

A Time of Renewal and Expansion for the IRDR Community



Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

Welcome to the third newsletter of 2026—and the fifth since the launch of IRDR Phase II. This issue arrives at a pivotal moment as we fully implement IRDR Phase II, with the past quarter defined by global engagements that advances our mission to mobilise science for disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Expanding Our Global Network

A central theme of this period is expansion and renewal. The overwhelming response to our 2026 call for new International Centres of Excellence (ICoEs) signals a robust global commitment to advancing integrated DRR science and its application. Concurrently, our partnership with Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) also marks a critical step in revitalising the IRDR National Committee there, strengthening our presence in a hazard-prone region.

Global Engagements, Sendai Commitment

Our network's specialised knowledge proved vital this quarter. The IRDR ICoE-CCOUC 15th anniversary Public Forum spotlighted the disaster risk–public health nexus, while growing international engagements—from Australia's Natural Hazards Research Forum to Indonesia's AADMER Partnership Conference—reinforced our commitment to the Sendai Framework and the post-2030 agenda.

Safeguarding Knowledge, Advancing Communication

This issue also serves as a crucial call to action. The threat to the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT) is a stark reminder of the fragility of the infrastructure that supports our work. We must collectively rally to protect

this global public good. But data alone isn't enough. Our feature from the German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV), IRDR's National Committee in Germany, reminds us that risk communication, a shared risk culture, and inclusive dialogue are equally vital to building resilience.

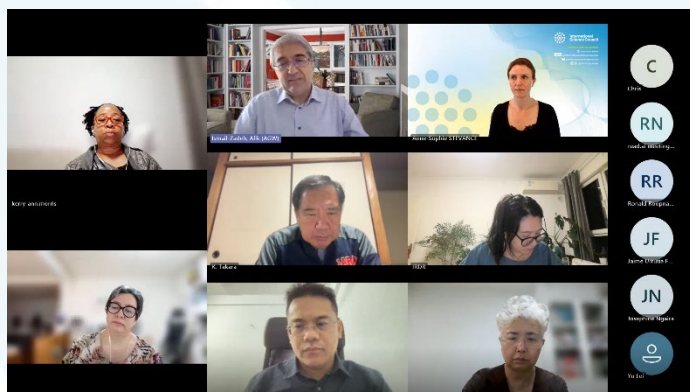
This is therefore a time of dynamic growth and renewed purpose for IRDR. We hope you find this newsletter both informative and inspiring, and we look forward to your continued engagement as we work together towards a safer, more resilient world.

— The IRDR Editorial Team

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Enabling the Full Operation of IRDR Phase II



IRDR Scientific Committee Online Meetings

During the period March to June 2026, the IRDR Scientific Committee (SC) held three online meetings to discuss and decide on ongoing and new scientific activities as the second phase of the programme progresses.

The following is a brief report of the major discussions and decisions of those meetings.

Accelerating the Implementation of the Sendai Framework

The SC considered the Chair's report on the role of IRDR in accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, outlining the priorities and expected actions of IRDR in relation thereto.

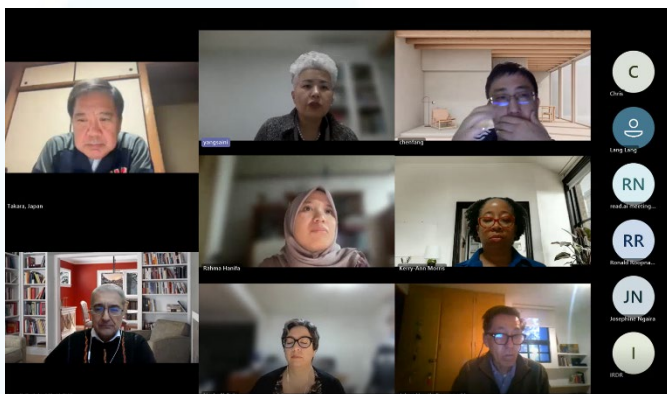
Reconnecting with IRDR's National Committees

The SC also considered a report from IRDR's International Programme Office (IPO) presenting the key findings of a reflective survey of IRDR's National Committees (NCs). This survey provided a better understanding of the current experiences of NCs within the broader IRDR community and identified ways to improve the effectiveness and value of IRDR as a collaborative network. The SC agreed that the programme should revitalise the links between the IPO and NCs.

IRDR Scientific Projects

The SC considered and adopted three categories of IRDR scientific projects: Pilot Studies, Associated Projects, and Flagship Projects. Each category is designed to facilitate different levels of engagement, funding, oversight, and collaboration while ensuring scientific rigor and strategic alignment with IRDR's mission.

- Pilot Studies are small-scale, time-bound research projects initiated by the IPO to activate the IRDR community and encourage engagement from International Centres of Excellence (ICoEs) and young scientists.
- Associated Projects are to be initiated by IRDR ICoEs and NCs to increase the impact of IRDR.
- Flagship Projects are high-impact initiatives undertaken explicitly in the name of IRDR.



