



**Fifth Meeting of the Scientific Committee
ICSU Headquarters, Paris, France
27-29 April, 2011**

SUMMARY REPORT

Members present:

Gordon McBean (chair), Djillali Benouar, Omar Dario Cardona, Raymond Chan, Susan L. Cutter, Richard Eiser, David Johnston, Allan Lavell, Maria Patek, Chamhuri Siwar, Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, Coleen Vogel, Angelika Wirtz.

Ex-officio:

Huadong Guo (CEODE), Gudmund Hernes (ISSC), Andrew Maskrey (UNISDR) (Day 2&3), Howard Moore (ICSU)

Other participants:

Sálvano Briceño (UNISDR) (via phone), Ian Burton (University of Toronto), Carthage Smith (ICSU) (Day 1), Ferruccio Ferrigni (University of Naples Federico II), Heide Hackmann (ISSC), John Harding (UNISDR) (Day 1 &2), Anthony Oliver-Smith (University of Florida), Torsten Schlurmann (IRDR Germany), Jane Rovins (Executive Director, IRDR), Mustapha Mokrane (ICSU) (Day 3)

Opening and introduction of participants and guests

(Attachment 1.1 - Practical Arrangements, Attachment 1.2 - List of Participants)

McBean opened the meeting by welcoming all participants

Approval of Draft Agenda

(Attachment 2.0 - Draft Agenda)

The draft agenda was approved.

Summary Report of the Fourth Meeting

(Attachment 3.0 - Summary Report of the 4th Meeting)

The Summary Report of the Fourth Meeting of the IRDR SC was approved.

New IRDR Scientific Committee Members and a Chair

Three new Science Committee members have been approved by two Sponsors. We are awaiting the ICSU Executive Board decision.

- Dr. Ferruccio Ferrigni, University of Naples Federico II, Italy.
- Dr. Anthony Oliver-Smith, University of Florida, USA.

- Dr. Mark Pelling, King's College London, UK.

Sálvano Briceño will succeed McBean as the new Chair of the IRDR Science Committee effective November 1, 2011. UNISDR and ISSC have already approved. It is pending ICSU Executive Board approval.

International Programme Office Update

Annual Report (*Attachment 6.0 – Annual Report*): ICSU asked that more should be included on travel and outreach activities.

MOU with Partners:

- Joint Research Centre of the European Union - signed, talks more specific on FORIN and RIA initiatives.
- START – pending, waiting to hear from START.
- World Weather Research Programme – in process.
- IUGG – IRDR has a non-formal MOU as we have been successfully working together.
- IHDP – in discussion.
- It was asked that a matrix should be developed to track MOUs and their progress.
- A process for partnership formulation needs to be developed.

Website: www.irdrinternational.org; GDACS (Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System) map was not responding to the reality of the natural disasters which were happening around the world and it took too much space of the home page; Rovins introduced various parts of the website and asked the new members to send their biography and pictures to her or Anna Rudashko for the further website updates. Problems such as accessing Gmail, Skype and LinkedIn in China were also discussed. As well as the on-going contract issues with the original website developers.

- Cutter suggested that any IRDR document, e.g. FORIN, must have SC approval before being posted on the any websites.

Staff: Science Officer position is vacant. IRDR IPO has secured 2 science secondments from IRDR New Zealand and an intern from The Earthquake Observatory of Singapore, specializing in Conference Organization and Marketing.

IRDR Conference Update

Speaker Selection Process (*Attachment 7.0 - IRDR Conference Agenda Outline*): There are 3 concurrent sessions for every breakout; Breakouts/Panel Discussions: representative from Science Committee, representative from China, other experts to lead the discussion; sub-committee presented a list of preliminary speakers; in 18 breakout sessions 3 or 4 places will be taken by the young scientists. Cutter volunteered to do a session on vulnerability.

Key note speakers (*Attachment 7.0 - IRDR Conference Agenda Outline*): Yuan Tseh LEE (confirmed), Margareta WAHLSTRÖM (confirmed); Chinese Officials (TBD), CAST will identify them and send IRDR the list.

Organization (*Attachment 8.0 - IRDR Conference Timeline, Attachment 9.0 - Sponsorship Proposal*): Rovins introduced the steps of the organization and the budgeting of the Conference. The selected location for the Conference is BICC (Beijing International Convention Centre) located in the Asian Games Village

(South-East Corner of Olympic Green), in Beijing, China. Rovins also presented Conference Timeline and asked the committee to use IRDR Conference Flyer as the marketing technique to advertise the Conference. Several topics have been suggested, the IPO will follow-up.

