



Integrated Research on Disaster Risk National Committee/Regional Committee (IRDR NC/RC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

1. Background

Co-sponsored by the International Council for Science (ICSU), International Social Science Council (ISSC), and United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), a ten-year Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Programme (IRDR) was launched to address the major challenges of natural and human-induced environmental hazards. It aims to adopt an international, transdisciplinary and cross-hazard approach to conduct disaster risk reduction (DRR) research, and to reduce the impacts as well as losses induced by natural hazards.

The IRDR Programme is directed by the Science Committee of the IRDR (IRDR SC). The International Programme Office (IPO) was established to support IRDR SC and to help promote and disseminate its scientific results to target audiences at various levels. IRDR National Committees (NC) and Regional Committees (RC) are designated to promote the visions and legacies of IRDR and expand its work at the national and regional levels.

2. Objectives of IRDR NC/RC

First, IRDR NC/RCs are encouraged as mechanisms to mainstream integrated research into disaster risk reduction efforts at national and regional on an institutionalized basis, to enhance the coordination and cooperation among multi-stakeholders for the sustainability of the integrated research, and to improve the capacity of countries and regions in the field of disaster risk reduction. **Second**, IRDR NC/RC is to serve as focal point to promote IRDR-related research initiatives of host countries, and to enhance the links between national and international disaster risk research programmes and activities. **Third**, IRDR NC/RCs is to couple with IRDR SC, IPO and IRDR partners in pursuit of IRDR objectives, the identification of research priority, the development of research plan, implementation of programme and other activities to achieve IRDR goals.

3. Selection Criteria and Process

IRDR NC/RC should build on existing systems/entities relevant to disaster risk research and practice. The organization (preferably an academic institution) leading the IRDR NC/RC should be a permanent structure that is in a sufficiently high position to have a strong leadership and

capacity to coordinate other sectors within the country or region, to leverage political commitment and to mobilize resources for the IRDR purposes.

Each IRDR NC/RC will be designated on the basis of the following criteria:

- A good track record in, or commitment to, trans-disciplinary research related to disaster risk, combining social science, natural science, engineering as well as policy, etc.;
- Provision of unhindered access to researchers from participating countries and international visitors in region;
- Proven multi-national experience in research excellence related to disaster risk reduction;
- Internal capabilities to manage multi-national research teams;
- Commitments to provide appropriate support (funding or in kind) for the national, regional and international components consistent with IRDR objectives.

Admission of IRDR NC/RCs will follow these steps:

Submission of Application

Interested entities should submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the IRDR IPO via email: connect@irdrinternational.org.

The EOIs should include:

- A description of the organization, including its basic organizational structure, key personnel, funding sources, scientific research capacity, linkage with national and international disaster risk research and reduction networks.
- An overview of the professional activities for the past years, including past and ongoing programme with regard to disaster risk research.
- A vision and proposal to develop the IRDR NC/RC in its country (NC) or region (RC), including the incorporation of IRDR objectives into its own mission and its implementation as well as a description of existing organizations, programmes and other relevant DRR activities in the country and/or region.

Review and Evaluation of Application

IRDR will review and assess EOI in accordance with criterion, and the IRDR Science Committee will make the final designation.

4. Designation and Composition

Each IRDR NCs are expected to include, in their make-up, researchers from the natural, social, health and engineering sciences, along with policy makers and practitioners related to disaster risk reduction and management, and to maintain a close relationship with other interested organizations, such as UNISDR National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction where such a body exists and ICSU and ISSC representatives or relevant contacts.

IRDR RCs are designed for the purposes of IRDR as a grouping of spatially contiguous countries which search to promote common and complementary advance in disaster risk reduction and research in a common region or common language. IRDR RCs could be proposed by leading

authority, institution, academy of a country in certain region, or reputed, capable or by international organization which is committed to IRDR.

5. Governance

Each IRDR NC should be self-organized and be governed in accordance with their respective national institutions (relevant policies, legislation and organizational arrangements). IRDR NC/RC will function individually, but maintain close interaction with IRDR SC and IRDR IPO.

6. Tasks and Activities

In support of IRDR Science Committee, IRDR NC/RC will undertake the following activities:

- Foster and support participation in IRDR on the part of institutions and individual scientists.
- Serve as the national or regional focal point for IRDR.
- Foster networking and collaboration among domestic, regional and international disaster risk reduction science and technology activities.
- Improve scientific knowledge and enhance the integration of science in disaster risk reduction planning, policies and programmes domestically, regionally and internationally.
- Support efforts to update and report on national and regional disaster risk reduction activities aligned with the Hyogo Framework of Action’s strategic priorities, with emphasis on the science and technology activities and engage in the discussions for the post-2015 regime on disaster risk reduction and contribute to the national or regional discussions for other relevant global negotiations (climate change adaptation, earth systems, etc.).
- Provide scientific advice to policy-makers, taking into consideration on national and regional disaster risk reduction initiatives.
- Assist in fundraising for IRDR activities and projects.

7. Reporting

The IRDR NC/RC will provide semi-annual reports to the IRDR SC via IRDR IPO prior to each IRDR SC Meeting. At a minimum, IRDR NC/RC will submit a yearly work plan and an annual summary report.