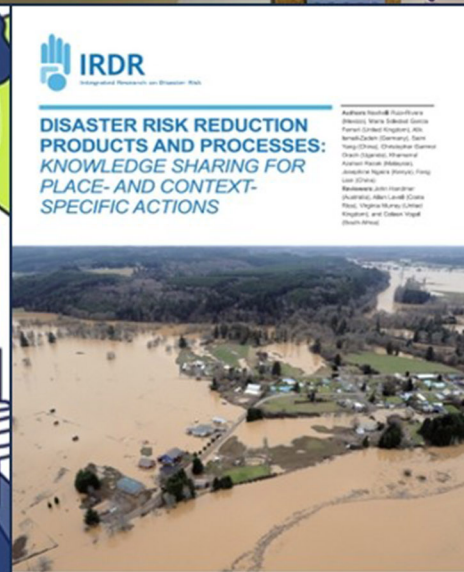


International Cooperation for
Climate Change
in @ 2025 DRR Conference
PROGRAMME
-29 April, Hangzhou

Newsletter

June 2025/ Issue 1



Integrated Research on Disaster Risk 2024 International Conference

Science for an inclusive, safe and sustainable world:
ACTIONS OF IRDR Global Community
Beijing, China
22-23 October, 2024



Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)

NEWSLETTER

June 2025/ Issue 1

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Preamble



The Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Programme enters Phase II with an ambitious new action plan and a range of activities. While honoring the legacy of Phase I, it is both urgent and critical that IRDR adopts a new mode of operation, acting swiftly and persuasively to fulfill its mission and research objectives. During a two-day strategic meeting, the IRDR Scientific Committee agreed on an initial set of priorities and related actions aligned with the research agenda [*A Framework for Global Science in Support of Risk-informed Sustainable Development and Planetary Health*](#). These priorities include a new communication strategy designed to bridge the gap between research and action by fostering effective communication within and beyond the IRDR community, disseminating knowledge, engaging diverse stakeholders, and ensuring that disaster risk reduction efforts are inclusive, impactful, and sustainable.

The new IRDR Newsletter is part of the communication strategy and the IRDR Action Plan for 2025-2027. It will keep the IRDR community informed about activities of the Scientific Committee, International Programme Office, International Centers of Excellence, National Committees, Young Scientific Programme, and IRDR co-sponsors and partners. The newsletter will also share opportunities, recent publications, and developments related to disaster risk research and risk reduction. Additionally, It will highlight relevant projects and collaborative events emerging from within the IRDR community. I invite you to read the first issue of the IRDR Newsletters and share your feedback.

Alik Ismail-Zadeh, Chair of the Scientific Committee, Integrated Research on Disaster Risk



The history of scientific progress demonstrates that closed systems stagnate, while openness drives innovation. As emphasized in a recent International Science Council statement: "International scientific collaboration is vital yet vulnerable". In this critical time, strengthening global cooperation is more essential than ever.

The IRDR Newsletter serves as a new channel for sharing information, knowledge and fostering potential collaborations among our IRDR global community. This quarterly newsletter connects our members worldwide and warmly encourages contributions from our community—we welcome updates on your activities, research outputs, and achievements. The newsletter will be released in the first month of each quarter. Please share with us your information by the last week of the preceding quarter. Starting from the next issue, we will also introduce a new section 'Upcoming Events'. Please kindly notify us in advance about the major events you scheduled for the next quarter to help boost community engagement.

Saini Yang, Executive Director, Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

1. Enabling the full operation of IRDR Phase II

1.1 The 27th IRDR Scientific Committee Meeting

The [27th meeting of the IRDR Scientific Committee](#) (IRDR SC27) was held on 21 and 24 October 2024 in Beijing, China. With the newly established IRDR Scientific Committee, this meeting was the first in a new phase of the Programme to officially enable the full operation of IRDR Phase II. The SC adopted the [IRDR Action Plan 2025-2027](#), the revised Terms of Reference of [IRDR National Committees](#), [International Centres of Excellence](#) and [Young Scientists Programme](#), and discussed communication and partnership strategies.