IRDR Fellowship Programme

The SC also adopted the IRDR Fellowship Programme, which aims to recognise and engage individuals who have made significant contributions to integrated disaster risk research and the promotion of disaster science. The Fellowship Programme is intended to strengthen IRDR's scientific capacity, amplify its impact, and broaden engagement with policymakers and practitioners.

IRDR YSP Self-Governance

The SC discussed the need for greater flexibility and a self-governance mechanism for the IRDR Young Scientists Programme (YSP) to strengthen young scientists' initiatives, leadership, coordination, and accountability. Following discussions of the relevant document prepared by the IPO, the SC agreed that it should first be discussed with the

Enabling the Full Operation of IRDR Phase II (cont'd)

YSP community to obtain their feedback. Based on this feedback, the document should be revised and submitted to the SC for further consideration.

Joint IRDR–ISC GeoUnions Proposal

The SC was informed that the joint IRDR–ISC GeoUnions proposal to organise the symposium “Science, Data and Partnerships for Disaster Risk Reduction” at the Beijing Science Dialogue, and the side event “Leveraging Science and Technology for the Post-2030 UN Agenda for Disaster Risk Reduction” at the ISC Mid-Term Members Meeting had been accepted. Both events are now under development.

The SC also agreed to hold a face-to-face meeting in Beijing in October to coincide with these ISC events.

IRDR Special Reports

Finally, the SC discussed potential IRDR Special Reports focusing on disaster risk reduction (DRR) topics of broad international importance. The SC agreed that one of the highest-priority topics could be the nexus between DRR and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

About the IRDR Scientific Committee

The SC guides IRDR as an international scientific programme and ensures that IRDR is strategic, open, inclusive, productive and impactful through the entire period of implementation.

The SC is mandated to provide:

- Scientific and policy guidance to the IRDR community and the IPO in programme planning, implementation, development and evaluation.
- Advise from a science-policy nexus to the co-sponsors on the overall alignment of IRDR's work with the global implementation of the Sendai Framework and related United Nations Agreements, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paying particular attention to new and emerging risks, compound and cascading risks, and the international scientific response required thereto.

The terms of reference for the IRDR SC can be found [here](#).

Strong Global Response to IRDR's 2026 ICoE Call



(Credit: Image by [Gerd Altmann](#) from [Pixabay](#))

IRDR's International Programme Office (IPO) received a significant number of Expressions of Interest (EoIs) from qualified institutes across the globe in response to its [2026 call for new ICoEs](#). The EoIs represent a diverse geographic spread and a broad range of thematic expertise.

The applications are currently being evaluated by the members of the IRDR Scientific Committee, who will assess each proposal against the [IRDR ICoE Terms of Reference](#), considering the quality, strength, and strategic alignment of each proposal within the existing ICoE network. The results of the evaluation process will be announced in a forthcoming issue of the IRDR newsletter. We thank all applicants for their interest in joining the IRDR community and contributing to the global effort of mobilising science to reduce disaster risk.

Enabling the Full Operation of IRDR Phase II (cont'd)

IRDR ICoE-CCOUC Holds 15th Anniversary Public Forum on Disaster Risk and Health Resilience



Prof. Emily Ying Yang Chan, Director of IRDR ICoE-CCOUC (Credit: IRDR ICoE-CCOUC)



Prof. Saini Yang addresses the Public Forum's participants.

On 9 June, the [IRDR International Centre of Excellence for the Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK \(CCOUC\) for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response \(IRDR ICoE-CCOUC\)](#), held its 15th Anniversary Public Forum under the theme “*Disaster Risk and Health Resilience: Insights from Academia, Education and Practice*”.

The Public Forum brought together researchers, educators, and practitioners to explore the critical intersection of DRR and public health.

In her keynote address, Prof. Saini Yang, IRDR's Executive Director, noted that CCOUC's work directly supports the overarching [Global Scientific Framework](#) that underpins IRDR Phase II—a framework that calls for both risk-informed sustainable development and risk-informed planetary health. In this context, IRDR ICoE-CCOUC offers a unique value proposition, standing as the only IRDR ICoE dedicated specifically to disaster and medical humanitarian response.

Established in 2011, CCOUC is a joint initiative between Oxford University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and serves as a non-profit research centre to carry out research, training and community knowledge transfer in the area of disaster and medical humanitarian response in Greater China and the Asia-Pacific Region. CCOUC was designated an IRDR ICoE in 2016.

To commemorate its 15th anniversary in 2026, CCOUC will be embarking on 15 events throughout the year.



Prof. Yang was accompanied by Science Officer Ms. Fang Lian, and Science and Communication Officer Ms. Kerry-Ann Morris, for a two-day visit to Hong Kong during the period 8 and 9 June. In addition to attending the 15th anniversary Public Forum, the IPO delegation held strategic discussions with key officials from the Centre to explore concrete opportunities for future joint projects in research, education and knowledge transfer.