Co-Sponsors Updates

ICSU

Smith updated ICSU's current planning activities – ICSU Strategic Planning, Integration of the Global Activities, and Integration of the Regional Activities (around ICSU's offices in the regions). The CSPR has stated that IRDR will be the coordinating body for ICSU related hazard activities. This includes coordinating the 3 regional disaster plans. It was suggested 2 or 3 day workshop involving scientists from each plan/regions be convened to look at the implementation.

ICSU stated there is a need of more integrated research, to do that ICSU started a Visioning process to:

- look for the scientific challenges for the future (over next 2 decades).
- to understand how to deliver those challenges in terms of global coordination.
- to understand how to move from old structures to the new structures.

ISSC

Hackmann responded to the Visioning presentation by saying it will be important to keep an eye on how the funders arrange themselves around the new alliances, how this new initiative will be funded, which is one of the responsibilities of the sponsors.

Hackmann introduced two new activities which were endorsed and approved by the General Assembly:

- ISSC World Social Science Report, coming out in 2013 and focusing on Global Environmental Change.
- Social Science Initiative on the Climate Change.

ISSC New Executive Committee was elected. Gudmund Hernes's (Norway) term has ended, he will now serve as the ISSC ex-officio to IRDR; Olive Shisana (South Africa) is President and CEO of the Human Sciences Research Council.

It was noted that ISSC has received significant funding from the Swedish government and there is a possibility of future activities.

UNISDR

Harding introduced 3 of the main policy frameworks: 1. Sustainable Development Agenda; 2. Hyogo Framework for Action; 3. Framework Context of the Climate Change Convention.

Harding also introduced 3 main areas of work in UNISDR 2011 Work Plan: 1. Recognition of Disaster Risk Reduction as the main part of the climate change; 2. Effective Investments in Disaster Risk Reduction; 3. Engagement in Disaster-Resilient Cities in Disaster Risk Reduction Work (Global Campaigns).

2011 is the midterm review of Hyogo Framework for Action is currently under way, political review on the stages of implementations and findings were presented and the information can be found on the UNISDR website. Disaster Risk Reduction will be a formal element of Rio +20, the role of IRDR is still being discussed.

Global Platform on Risk Reduction

- Local Action and Local Investments were the themes of the Global Platform on Risk Reduction.

GAR 2011

- Analysis of the risk levels by Maskrey (global risk update).
- Analysis of the progress of Hyogo Framework for Action.
- Highlights the political and economic imperative to reduce disaster risk.
- Report on UNISDR Preparatory Workshop on S&T for Global Platform – Harding presented the report on UNISDR Preparatory Workshop.
- McBean attended the S&T meeting in Pavia, Italy and is expected to participate in the S&T events during the GPDRR.

It was noted that IRDR will take a more active role in the GAR 2013.

Strategic Planning Session

FORIN (*Attachment 4.0 - FORIN Report*) – the document was discussed. This discussion focused on the FORIN documents summary and the benefits that organizations can gain from it.

- Ian Burton was designated as chair of the WG.
- The revised FORIN template was approved, subject to changes to be made in response to further inputs from the SC. It was agreed that a broader document was needed to incorporate the template with more information about the background, and the process of developing FORIN case studies. Burton will do the incorporation.
- The revised document will be edited and formatted by the IPO to conform to IRDR style before wide circulation.
- The revised document should contain information about the process for selection of case studies (*needs to be developed*). It was discussed that this will impact not just FORIN but all IRDR projects.
- A Working Group needs to be formally established with about 6 or 7 members. After consultations a list of proposed members will be sent to the SC for approval/confirmation. Appointments to the WG should be processed through the IPO.
- The FORIN Project will work with the IPO to identify potential papers for presentation at the Beijing Conference in October 2011.
- Preliminary reports from the initial FORIN studies will be completed by November 2011 (IRDR Conference).
- The preliminary reports should be used as a basis for a synthesis and progress report to be completed by July 2012 or as soon as feasible thereafter.

A workshop and training session on FORIN was proposed by ISSC (Gudmund Hernes) and will be organised and supported by ISSC in conjunction with the IPO.