At the IRDR Scientific Committee meeting, October 2024 (source: IRDR)

1.2 Review of IRDR ICoEs Established in Phase I

Following the decision made at the IRDR Scientific Committee (SC27), the ICoEs that were launched in Phase I of the IRDR programme have been reviewed to ensure their continued engagement in Phase II of the programme. A review panel was established consisting of the IRDR Executive Director, IRDR SC Chair, IRDR SC Vice Chair, two IRDR Fellows, and the IPO Science Officer (as ex-officio). The criteria used by the panel in their evaluation were the following: (a) the relevance and impacts of the deliverables of the ICoE to IRDR missions and the Research Framework; (b) the relevance and impacts of the deliverables of the ICoE to the global agenda; (c) the quality of coordination and connection with IRDR, both with IPO and with other IRDR members, regarding the engagement in IRDR publications and activities; (d) the financial resources available for ensuring sustainable institutional capacity and viability; and (e) the action plan for next term. After the evaluation, fourteen ICoEs passed the review.

1.3 IRDR-UNESCO Cooperation on Intangible Cultural Heritage

IRDR and the UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia explored specific mechanisms and collaborative initiatives to enhance the protection of cultural heritage in the face of climate change. The discussions took place during the [Sub-regional Meeting on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage \(ICH\)](#) in East Asia held in Mongolia in November 2024, the [conference International Cooperation for Climate Change](#) held in China in April 2025, and the Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Climate Change - Enhancing knowledge sharing and networking in Asia and the Pacific held in China in June 2025. Key topics for future cooperation included: (1) improving assessment of cultural heritage vulnerability and resilience by integrating community and socio-economic data; (2) bridging traditional and scientific knowledge through frameworks and policy integration; (3) using advanced technologies for heritage monitoring while leveraging community-driven tools; and (4) promoting ethical data governance and highlighting the role of culture in climate action through education, grassroots initiatives, and policy engagement. As the first deliverable of this initiative, IRDR worked with UNESCO and its category II centres to develop a joint report, which will be released in July. Contact the IRDR [Science Officer](#) for potential engagement.

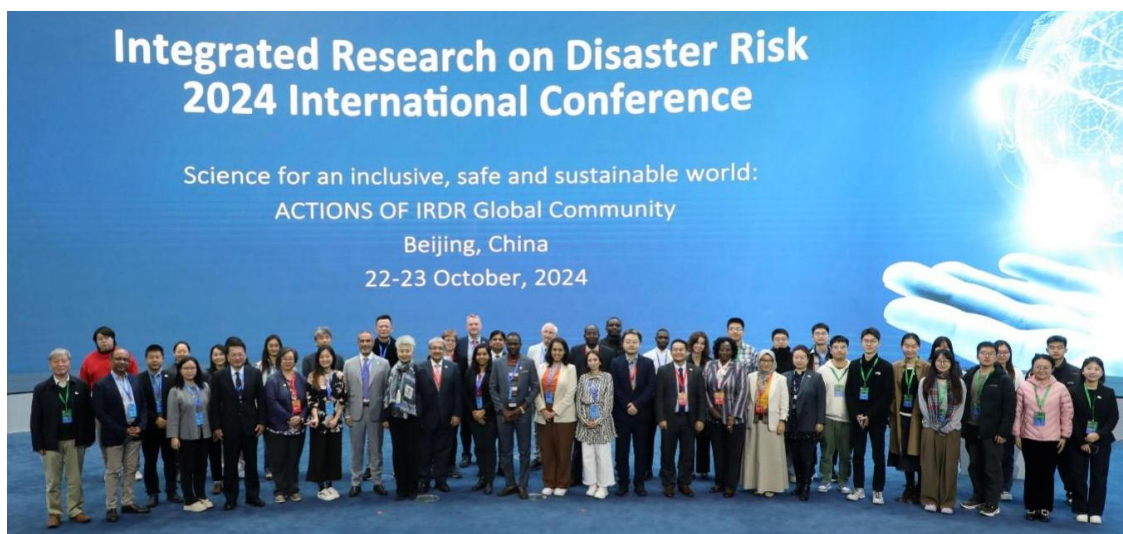


At the Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Climate Change. From left to right: Jing Zhang (UNESCO CRIHAP), Fang Lian (IRDR), Duong Bich Hanh (UNESCO), Yoko Nojima (UNESCO IRCI), and Deoksoon Kim (UNESCO ICHCAP) (source: UNESCO)