Enabling the Full Operation of IRDR Phase II (cont'd)

A Busy Second Half Ahead for IRDR ICoE-Taipei

IRDR ICoE-Taipei is gearing up for a dynamic second half of 2026, with a full slate of training events, conference engagements, and leadership meetings lined up across Asia and beyond.



**July
20-24**

**2nd 2026 Advanced Institute on
“Health Investigation and Air
Sensing for Air Pollution”**

 Bali, Indonesia

Hosted by the Bandung Institute of Technology, 39 participants will receive interdisciplinary training on air pollution, atmospheric science, and environmental health research.



**August
2-7**

**Asia Oceania Geosciences
Society (AOGS) Annual Meeting**

 Fukuoka, Japan

IRDR ICoE-Taipei has organised two scientific sessions, an exhibition booth, and will also be supporting 18 attendees.



**September
7-11**

**3rd 2026 Advanced Institute on
“Transboundary Transport of
Cloud Systems and Acid Deposition”**

 New Delhi, India

Participants from Southeast Asia will join lecturers from India and Taiwan to tackle the complex issue of cross-border movement of pollution systems.

The year will wrap up with the Centre’s annual International Advisory Board (IAB) meeting in November, followed by participation in the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) in December, one of the world’s largest gatherings of Earth and space scientists.

Through these initiatives, IRDR ICoE-Taipei continues to deliver on its core mission of strengthening regional scientific capacity and promoting international collaboration in DRR and sustainability science.

Stay tuned to our upcoming issues for highlights from each event!



*(l-r) Prof. Saini Yang, IRDR’s Executive Director,
and Dr. Luki Subehi, head of BRIN’s Earth
Sciences and Maritime research organisation.*

IRDR and Indonesia’s BRIN Move to Revitalise Disaster Risk Cooperation

IRDR’s IPO and Indonesia’s National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) signed a Letter of Intent on 15 April, in Shanghai, China, marking a critical step toward re-activating the IRDR National Committee (NC) in Indonesia and establishing a new IRDR ICoE. Pilot studies aligned with both organizations’ missions were also discussed as near-term deliverables.

This builds on a prior partnership, as BRIN’s predecessor, the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) had hosted the Indonesian NC since 2018, though it became inactive after a major government restructuring that consolidated Indonesia’s research bodies into BRIN.

For more information: <https://irdrinternational.org/news/887>.

Enabling the Full Operation of IRDR Phase II (cont'd)

Honours and Awards

IRDR congratulates Prof. Jaime Urrutia-Fucugauchi (IRDR SC member), Prof. Emily Ying Yang Chan (Director, IRDR ICoE-CCOUC), Prof. Peng Cui (former SC member), and Prof. Huadong Quo (former IRDR ex-officio and Chair of IRDR NC China) on their recent awards and recognitions!



IRDR SC Member, Prof. Jaime Urrutia-Fucugauchi, Selected to International Core Academy of Sciences and Humanities

IRDR Scientific Committee Member, Prof. Jaime Urrutia-Fucugauchi, has been elected [Fellow of the International Core Academy of Sciences and Humanities](#). Prof. Urrutia-Fucugauchi is Professor of Geophysics at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; Director of the Chicxulub Institute of Advanced Studies; and former President of the Mexican Academy of Sciences. He was elected to the Academy for his outstanding fundamental research in Earth sciences, and particularly in recognition of his contribution to studies of extraterrestrial hazards associated with the Chicxulub impact crater.



IRDR IPO and ICoE-CCOUC team with Prof. Chan.
(Credit: The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

IRDR ICoE-CCOUC's Director, Prof. Emily Ying Yang Chan, Awarded Kuok Group Professorship

Clinical doctor and distinguished leader in public health, humanitarian medicine, and frontline work, Prof. Emily Ying Yang Chan, has been named the inaugural holder of the Kuok Group Professorship in Global Public Health and Humanitarian Medicine. Prof. Chan's work connects high-level policy with practical community resilience, as shown in a recent IRDR ICoE-CCOUC special report, [Managing Dengue Risk Along the Laos-China Railway: An HEDRM Approach](#).

For more information: <https://irdrinternational.org/news/901>.



Pakistan's Ambassador Khalil Hashmi (right) presents the award to Prof. Peng Cui. (Credit: Wang Kai)

Former IRDR SC Member, Prof. Peng Cui, Honoured with Pakistan's Sitara-e-Imtiaz Award

Prof. Peng Cui, a former IRDR Scientific Committee member, received Pakistan's prestigious Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Star of Excellence) award at a ceremony in Beijing, China. The award recognises his contributions to Sino-Pakistani scientific cooperation, regional DRR, and cross-border connectivity.

For more information: <https://irdrinternational.org/news/894>.