RIA (*Attachment 5.0 - RIA report*) – Eiser made an introduction of the RIA Working Group, he made a characterization between similarities and differences of the RIA, explaining the conceptual levels of the Working Group and its need to the integration.

Eiser presented the main objective of RIA Project: Understanding decision-making in complex and changing risk contexts. This objective is focused on understanding effective decision making in the context of risk management – what is it and how it can be improved. In linking with the other objectives, the emphasis is on how human decisions and the pragmatic factors that constrain or facilitate such decisions can contribute to

hazards becoming disasters and/or may mitigate their effects. He also presented 3 sub-objectives which are: identifying relevant decision-making systems and their interactions, understanding decision-making in the context of environmental hazards, improving the quality of decision-making practice. Eiser is leaving the position of SC member, but he is still the member of the working group.

Activities Update

- IRDR @ the Global Platform on DRR – IRDR will present on the IGNITE Stage at the Global Platform on Tuesday May 10th, and co-hosting a side event Wednesday May 11th.
- ENHANS – is a partnership between IUGG, IRDR and others. Rovins, Benouar and Vogel were present for ENHANS Africa. IRDR and FORIN were presented on specifically. Rovins also will be attending ENHANS Middle East in Antalya, Turkey. ENHANS Asia/Pacific will be held at the IUGG General Assembly in Melbourne, IRDR will be represented by Takeuchi and McBean.
- Pacific Science Congress – will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. IRDR will host a seminar. It will include young scientists and representatives by various IRDR National Committees. McBean will keynote the Congress.
- Open Science Forum – Known as Planet Under Pressure, IRDR was asked to convene a session; Cutter agreed to be the convener of the session.
- CEODE Activities – CEODE and IRDR collaborated on Young Scientists Workshop with visiting speakers from the US, Mila Harrison and Gina Wightman. They will conduct a seminar on how to create and present power point presentations. Other activities included inauguration of CEODE building and visiting scientists.

IRDR National Committees Update

(Attachment 10.0 – Terms of Reference of IRDR National Committee)

- Germany – introduced by Schlurmann from IRDR Germany, German Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (DKKV), DKKV is directed by an Executive Board, currently chaired by Dr. Irmgard Schwaetzer, IRDR Germany has begun to look at research opportunities. Ways to include others and secure funding were discussed. Rovins will attend the IRDR Germany Board meeting in October.
- New Zealand – presented by Johnston, IRDR NZ officially launched March 27th in Wellington, Johnston suggested to enhance the opportunity for Oceania regional office (which is located in Fiji and currently has been closed) through IRDR NZ. IRDR Australia is in the process of getting on board, with a lot of practitioners who are willing to be involved in it. Rovins have also been in contact with Academy of Social Sciences who was also very interested on creating IRDR Australia.
- Canada – presented by McBean, Canadian National Platform for Hyogo Framework for Action created Science and Technology Working Group which was agreed to be the part of the mandate of Canadian National Committee of IRDR Canada. Currently WG is in the process of putting the membership of the Canadian National Committee together.
- Japan – presented by Takeuchi, IRDR Japan is also making sure that October Conference is mentioned on their website by putting up Conference Flyer and Conference Agenda Outline. Takeuchi presented the core list of 25 members including engineers, social scientists, geographers and psychologists.
- New Committee approval process – Rovins pointed out that it is a responsibility of SC to approve these organizations not the Co-sponsors; this is a point of procedure. It is SC job to identify and to approve new committees.
- A process needs to be developed;

Report on Japan Earthquake and Tsunami (Reports on the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake & Tsunami)

Takeuchi presented a report on how Japan has been dealing with the damages from the earthquake and tsunami, on convened meetings and discussions with Science Council of Japan. They will have FORIN case studies ready for the IRDR Conference.

