

Towards an International Platform for Risk-Informed Development and Megacity Resilience

Soft-launched at IDRiM2026, September 2026, during the Special Session
“Advancing International Collaboration to Foster Integrated Research on
Catastrophe Resilience in Megacities”

Why this initiative?

Megacities face increasingly complex and interconnected disaster risks, while advances in science and technology are creating new opportunities to understand and reduce them. Yet a persistent gap remains between scientific knowledge and its translation into policy and societal/community protective action. Bridging this gap requires sustained exchange across disciplines, institutions and countries, and stronger connections between scientific innovation, local experience and the science–policy–practice interface across generation to come.

An open platform under the IRDR Work Stream on Risk-Informed Development

We, the participants of this session, therefore propose an open and evolving international platform for exchange and collaboration under the IRDR Work Stream on Risk-Informed Development.

The IRDR Work Stream is an experimental, flexible and dynamic mechanism that enables researchers and practitioners to come together around emerging or cross-cutting issues. It provides a space for existing initiatives, projects, expertise, and networks to connect, evolve and generate new opportunities around shared challenges.

This platform will facilitate the exchange of knowledge; foster comparative and collaborative research; connect scientific advances with policy and practice; and support the development of joint research, capacity-building, and publication. It will also provide a space to identify and mobilize complementary resources for initiatives that can benefit from broader international cooperation.

An invitation to build together

We welcome researchers, institutes and universities, international organizations, practitioners, cities, and multi-stakeholders to contribute their expertise, initiatives, networks and resources, and emerge new partnerships. We hope that this open and dynamic approach will enable collaboration to grow organically from concrete needs and opportunities.

Together, we can advance risk-informed development and resilience in megacities and beyond.

Initial partners

The platform is initially supported by:

- Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)
 - IRDR ICoE for Coherence among Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation, and Sustainable Development (IRDR ICoE-Coherence)
 - IRDR ICoE for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Research (IRDR ICoE-D4R)
 - IRDR ICoE on Interdisciplinary Research on Himalayan Risk and Resilience (IRDR ICoE-IHRR)
- National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED), Japan
- National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia (Research Organization for Earth Sciences and Maritime)
- Institute of Himalayan Risk Reduction (IHRR), Nepal
- British Geological Survey (BGS), UK