Enabling the Full Operation of IRDR Phase II (cont'd)



Prof. Huadong Guo (Credit: CBAS)

Chair of IRDR NC China Receives Top Honour at 2026 DRR Conference in Hangzhou, China

Prof. Huadong Guo, former IRDR ex-officio, Chair of IRDR NC China, Director General of [CBAS](#), and Chief Scientist of Chinese Academy of Sciences Big Earth Data Science Engineering Program (CASEarth), received the highest individual honor, the “Special Achievement Award,” at the opening ceremony of the 2026 Disaster Risk Reduction Conference (Hangzhou, 16–18 April). Prof. Guo was recognised for his lifelong contributions to disaster risk research and Earth observation.

For more information: <https://irdrinternational.org/news/898>.

IRDR Boosts Australian DRR Engagement at NHRF26



Prof. Yang delivers a keynote address during the opening ceremony of NHRF26. (Credit: NHRA)



(l-r) Mr. Andrew Gissing, Chief Executive Officer of NHRA, and Prof. Yang. (Source NHRA)

IRDR significantly bolstered its collaboration with Australia’s DRR research community at the fifth annual Natural Hazards Research Forum 2026 (NHRF26). Hosted by Natural Hazards Research Australia (NHRA) at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide from 10–12 June, the Forum served as Australia’s premier platform for thought leadership on natural hazards, exploring how cutting-edge innovation can foster safer, more resilient, and sustainable communities.

Prof. Saini Yang delivered a keynote address during the Forum’s opening session, presenting on “*IRDR’s actions in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*”. Her presentation underscored IRDR’s ongoing commitment to advancing integrated, science-based DRR strategies, with a specific focus on shaping the critical preparations for the post-2030 development agenda.

The Forum also marked a milestone in IRDR’s enduring partnership with Australia. NHRA currently serves as the IRDR National Committee for Australia (IRDR NC Australia), a role that builds upon the legacy of the former Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre—first admitted as an IRDR National Committee in 2014. This strategic collaboration was renewed at the outset of IRDR Phase II, reaffirming a shared vision for DRR excellence across the Asia-Pacific region and reinforcing global efforts to reduce disaster risk.

For more information: <https://irdrinternational.org/news/903>.



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Coordinating and Facilitating International Research Cooperation

Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management (HEDRM)

On 13 April, IRDR participated in the “Symposium on Vector-Borne Diseases and Dengue Fever Control Strategies”, held in Beijing, China. The event was organised by the Hong Kong-based GX Foundation, in partnership with several organisations, including IRDR ICoE-CCOUC.



The IRDR IPO team alongside representatives from IRDR ICoE-CCOUC and the GX Foundation, including its Chairman, Mr. Chun-ying Leung.

The symposium highlighted community-based solutions under the Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management (HEDRM) framework, featuring the “Five Mosquito Prevention Treasures”: mosquito lamps, bed nets, test kits, and health education materials. A standout initiative is the HEDRM project along the China-Laos Railway corridor where, since 2020, targeted vector control measures have been implemented at stations and facilities.

Prior to the symposium, Prof. Yang joined high-level delegates in a meeting with Mr. Chun-ying LEUNG, Vice-Chairperson of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Chairman of the GX Foundation. Prof. Yang noted that the project serves as a practical model for integrating HEDRM into national disaster risk reduction strategies, and reaffirmed IRDR's commitment to sharing these findings globally.

For more information: <https://irdrinternational.org/news/888>.

IRDR ICoE-CCOUC's Special Report - Managing Dengue Risk Along the Laos-China Railway: An HEDRM Approach



The findings of the GX-Foundation/IRDR ICoE-CCOUC study are documented in the IRDR ICoE-CCOUC's Special Report, [Managing Dengue Risk Along the Laos-China Railway: An HEDRM Approach](#). The report demonstrates that applying an HEDRM approach in a high-mobility, cross-border corridor can effectively reduce vector-borne disease risks, and provides a blueprint for integrating public health surveillance with disaster risk reduction in linear infrastructure projects (e.g., transportation corridors).

The [IRDR ICoE-CCOUC Special Report](#) was launched on 18 May at the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA79) held in Geneva, Switzerland, during the official WHA79 side event, “Keep It Simple – No Mosquito, No Dengue”, hosted by the GX Foundation.

The Special Report can be downloaded here:
https://irdrinternational.org/knowledge_pool/publications/141.

Coordinating and Facilitating International Research Cooperation (cont'd)

IRDR Pledges Scientific Support for AADMER Work Programme 2026–2030 at 7th AADMER Partnership Conference



IRDR SC member, Dr. Nuraini Rahma Hanifa outlines key areas for collaboration between ASEAN and IRDR during the 7th AADMER Partnership Conference.

