



IRDR International Young Scientists Forum

15 - 18 September 2026

NIED Tsukuba Japan

1. Introduction and Background

The Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) is a key international scientific programme co-sponsored by the **International Science Council (ISC)** and the **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**. Its core mission is to mobilize science for the reduction of all types of disaster risk, with the strategic aim of building global resilience and reducing vulnerability. This is achieved by actively integrating risk science with efforts in climate change adaptation, mitigation, and broader sustainable development goals. By promoting a deeper understanding of risk and the effective use of scientific findings in decision-making, IRDR is dedicated to ushering in an inclusive, safe, and sustainable world.

The IRDR's strategic direction is clearly aligned with and directly supports major global frameworks, most notably the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and its Mid-Term Review**. The programme's research objectives, which include improving knowledge of risk and uncertainty, promoting innovation in both research and action, and building institutional capacity, are crucial for driving risk-informed sustainable development. The **IRDR Action Plan 2025-2026** provides the immediate blueprint for these activities, ensuring that the programme's efforts are focused on the most pressing challenges in the disaster risk reduction (DRR) landscape.

It is within this strategic context that the International Young Scientists Forum (IYSF) serves as a vital platform. The forum is a direct output of the **IRDR Young Scientists Programme (YSP)**, which is established to promote the capacity building of young professionals and encourage them to undertake innovative and needs-based research that improves DRR research, policy, and practice interaction. The IYSF aims to harness the energy, diverse perspectives, and innovative research of these emerging scholars to advance the understanding and application of risk science, making their contributions central to achieving the objectives outlined in the IRDR Action Plan and building global resilience.

2. Theme

Advancing Disaster Science for Societal Resilience: Young Scientist Perspectives on the Sendai Framework and Beyond

3. Objectives

The forum is designed to achieve the following key objectives:

- **Assess Knowledge Systems:** To critically evaluate how various knowledge systems, including traditional, local, and scientific bodies of knowledge, have contributed to disaster risk reduction practices and the implementation of the Sendai Framework.
- **Document and Analyze Cases:** To document and conduct in-depth analysis of concrete case studies where scientific knowledge has demonstrably informed and influenced DRR policy, planning, and practical action at different scales.

4. Proposed Thematic Pillars

The IYSF will invite contributions focusing on the following interdisciplinary thematic pillars:

- **Physical and Earth System Sciences for DRR**
 - Focus on contributions to understanding hazards, exposure dynamics, complex climate–disaster interactions, and emerging physical risk processes across natural and built environments.
- **Social, Economic, and Behavioral Sciences for DRR**
 - Focus on contributions to understanding social vulnerability, governance structures, human behavior in crises, institutional effectiveness, issues of inequality, and practical decision-making processes in DRR.
- **Integrated and Systems-Based Risk Science**
 - Focus on interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research approaches that effectively address multi-hazard scenarios, cascading effects, compound risks, and systemic vulnerabilities across connected systems.
- **Indigenous, Local, and Experiential Knowledge Systems**
 - Focus on the vital roles of indigenous and local knowledge in risk understanding, effective preparedness strategies, disaster response, long-term recovery efforts, and community resilience building.

5. Expected Contributions and Outcomes

It is anticipated that the case studies and research presented at the forum will contribute significantly to a "forensic investigation" of the impact of science on DRR and the implementation of the Sendai Framework, providing concrete illustrations on:

- **Effectiveness:** Identifying "What worked, what didn't, and why" in the translation of scientific findings into DRR action.
- **Progress Drivers:** Clearly delineating which factors served as "accelerators" and which elements acted as "bottlenecks" that hampered progress in integrating science into disaster risk governance.
- **Key Resolutions:** Co-producing actionable resolutions or a memorandum on key issues that reflect the young scientists' perspectives. These outputs will be prepared to be forwarded to high-level meetings such as the **IRDR Scientific Committee (SC) Meeting in October 2026**, for potential presentation at the **Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR 2027) in Sendai**, and for inclusion in discussions at the **Global Platform for DRR**.
- **Global Commitments:** Gathering contributions, progress, and commitments from young scientists towards global initiatives, specifically the **UNDRR Early Warning for All initiative (2023-2027)**.
- Contribute directly to isc midterm meeting

6. Time and Venue

This 3-days Young Scientist Forum (including field trip) will be held on 16 - 18 September 2026. The workshop will be held in NIED Tsukuba, Japan.