2. Coordination of international research cooperation

2.1 2024 IRDR International Conference

The [IRDR International Conference](#) was held on 22-23 October 2024 in Beijing. Representatives of the IRDR Community and other participants shared knowledge and insights regarding the IRDR Action Plan 2025-2027 and discussed policy recommendations for global scientific collaboration in disaster risk reduction. Parallel sessions of this Conference focused on integrated research and multi-sectoral actions and were organized by IRDR National Committees, International Centres of Excellence, Young Scientists, and partners. The Conference [Declaration](#) *Science for an Inclusive, Safe and Sustainable World* identified the priority areas for international science collaboration within the global risk research framework.



At the IRDR Conference, October 2024 (source: IRDR)

2.2 World Science Forum 2024

The 11th World Science Forum (WSF2024) was held from 20–23 November 2024 in Budapest, Hungary, and its theme was “The science and policy interface at a time of global transformations”, responding to the 2024 United Nations Pact for the Future and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The IRDR Executive Director Saini Yang delivered a speech at the WSF2024 thematic session of [Bridging the Gap: Trust and Evidence-Informed Policy and Decision Making](#). She emphasized the importance of balanced and realistic applications of technology, particularly in complex fields like disaster risk reduction, advocating for mutual respect and co-development over blind trust in science. Furthermore, she called on action for scientists to embrace their roles as changemakers, fostering long-term trust and collaboration by planning for the future with open-mindedness, humility, and a focus on inclusiveness, which also aligns with the aims and

mission of IRDR. The Forum concluded with the adoption of a declaration addressing the critical nexus between science and policy during times of profound global change.

2.3 29th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) on Climate Change

The 29th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held on 11-24 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The outcome of the conference was a new finance goal “to help countries protect their people and economies against climate disasters and share in the vast benefits of the clean energy boom”. Chair of the IRDR Scientific Committee Alik Ismail-Zadeh moderated the side event [*Climate Science: Key Take Aways 2024*](#) organized by the International Science Council (ISC) and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). The panelists discussed new fundings in research on climate change; highlighted the importance of science for a more effective and urgent response to climate change as well as for the analysis of financing climate change; and emphasized the role of effective co-designed and co-produced integrated research and global collaborations to impact in the science-policy-society space. The panel discussed also key challenges and gaps in climate science that we need to focus on during years ahead to effectively respond to climate change; among the challenges the panelists mentioned observational gaps, density of observations, data sharing, forensic investigations, adaptation policy, and disaster risks and loss issues.

2.4 ISC Third General Assembly 2025 and Muscat Global Knowledge Dialogue

The International Science Council (ISC) held its fourth and final Global Knowledge Dialogue (GKD) on 26-28 January 2025 in Muscat, Oman. The ISC has undertaken an ambitious series of [*Global Knowledge Dialogues*](#) to strengthen international scientific collaboration and address regional priorities. This journey began in 2022 with the [*Global Knowledge Dialogue for Africa*](#), continued in 2023 and 2024 with dialogues in the [*Asia-Pacific*](#) and [*Latin America and the Caribbean*](#) region. The Muscat Dialogue concluded with the adoption of the [*Muscat Declaration*](#). In this Declaration, the participants call upon scientists and other stakeholders to take an active role in addressing pressing challenges and advancing the role of science as a global public good.

