

# Terms of Reference of Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Young Scientists Programme

## 1. Background and purpose

1.1 Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) is an international scientific programme cosponsored by the International Science Council (ISC) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The mission of IRDR is to mobilize science for the reduction of all types of disaster risk, building resilience and reducing vulnerability by integrating risk science with climate change adaptation and mitigation and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). IRDR aims to usher in an inclusive, safe, and sustainable world by promoting a better understanding of disaster risk and the effective use of risk science in decision-making.

1.2 IRDR Young Scientists Programme (hereafter referred to as YSP) is established to promote the capacity building of young professionals and encourage them to undertake innovative and needs-based research which improves disaster risk reduction (DRR) research, policy and practice interaction.

1.3 YSP is a participation programme for those young professionals who are committed voluntarily to contributing to IRDR missions in their career development.

## 2. The objectives

2.1 To increase the awareness among young scientists about the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework) and its implementation and provide opportunities for engagement through the YSP on DRR.

2.2 To collate existing research knowledge on DRR and identify research gaps and priorities in relation to the Priorities for Action of the Sendai Framework and the Research Priorities of “*A Framework for Global Science in Support of Risk-informed Sustainable Development and Planetary Health*”, which was launched by ISC, UNDRR and IRDR in 2021.

2.3 To promote integrated and multi-disciplinary research initiatives by young scientists and early career researchers and provide technical support to promising young researchers in DRR fields.

2.4 To develop a community of high-quality IRDR young professionals as part of global DRR networks of experts and institutions for the implementation of the Sendai Framework and SDGs.

### **3. The selection process of IRDR Young Scientists**

- 3.1 The application of YSP will be opened once a year by the IRDR International Programme Office (IPO) through an official announcement on the IRDR Website.
- 3.2 The applicants should submit the following materials:
- (a) Filled Application Form as provided in the appendix;
  - (b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
  - (c) Detailed Research Plan with the template provided in the appendix;
  - (d) Recommendation/Endorsement Letter(s);
  - (e) Copy of Student/Faculty ID Card.
- 3.3 The necessary criteria for submission are as follows:
- (a) Applicants should be less than 40 years old on the date of application;
  - (b) The applicant needs to be affiliated with an academic program either as a student (master's or doctorate) or as a young faculty;
  - (c) The subject of the research plan needs to be related to the integrated research or practice on DRR within the context of broader environment and development issues;
  - (d) The applicant must be endorsed by an academic supervisor (for students) or head of the department /graduate school (for young faculties).
  - (e) The period of the research plan should be three years.
- 3.4 IPO will organise a selection panel for the review and evaluation after the application is closed. The panel will consist of four senior experts from the IRDR community and the IRDR executive director.
- 3.5 The evaluation of the research plan will consider the following aspects of the applicants: whether they are toward integrated research, have a strong relation to the four priorities of the Sendai Framework and the level of innovation in the research. Gender and regional balance will be considered in the evaluation.
- 3.6 All applications will be acknowledged by emails from the IPO. The result of the panel evaluation will be communicated to every applicant by IPO two months after the closure of the application. IPO will send the IRDR Certification Letter with a validation period of three years individually to the selected IRDR Young Scientists.
- 3.7 Each IRDR Young Scientist is eligible to apply for a second term based on the performance of the first term.

### **4. Responsibilities and benefits of IRDR Young Scientists**

- 4.1 The IRDR Young Scientists is required to:
- (a) Contribute to integrated and innovative research in the field of disaster risk reduction;
  - (b) Be the ambassador of IRDR in different conferences and/or social media;
  - (c) Develop and contribute to the networking of young professionals;
  - (d) Submit the annual fact sheet of activities with the template provided in the appendix;

- (e) Acknowledge<sup>1</sup> the contribution of IRDR in research papers, theses/dissertations, reports etc. when it is appropriate.

4.2 The IRDR Young Scientists will receive the following benefits:

- (a) Connection to IRDR network of professionals and practitioners for academic support/advice;
- (b) Priority in the participation in the IRDR related training programmes, workshops, and conferences;
- (c) Priority in the communication through IRDR Youth Podium;
- (d) Publications with IRDR;
- (e) Possible seed fund via IRDR research projects supported by IPO, IRDR National Committees (NCs) or IRDR International Centres of Excellences (ICoEs).

## 5. Operation and communication

5.1 IPO will provide the overall support for the development of YSP, including the organisation of application and selection, the facilitation of YSP activities, and the communication of the achievements of the IRDR Young Scientists. IRDR Communication Officer will be the focal point of YSP to ensure the communication between IRDR Young Scientists and the whole IRDR community.

5.2 IRDR Scientific Committee (SC) will have two positions reserved for IRDR Young Scientists. The application and appointment for these two positions will follow the ToR of SC. The IRDR Young Scientists appointed as SC members will automatically be the co-chairs of the IRDR Young Scientists Programme. IPO will issue the certificate for the co-chairs.

5.3 The co-chairs are to ensure effective interactions between YSP and the IRDR governing body. They shall organise activities such as IRDR Young Scientists Conference in accordance with the IRDR Action Plan, and IRDR Young Scientists Lumos on specific topics.

5.4 IRDR encourages the IRDR Young Scientists to take their own initiatives to organise work teams, groups or joint activities.

5.5 IRDR will promote the visibility of young professionals in the global DRR agenda.

5.6 IRDR will connect with other young professional networks in DRR to develop collaborations and partnerships.

<end of YSP TOR>

---

<sup>1</sup> Format of Acknowledgement: The authors acknowledge the support of Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Young Scientists Programme (IRDR YSP)(term).