On 2 April, IRDR Scientific Committee member, Dr. Nuraini Rahma Hanifa, participated in the 7th ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Partnership Conference held in Jakarta, Indonesia. Hosted by Indonesia's National Disaster Management Authority (BNPB), Chair of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), co-organised by the AHA Centre and ASEAN Secretariat, and supported by the European Union through the EU Support to AHA Centre (EU-SAHA), the Conference served as a platform to familiarise the new AADMER Work Programme (AWP) 2026–2030 and to explore potential collaboration in its implementation.

During the Partners session, Dr. Hanifa outlined the following key areas for collaboration: understanding the "hidden" drivers of vulnerability, advancing anticipatory action through integrated socio-physical monitoring, and scaling AI-driven

tools tailored for ASEAN. Furthermore, she underscored the importance of empowering early-career researchers through the IRDR Young Scientists Programme, inviting partners to co-design practical solutions for regional safety.

AADMER is a regional legally binding agreement that binds ASEAN Member States together to promote regional cooperation and collaboration in reducing disaster losses and intensifying joint emergency response to disasters in the ASEAN region.

For more information: <https://irdrinternational.org/news/883>.



Support EM-DAT. Protect disaster data.

🔥 Sign the open letter — ❤️ Donate

(Credit: CRED)

Safeguarding Our Collective Disaster Memory: A Call to Action for EM-DAT

Compiled from UN agencies, NGOs, reinsurance firms, and research institutes, the [Emergency Events Database \(EM-DAT\)](#) is an indispensable resource for scientists, policymakers, and humanitarian operators worldwide.

This vital public good is now facing an existential threat. As of February 2025, core funding for EM-DAT through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) ceased, following the dismantling of that agency. Without sustainable financial support, this cornerstone of disaster risk science risks termination—a loss that would leave a tangible and damaging void in evidence-based decision-making. In response, an open letter has been launched to rally global support. Its primary goal is to raise awareness of EM-DAT's critical role and to galvanise immediate action to secure its future. The open letter can be found here: <https://openletter.earth/the-worlds-collective-disaster-memory-must-be-preserved-66c88c44>.

IRDR supports this initiative and strongly urge all members of the IRDR community to read, sign, and actively share the open letter with your various networks and communities of practice.

Knowledge Production and Outreach

Risk Communication as a Foundation for Resilient Societies: Insights from DKKV/IRDR NC Germany

(Contributed by the German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV)/IRDR NC Germany)



Image by [Gerd Altmann](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Effective disaster risk reduction (DRR) hinges on more than scientific data and technical solutions—it requires that risks are understood, internalised, and acted upon across all levels of society. The German Committee for Disaster Reduction (Deutsches Komitee Katastrophenvorsorge e.V. - DKKV), serving as the IRDR National Committee for Germany, places risk communication at the core of its work, advocating for a proactive, dialogue-oriented approach that builds resilience long before a crisis strikes.

Communication as a Framework for Action

A central tenet of DKKV's philosophy is that communication does not merely transmit facts; it creates the interpretive lens through which people perceive warnings and decide on responses. This framework must be established in peacetime—when a disaster unfolds, there is no time to build it. Risk communication, therefore, serves as the essential precursor to effective crisis communication, fostering long-term awareness, knowledge, and public trust.

To achieve this, DKKV champions the development of an inclusive risk culture—a shared societal

understanding of risks, uncertainties, and responsibilities. Such a culture encourages open dialogue, strengthens institutional trust, and promotes collective preparedness. This continuous, two-way exchange evolves with societal changes and directly supports IRDR's mission of improving risk-informed decision-making through integrated knowledge and societal engagement.

Innovative Approaches: Serious Games in Risk Communication



Image by [Mango Matter](#) from [Pixabay](#)

To make complex risk information more accessible and engaging, DKKV promotes the use of [Serious Games](#), game-based approaches that combine learning with interactive

Knowledge Production and Outreach (cont'd)

experiences. These tools help translate abstract risk concepts into tangible scenarios, allowing participants to explore decision-making processes in a safe environment.

Serious games are particularly effective because they:

- facilitate experiential learning and participation;
- support dialogue and reflection among different stakeholders; and
- enhance understanding of complex and uncertain risk situations.

By integrating serious games into workshops, education, and public engagement, DKKV contributes to developing innovative communication formats that strengthen preparedness and resilience.

Inclusive Risk Governance: The “Resilient Voices” Project

DKKV’s involvement in the [Erasmus+ project “Resilient Voices”](#) highlights the importance of inclusive risk communication. The project focuses on empowering vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities, elderly people, and migrants - who are often disproportionately affected by disasters and underserved by traditional communication channels. To integrate these groups the Serious Game, “**See. Feel. Act. – An Inclusive Game for Disaster Preparedness**”, was developed.

The cooperative game supports discussion in small groups through illustrated cards. Each game round consists of three phases:

- 1) In the first phase, a card depicting a **natural hazard** (e.g. storms or flooding) is presented and discussed together (“What do I see? What is happening?”).
- 2) In the second phase, participants choose cards representing their **emotions** in response to the situation and explain their choices (“How do I feel about this?”).
- 3) In the third phase, participants discuss possible **actions** by selecting and explaining suitable action cards (“What can I do?”).