IRDR Centres of Excellences

(Attachment 11.0 - Terms of Reference of IRDR Centers of Excellence)

- Report on first meeting of International Advisory Board (IAB) of ICoE (Taipei) – McBean did an introduction of ICoE, which is located in Taipei, Taiwan; the ICoE serves as a global platform for disaster risk reduction and establishes a partnership network of disaster reduction research within Taiwan as well as international scientific community. The main goal of the IAB is to consult with board members in regard to scientific issues.
- Report on IRDR-START Cities at Risk Workshop (Taipei, 11-13 April 2011) – McBean presented on Cities at Risk Workshop that was held in Taipei at the IRDR ICoE, Taiwan during 11-13 of April 2011. The 4 main themes of the Conference were: 1. Knowledge base for Risk Characterization and Communication; 2. Assessing Risk and Vulnerabilities; 3. Developing Urban Adaptation Strategies; 4. Adaptation Measures and Practices. The main outcomes of that conference were: consolidated network of city-based teams working on CAR issues, number of follow-on actions/activities and identification of a capacity building and research effort at ICoE/IRDR.
- Strategy on development of new Centres and the approval process – Rovins suggested having the selection process in place, to help the candidates understand if they are qualified as a National Committee or as a Centre of Excellence.
- Selection criteria/prescriptive selection process needs to be developed.

Strategic Planning Session

Disaster Loss Data Working Group – Based on the facts and problems, Wirtz presented the standard data platform that was used for analyzing the complexity of the natural disasters. She also introduced different types of data providers such as: media, satellite images, case studies, scientific institutes, aid organizations, insurance and reinsurance, local insurance providers. Wirtz introduced 3 main data sectors: a) science; b) decision makers; c) finance industry. Wirtz also pointed out the role of IRDR (Disaster Loss Data Working Group). The Disaster Loss Data Working Group is meant to study issues related to the collection, storage, and dissemination of disaster loss data. Government agencies, private companies, and other organizations may collect and manage data related to their own areas of interest using their own standards and procedures, without significant collaboration with other groups. This results in gaps, inconsistent overlaps, and biases that ultimately affect the quality of research conducted and policies made based on the data.

World Data Systems (WDS), First ICSU WDS Conference *(Attachment 12.0 - First ICSU WDS Conference 2nd Circular)*

Mokrane did a brief introduction of WDS and its history, followed by WDS 3 main objectives which are: 1) to enable universal access to scientific data and information; 2) to ensure long-term data storage (historical part); 3) to be designed as an integration of different data.

Mokrane also introduced the structure of WDS which consists of improving the data centres, its quality insurance and control; data archiving and publication, and data availability to other stakeholders. Mokrane also shared an idea on how WDS should become the first choice to support IRDR and its data needs. He

pointed out that IRDR has great leads in term of data, seeing from IRDR Data Roles. The first possibility of interaction between IRDR and WDS is the launch of WDS First Conference which will be held in Kyoto, Japan. It was proposed that one of the sessions during the Conference should be co-convened with IRDR; the theme of the session will be Data Intensive Multidisciplinary Science. Wirtz agreed to co-convene the session and McBean suggested that it would be better to have a full session during the WDS Conference.

Introduction to ICSU website – Mokrane introduced the structure of ICSU’s website, starting with its Homepage and Top Menu, banner with 3 buttons allowing direct access to ICSU’s information such as “International Research Collaboration”, “Science for Policy” and “University of Science”. Mokrane pointed out another important feature of the website such as Search field where users can type in keywords and the website will show all the content with the keywords attached to it. Mokrane showed the top navigation menu with ICSU’s site map, access to regional websites and contacts. Mokrane also introduced a very important feature of the website called “Member Zone” which allows the user, after the registration, to have an access to a variety of documents. After accessing the “Members Zone” users will have a possibility to download files and documents.

Assessment of Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (AIRDR) (*Attachment 15.0 - AIRDR*) – Cutter presented the purpose of AIRDR is to undertake the first systematic and critical global assessment of published research on disaster risk under the auspices of the IRDR—new knowledge. Cutter presented SWOT analysis which was aimed at science agenda and funding. The goals of AIRDR are to: 1) provide a baseline of the current state-of-the-science in integrated research on disaster risk to measure effectiveness of multiple research programs; 2) to identify and support longer-term science agenda for the research community and funding entities; 3) provide scientific evidentiary basis in support of policy and practice. To achieve those goals Cutter proposed to write a proposal for funding. It was agreed that Cutter will be the chair of the group to pursue the assessment. McBean suggested a team of 6-7 people with more members from SC, to have a meeting at least twice a year.

General Discussion

- McBean suggested accepting Johnstons’ willingness to be the executive committee.
- Development of funding possibilities – for core activities and for working groups and other initiatives.

Date and venue of next meeting

It was agreed by the SC that the 6th meeting would be held 28- 29 October and 3 November 2011 at East Campus of CEODE in Beijing, China.

Ferrigni has agreed to host the April 2012 meeting in Italy.