

Union Symposium and Open Forum on Natural Hazards at the IUGG GA (28 June – 7 July, 2011)

PROPOSAL

1. Title of the Union symposium

Grand Challenges in Natural Hazards Research and Risk Analysis

Title of the Open Forum

Natural Hazards: From Risk to Opportunity by Partnership of Science and Society

2. The scope of the symposium

The International Program “Integrated Research on Disaster Risk” (IRDR) started in 2009 aiming at curbing losses by knowledge-based decision-making. The science and society are the partners to cope with natural hazards by integrating natural and social sciences, engineering, economic and industrial activities, public administration, policy making etc. They can even convert risk to opportunity.

The Symposium will address major challenges in natural hazards research and risk analysis and present the ways for their solutions. Open Forum will be the first public forum on IRDR and will be organized together with GeoUnions of the International Council of Sciences (ICSU). Therefore the actions undertaken by IRDR will be presented at first, which is followed by discussions addressing the following questions:

- How natural and social sciences can integrate their knowledge for disaster reduction?
- How science and society can form partnership for disaster reduction?
- How science and society partnership can convert natural disaster risk to opportunity?
- What are the urgent issues of disaster risk in mega cities and regions under intensifying natural and social pressure?

Scientists, public managers, policy makers and other stakeholders will be invited to present solutions to the problems, to indicate the potential barriers and break-throughs. The outcomes will be reflected in the next step actions of IRDR.

3. Conveners of the Union Symposium and Open Forum:

Principal convener:

- Kuni Takeuchi, International Center for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), Tsukuba, JAPAN

Co-Conveners:

- Tom Beer, CSIRO, Aspendale, AUSTRALIA
- Shigeko Haruyama, University of Tokyo, JAPAN
- David Jackson, University of California, Los Angeles, USA
- Volodya Kossobokov, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, RUSSIA
- Uri Shamir, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, ISRAEL
- Ramesh Singh, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, INDIA
- Gerd Tetzlaff, University of Leipzig, GERMANY

4. Tentative list of invited speakers

For Union symposium

- Orhan Altan, Technical University of Istanbul, TURKEY (ISPRS)
- Susan Cutter, University of South Carolina, USA (IGU)
- Alik Ismail-Zadeh, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, GERMANY (IUGG)
- Chair or IPO Coordinator (IRDR)
- Keith Moffatt, University of Cambridge, UK (IUTAM)
- Representative of IUGS
- Representative of GOOS-IOC-UNESCO
- Representative from Australia or New Zealand
- Representative from China or India or Indonesia

For Open Forum

- Fouad Bendimerad, Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative
- Salvano Briceno, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR)
- Harsh Gupta, IUGG Vice-President
- Reiko Kuroda, ICSU Vice President
- Anselm Smolka, Munich Reinsurance Company
- Eric Rasmussen, Innovative Support To Emergencies, Diseases and Disasters (InSTEDD)
- Robert L. Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army
- Jiao Yong, Vice Minister, Ministry of Water Resources (MWR), China
- Representative of media dealing with natural disasters

5. Co-sponsors

IUGG, ICSU, IGU, IOC-UNESCO, ISPRS, IUGS, IUTAM