Participants also have the opportunity to create additional action cards with their own ideas.

Afterwards, emotions are re-evaluated in light of the identified coping strategies and possible actions. The game helped participants engage with the topic, encourage exchange, and make experiences, needs, as well as uncertainties, visible. By incorporating diverse perspectives, “Resilient Voices” contributes to more equitable and effective risk governance at the European level.



(Credit: DKKV)

Early Awareness: The MYrisk Children’s Book

Recognising that risk awareness should begin at an early age, DKKV supports educational initiatives such as the MYrisk children’s book. Embedded within the broader MYrisk project on integrated multi-hazard risk management, this initiative promotes child- and youth-specific risk communication through engaging and age-appropriate materials.

The children’s book aims to:

- Introduce basic concepts of natural hazards and preparedness;
- Foster awareness and resilience among young audiences; and
- Support schools and educators in integrating DRR into learning.

Accompanied by a monthly preparedness calendar, this initiative helps schools and educators embed DRR into learning, cultivating a risk-aware generation from an early age.

Knowledge Production and Outreach (cont'd)



(Credit: DKKV)

From Knowledge to Action

As DKKV's work demonstrates, risk communication is not a supplementary activity but a pillar of DRR—and such approaches show how it can extend beyond traditional formats to build long-term resilience through education and awareness. Through objective risk perception, a shared risk culture, and targeted, inclusive, and innovative tools, it bridges the gap between knowledge and action. Initiatives like Serious Games, "Resilient Voices," and the MYrisk children's book illustrate practical pathways to achieving IRDR's global vision of risk-informed, resilient, and inclusive societies.

About DKKV



DKKV is Germany's largest national platform for DRR,

serving as an umbrella organisation that connects experts and institutions from science, politics, practice, and civil society. Established in 2000, as the successor of the German International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) Committee for Disaster Reduction, its central mission is to strengthen societal resilience by fostering exchange and knowledge transfer, while also acting as an intermediary to international networks and initiatives like IRDR.

Formally designated as the IRDR National Committee for Germany (IRDR NC Germany) in November 2010, DKKV ensures that IRDR's global agenda is actively grounded in national realities, while simultaneously channeling German expertise and practical experience back into IRDR's global research dialogue, creating a continuous, mutually reinforcing exchange that enriches both levels.

For more information about DKKV visit their website at: <https://dkkv.org/>.

IRDR and Scilight Press Partner to Advance Open-Access DRR Knowledge and Capacity Building



Members of the IRDR IPO team and Scilight Press during the Partnership Signing Ceremony.

On 23 April, a delegation from IRDR's IPO, led by Executive Director Prof. Saini Yang, met with the management team of Scilight Press, a Beijing-based international academic publishing house, to formalise a new strategic partnership.

The visit had two main goals: to explore collaborative opportunities in DRR, and to sign a five-year Memorandum of Understanding solidifying the alliance.

Currently, IRDR is preparing [a special issue for Scilight's journal, the Journal of Hazards, Risk and Resilience](#). The issue will focus on advancing community-based DRR and climate change adaptation, with special emphasis on innovative research led by young scientists.

For more information: <https://irdrinternational.org/news/889>.

Empowering Young DRR Professionals

Official Launch of 2026 Youth Climate Change and Disaster Reduction Innovation Initiative



On 22 May, the third staging of the “[Youth Climate Change and Disaster Reduction Innovation Initiative](#)” was launched in Beijing, China. Co-hosted by IRDR, UNDRR, and Tsinghua University, over the next three months participants will be guided by experts from international organisations, universities, research institutes, and renowned enterprises to systematically study climate change and disaster risk-related knowledge, as well as to review policy frameworks and research status.

This year's Initiative will focus on four key areas: artificial intelligence, cultural resilience, community practice, and green finance, aiming to fully inspire global youth's creativity and practical action.

For more information: <https://irdrinternational.org/news/896>.



Announcing the 7th Batch of the IRDR YSP

The IRDR IPO is pleased to announce the selection of the seventh batch of the IRDR Young Scientists Programme (IRDR YSP). Following a rigorous and competitive evaluation process, 10 outstanding early-career researchers from across the globe were selected to join this dynamic network.

The call for applications, launched in January 2026, attracted 19 qualified candidates representing a wide range of disciplinary expertise and geographic regions. Each application was independently assessed by an evaluation committee

comprised of the three members of the IRDR Scientific Committee, being representatives for the young scientists, and the IPO's YSP focal point, against the criteria outlined in the programme's [Terms of Reference](#). Candidates were scored on a scale from 1 to 5, with final rankings determined by the average of the four evaluators' scores.