15 Sept 2026 (Tuesday): Travelling to Japan and registration

16 sept 2026 (Wednesday): 1st day event

17 sept 2026 (Thursday): 2nd day event

18 sept 2026 (Friday): NIED Study Tour / Field Trip (eg flood control system, tbd), travelling back from Japan

7. Participants

The participants of this are mainly the IRDR Young Scientists and the young scientists in IRDR community, will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Have good understanding and knowledge about Disaster and Climate Resilience, and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, with experience in Disaster or Climate Resilience activities.
2. Passionate to collaborate with other YYPs
3. Experience in policy-based publications.
4. Possess leadership traits/personalities.
5. High motivation and commitment to fully participate in the Young Scientist Forum
6. Show commitment to follow up on the outputs and outcomes

Approximately 20 IRDR Young Scientists are expected to participate in this IRDR YSF. The YYPs participants from broad communities will be invited based on the recommendations of the organizing committee of this forum, in consideration of gender balance and regional balance.

8. Programme and Agenda

Overall Programme and agenda-are as follows:

Day 1: Foundational Assessment and Case Studies

Time	Theme	Activities
08:30–09:00	Registration and Welcome Coffee	Arrival, Registration and Networking
09:00–10:00	Opening Ceremony	Welcome Remarks (IRDR, NIED, Host Partners), Keynote Address: <i>The Role of Young Scientists in the Sendai Mid-Term Review</i>
10:00–10:30	Coffee Break and Poster Session	Poster viewing focusing on Thematic Pillar 1 (Physical and Earth System Sciences for DRR)
10:30–12:00	Special Session: Megacities (urban DRR)	Keynotes from Science Council Japan, strategic recommendations and panel discussion.
12:00–13:30	Lunch Break	Networking Lunch
13:30–15:00	Session 1: Critical Knowledge Systems Assessment	Interactive Panel Discussion: <i>Integrating Traditional, Local, and Scientific Knowledge for DRR: What's Missing?</i>
15:00–15:30	Coffee Break and Poster Session	Poster viewing focusing on Thematic Pillar 2 (Social, Economic, and Behavioral Sciences for DRR)
15:30–17:00	Session 2: "What Worked,	Lightning Talks (Case Study presentations on science-to-policy

	What Didn't, and Why"	translation effectiveness) followed by facilitated group critique.
17:00–17:30	Day 1 Wrap-up and Reflection	Summary of key findings and announcement for Day 2
18:30–20:00	Social Dinner/Networking Reception	Hosted Dinner (Optional)

Day 2: Integrated Solutions and Future Directions

Time	Theme	Activities
09:00–10:30	World Café: Identifying Bottlenecks and Accelerators	Small-group rotation discussion identifying systemic barriers and progress drivers in integrating science into governance.
10:30–10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45–12:30	Session 3: Tackling Complexity: Systemic Risk Approaches	Oral Presentations: Papers on Thematic Pillar 3 (Integrated and Systems-Based Risk Science) focusing on cascading and compound risks.
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	Networking Lunch
13:30–15:00	Interactive Workshop: Forensic Investigation in Action	Applied session using a mock multi-hazard scenario to test science-to-action pathways; led by an IRDR senior expert.
15:00–16:30	Session 4: Knowledge Co-creation and Local Resilience	Panel Discussion and Q&A on Thematic Pillar 4 (Indigenous, Local, and Experiential Knowledge Systems) and mechanisms for co-designing research.
16:30–17:30	Closing Plenary	Presentation of YSF

		Recommendations, Announcement of Best Paper/Poster Awards, Closing Remarks (IRDR, NIED), Overview of Day 3 Field Trip Logistics.
17:30-19:00	Action Planning Session: The YSF 2026 Commitment & Strategic Planning	Small-group work to develop concrete recommendations and next steps for IRDR and global DRR policy (Focus on youth-led initiatives). This session shall also include a special workshop to discuss crucial inputs about the next IRDR strategic planning (e.g., IRDR Action Plan 2027-2028, or IRDR-YSP Strategic Plan 2030), focusing on current needs and future demands for global resilience.

Day 3: NIED Facilities Tour / Field Trip

Special Lecture / Invitations for Remarks

To enrich the forum with high-level global perspectives and foster potential partnerships, the organizing committee will extend invitations for short remarks, special lectures, or high-level online delivery sessions to representatives from key international organizations and sponsors.

Potential Invited Speakers/Sponsors:

- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- International Science Council (ISC)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- The World Bank

9. Financial Support:

The organizing committee may support the international travel and local accommodation for the IRDR Young Scientists. The application will be open along with registration for the forum.

10. Host and Organizer:

The main organizers, sponsors and Host of this workshop are:

- IRDR IPO
- IRDR ICoE Coherence and its secretariat NIED

Strategic Partners

- China Association For Science and Technology (CAST)
- Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)
- Indonesia Young Academy of Science (ALMI)
- Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)
- China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences (CPJRC)
- UNESCO Chair for Mountain Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience

Contact Person:

1. Fang Lian, IRDR IPO (fang.lian@irdrinternational.org)
2. Dr. Matsuura Shohei, IRDR ICoE Coherence (smatsuura@bosai.go.jp)
3. Dr. Nuraini Rahma Hanifa, IRDR SC for IRDR YSF (nura010@brin.go.id)