

ICSU ROLAC activities on DRR

Report to the
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Thanks to efforts of the members of the Steering Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, ICSU ROLAC helped bring the voice of the Science and Technology Major Group to WCDRR 2015 and to present results of a study of linkages between academic research and DRR initiatives in LAC. The next step will be to strengthen the links recently established with REDULAC and La Red, and then to engage the other 13 DRR regional networks in collaborations with ICSU ROLAC and the IRDR Programme.

The results of the ICSU ROLAC study “Identification of existing advances and linkages of the scientific academic community initiatives with disaster risk reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean”, which have attracted the community’s attention, are expected to be published in the ICSU ROLAC webpage and updated with information from countries not yet included in the study. The SC on DRR has planned to work on a publication to complement the report of V. Jiménez, with a regional program, defining priorities, activities, budget, and actors. V. Jiménez will prepare a document suggesting a program of activities based on her own report. The main goal of the publications of the regional office is to provide updated, reliable, and open scientific information useful for policy makers and the society in general in its priority areas. The IRDR offered to perform a review of the English language of the final report of the study by a native English speaker.

Looking ahead, the Steering Committee has proposed the organization of a regional Understanding Risk conference in a LAC country and the initiation in the region of a training of trainers program based on the FORIN (Forensic Investigations of Disasters) methodology. The second version of FORIN will appear soon, and the authors have asked ICSU ROLAC to contribute economically to a professional translation into Spanish. ICSU ROLAC should promote the FORIN methodology within the regional networks and within the academic institutions in LAC. A valuable tool to spread this methodology in the region would be the establishment of a MoU with Universities of Canada and England that are already using FORIN.

The collaboration between ICSU ROLAC and the IRDR has been strengthening recently. FORIN can be clearly a joint project with the IRDR and members of the ICSU ROLAC Steering Committee are already collaborating with the AIRDR project. ICSU ROLAC invited representatives of the National Committee on DRR in Panama to the meeting with its focal points and recommended them to promote the creation of national committees of IRDR in those countries that lack one. A follow-up action and much guidance from IRDR would be most probably required to achieve results in this regard. Finally, ICSU ROLAC has been recommended to find its way into the negotiations intended to establish collaboration between the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) and the [CENAPRED](#) in Mexico. ICSU ROLAC could play an important role on expanding the collaboration of China and Russia with CENAPRED (México) to other countries in the region through the regional platforms. The ICSU ROLAC director has offered himself to work on establishing a bridge between the Russian delegation and the IRDR in China.