The IRDR YSP aims to nurture the next generation of DRR leaders by providing mentorship, networking opportunities, and support for interdisciplinary research. The 7th batch will therefore join a vibrant community of alumni dedicated to advancing science and policy for a more resilient world. IRDR extends its congratulations to all successful applicants and thanks every candidate for their interest in contributing to the field of disaster risk reduction.

For more information, including the detailed evaluation report: <https://irdrinternational.org/news/904>.



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Empowering Young DRR Professionals (cont'd)

Career Milestones: IRDR Young Scientist Named Deputy Dean

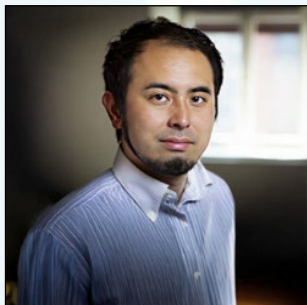


IRDR congratulates Dr. Spyros Schismenos, a member of the 1st batch of the IRDR YSP, on his recent promotion to the post of Deputy Dean (International and Engagement) in the Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia.

"Through this role, I aim to bring universities, communities, and other organisations together to better support DRR, sustainable development, and humanitarian engineering."

Dr. Schismenos is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Humanitarian Engineering and Co-Director (Research Lead) of the Humanitarian Engineering Lab at RMIT. His research focuses on humanitarian engineering, gamified learning, disaster management, community engagement, culture and heritage, and sustainable development. Dr. Schismenos is the creator of [Engineering WITH People](#) – the first game series in Humanitarian Engineering.

Career Milestones: DRR-Related Publications by IRDR's Young Scientists



Dr. Masahiko Haraguchi, Associate Research Scientist, Columbia University, USA (IRDR YSP 1st batch)

- Qiao, M., Haraguchi, M., & Lall, U. (2025). Enhancing urban resilience to extreme weather: the roles of human transition paths among multiple transportation modes. [International Journal of Geographical Information Science](#), 39(11), 2408–2427



Dr. Sandeeka Mannakkara, Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Auckland, New Zealand (IRDR YSP 3rd batch)

- Yukich, N., Mannakkara, S., & Henning, T. F. P. (2026). Weave framework: harnessing local knowledge in donor-funded climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction projects. [Climate and Development](#), 1–16
- Jayawardena, I., Mannakkara, S., Wang, G., & Wen, L. (2026). Why we see risk differently: Socioeconomic dimensions of climate hazard and risk perceptions in Auckland, New Zealand. [International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction](#), 106011



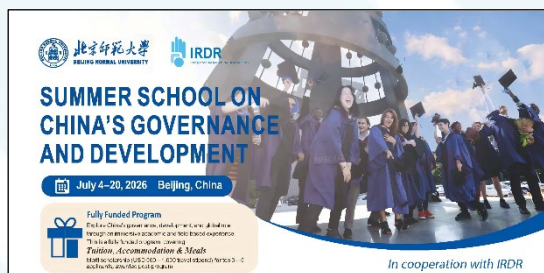
Dr. Rayees Ahmed, Project Scientist, Divecha Centre for Climate Change, Indian Institute of Science (IRDR YSP 6th batch)

- Ahmed, R., Sam, L., Bhardwaj, A., Kulkarni, A.V. & Yamasaki, Shintaro (2026). Increasing global threat of outburst floods from overlooked small alpine lakes. [Nature Sustainability](#).

Empowering Young DRR Professionals (cont'd)

IRDR-Supported Summer Schools: Advancing DRR & Climate Knowledge

This summer, IRDR is proud to support three transformative summer school programmes from our partners designed to equip the next generation of researchers, practitioners, and policymakers with the knowledge and skills to tackle pressing disaster risk and climate challenges.



“China’s Governance and Development”

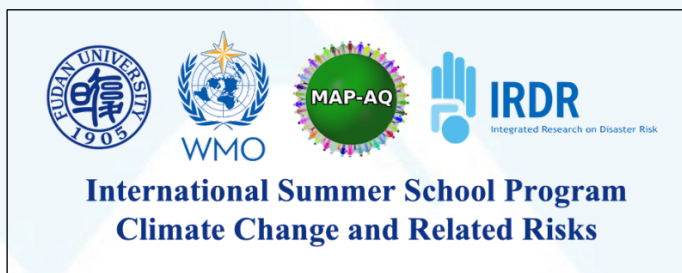
4-20 July 2026

Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China

This fully funded programme, co-organised by IRDR with Beijing Normal University (BNU), offers international students and young scholars an immersive academic and field-based experience to explore China's policy design processes—including those for disaster risk management—urban transformation, and China in global governance (SDGs and Belt and Road).

For more information:

<https://www.irdrinternational.org/upload/20260408/19fefb67b344d0.pdf>.



“Climate Change, Cities & Anthropogenic Impacts”

6-24 July 2026

Fudan University, Shanghai, China

This annual summer school is hosted by Fudan University's Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, the host institute for the IRDR ICoE on on Risk Connectivity and Governance on Climate Change (IRDR ICoE-RIGCC). The aim of the programme is to cultivate the next generation of scientists and leaders in climate governance by immersing early-career researchers in state-of-the-art climate change research and fostering inclusive collaboration and holistic, integrative problem-solving approaches.

