocated that require meetings in person).

Actions (operations and strategy):

At the operational level (short term), the SC is invited to:

1. Commit to provide the support requested to the communication effort of the IPO (and/or suggest additional or better ways to achieve the communication goals);

2. Consider the possible / likely elements for an ICSU-led evaluation in the prioritisation of actions over the next months;

3. Propose a catalogue of venues and opportunities for the promotion of the programme that the SC wishes to use in the course of 2015 (can also be used to bring Working Group members for meetings at third-party venues, incl. IRDR bodies etc.)

4. Decide on the future of AIRDR.

At the operational level (medium term), the SC is invited to:

1. Decide on the parameters / priorities for a fundraising strategy (as the basis for the ED to develop an implementation for such a strategy)

At the strategic level, the SC is invited to:

1. Discuss whether the level of integration reached across the programme is sufficient or corresponds to the "integration" expected under the Science Plan and Strategic Plan and to identify areas that require specific intervention.

2. Decide on the use to be made of the Consultative Forum for advancing the goals of the programme.

IRDR
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Items 16: Budget 2015

Based on these decisions and the outcomes of the priority setting exercise, an indicative budget will be proposed.

Actions:

16.1 The SC is invited to note the indicative budget for 2015.

16.2 The SC is invited to express its appreciation for the efforts by RADI to secure the functioning of the IPO in the period between the end of the budget year 2014 and the arrival of the Ministry of Science and Technology of China (MOST) funds for the year 2015.

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Items 17: Next SC Meeting

The next SC meeting is expected to be held again at one of the venues provided by the Chinese host organisations.

A. The meeting can be held at the Central Asian campus of RADI (Kashgar). This would offer opportunities for exchanges with the DRR research community in Central Asia and Russia, who have so far remained extraneous to the programme;

B. It may be possible to identify a meeting venue in Shanghai, provided that progress is made on establishing the water/ocean hazard-related reach station IRDR China had referred to in earlier exchanges;

C. RADI Campus Beijing;

D. Other CAS campuses elsewhere in China.

Some background documentation will be provided by the IPO staff.

The SC should also consider the timing of the Consultative Forum. It is to be considered that the timing should consider:

- That it be held either before or during the evaluation.
- That it be held under the current chair, or as one of the first activities of the incoming chair.
- Since in all likelihood no additional resources will be available, it seems preferable to hold the Consultative Forum either in conjunction with another major event where the majority of actors will be present (Sendai?) or in conjunction with the first or second SC meeting in the year 2015.

Actions:

17.1 The SC is invited to decide on the venue for the next SC meeting.

17.2 The SC is invited to decide on timing and venue for the Consultative Forum.