For more information:

<https://iss-climatechange.fudan.edu.cn/index.htm>.



“Complex Systems and Earth System Science”

3-15 August 2026

Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

Organised and hosted by Tsinghua University and the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, and supported by the International Science Council (ISC), IRDR, the University Alliance for Earth System Science, and other partners, this summer school will examine the interconnected nature of global challenges through the lens of complex systems science. The core themes to be explored include complex systems theory (the fundamental principles, nonlinear dynamics, and emergent behaviours); and earth system science (applications to climate science and human impacts on planetary systems). The goal is to equip the next-generation of scientists with interdisciplinary tools to analyse planetary complexity and drive solutions.

For more information:

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/NpIIKY3BWCZB5ZxWPG8jGA>.

Call for Nominations



International
Science Council
The global voice for science



United
Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Experts to review the 2027 Global Sustainable Development Report



The International Science Council (ISC) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) are seeking nominations of experts to review the second-order draft of the 2027 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR).

Prepared by an Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the UN Secretary-General, the GSDR is the United Nations' flagship scientific assessment on sustainable development. It provides evidence-based guidance to policy-makers and will inform discussions at the 2027 SDG Summit.

As part of its long-standing collaboration with UN DESA, the ISC is coordinating the independent scientific review of the Report and is inviting nominations of experts from its [Members](#), [Affiliated Bodies](#) and partner organisations to participate in the review. Reviewers should be active researchers, practitioners or policy experts with relevant expertise in one or more areas covered by the report. Expertise from a broad range of disciplines and sectors is encouraged, including interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspectives. Familiarity with international sustainable development processes and the science-policy interface will be an asset. **Self-nominations will not be accepted.**

The ISC particularly welcomes nominations that contribute to disciplinary, geographical, gender and career-stage diversity among reviewers.

Experts from within the IRDR community who would like to be nominated via IRDR, are invited to contact Ms. Fang Lian, Science Officer, at fang.lian@irdrinternational.org with the materials requested from the ISC.

For more information: <https://irdrinternational.org/news/905>.

Deadline for Nominations: 31 July 2026

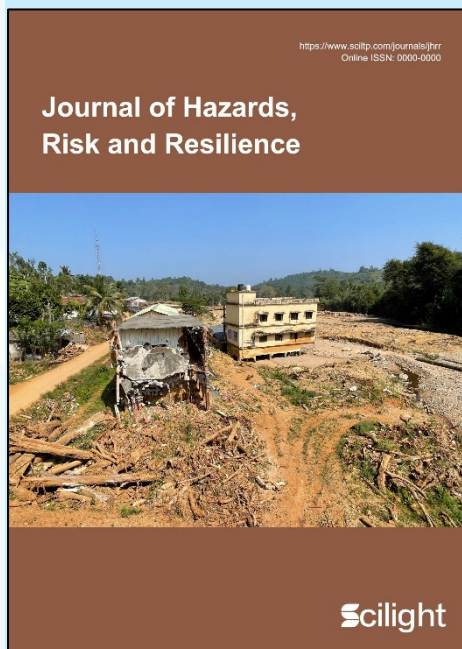


Send your news and announcements for the next issue of the IRDR Newsletter to
connect@irdrinternational.org



Call for Submissions

Upcoming IRDR Special Issue in the Journal of Hazards, Risk and Resilience



IRDR is pleased to announce an upcoming special issue in the Journal of Hazards, Risk and Resilience (JHRR). This special issue will focus on advancing community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, with a particular focus on innovative research led by young scientists.

Contributions are welcome from young researchers affiliated with IRDR, through our International Centres of Excellence (ICoEs), National Committees (NCs), the Young Scientists Programme (YSP), and our various partners, to submit their latest research on the following integrated thematic areas:

- Climate change impacts, local vulnerability, and community coping strategies.
- Risk perception, anticipatory actions, participatory and inclusive approaches for resilience.
- Risk-informed planning and investment.
- DRR financing and innovative financial mechanisms.
- Integrated risk governance.
- Humanitarian efforts and post-disaster recovery.
- DRR education, citizen science, knowledge co-production.

For detailed submission guidelines: <https://www.sciltp.com/journals/jhrr/call-for-papers/2010627919886172162>

Contact: JHRR Editorial Office (jhrr@sciltp.com)

Submission Deadline: 30 September 2026

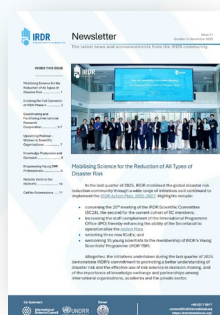
Past Issues of IRDR's Phase II Newsletter



Issue No. 1



Issue No. 2



Issue No. 3



Issue No. 4



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