[*ISC Third General Assembly \(GA\) 2025*](#) was held on 29-30 January 2025 focusing on several critical areas, including the ISC Strategic Plan 2025–2028 and its associated budget, strengthening the Council’s regional presence through new regional antennas, and the adoption of final modifications to the ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure. Delegates of each category of ISC members engaged in discussions directly linked to the priority areas introduced in the draft strategic plan. These priority areas included: 1) Freedom, Responsibility and Inclusivity in Science;

2) International Science Agenda Setting; 3) The Evolution of Science and Science Systems; 4) Evidence-Based Policymaking; 5) Science Diplomacy. During the General Assembly, ISC Affiliated Bodies (including IRDR) met to discuss potential collaborative efforts. They agreed to develop a roster of Affiliated Bodies, map their activities against the ISC Action Plan, organize a joint online meeting, and produce quarterly newsletters. Alik Ismail-Zadeh (Chair, SC), Fang Lian (IPO Science Officer), and Saini Yang (ED) participated in all ISC events in Muscat.



At the ISC Third General Assembly 2025 and Muscat Global Knowledge Dialogue.

From left to right: Saini Yang, Anne-Sophie Stevance, Alik Ismail-Zadeh, and Fang Lian (source: IRDR)

2.5 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2025)

The eighth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2025) was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 2 to 6 June 2025, and convened by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The IRDR's contributions to GP2025 emphasized science-based disaster risk reduction (DRR) through policy, research, and innovation. At GP2025, the IRDR community organized two innovation platforms, co-organized two learning labs and two thematic sessions, and delivered speeches at a stakeholder forum, thematic session, and two ignite stages. Also, the IRDR community contributed to one thematic session and the plenary session at the World Resilient Recovery Conference organized as a pre-event of GP2025. All the IRDR related publications, news, and activities can be found [here](#).



IRDR&U-INSPIRE Alliance Booth@GP2025 (source: IRDR)

3. Knowledge production and outreach

3.1 IRDR Policy Brief and the Supplement Cases

IRDR SC members published an IRDR Policy Brief “[Disaster Risk Reduction Products and Processes: Knowledge Sharing for Place- and Context- Specific Action](#)”, which sets out policy recommendations that support the development of place-specific DRR products and approaches that enable impactful actions. In addition, it proposes the adoption of local science advisory mechanisms to support the development of DRR products that are locally useful, relevant, and credible. [Several examples of co-designed DRR products and processes](#) across different geographical contexts were provided as a supplement material to this policy brief. These multi-stakeholder cases briefly illustrate the participation of diverse actors and provide examples of the active role of plural forms of knowledge and science in the co-production and implementation of DRR actions. The examples also reflect different DRR approaches, including prospective, corrective, and compensatory risk management. This publication was one of the IRDR contributions to GP2025.

3.2 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR2025)

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) published the [GAR 2025](#) report titled "Resilience Pays: Financing and Investing for our Future". The report outlines how the effects of increasing disaster costs are already being felt around the globe, from the emergence of areas deemed too risky for insurance companies to cover, to growing national debts, and recurring humanitarian crises. However, it also presents case studies and policy

recommendations for how investments in resilience can help stop the growing economic cost of disasters, reduce humanitarian needs, and make scarce international assistance resources even more effective. The [IRDR community contributed to GAR2025](#) through both serving on the Advisory Board and providing case studies.

3.3 Updated UNDRR-ISC Hazard Information Profiles

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the International Science Council (ISC) have released an [updated edition of the Hazard Information Profiles](#), expanding and refining their global reference guide to 282 hazards, from wildfires and earthquakes to cyberattacks and pandemics. This edition emphasizes the interconnected nature of hazards and supports a multi-hazard approach critical for early warning, planning, and resilience. It includes a more user-informed structure, clearer descriptions of hazard interactions, and a machine-readable format compatible with emerging digital systems. The revision process engaged over 270 experts, reviewers, and users from across sectors and regions. Leading experts from the IRDR community contributed to the initial version and the updated version by providing content and review comments. The profiles continue to serve national disaster agencies, UN bodies, and researchers worldwide in disaster risk reduction efforts aligned with the Sendai Framework.

3.4 Satellite Data and Reports for Disaster Emergency Response and Analysis

IRDR collaborates with the International Research Center for Big Data for Sustainable Development (CBAS) to provide satellite data products and services for emergency response, risk assessment, and post-disaster reconstruction, observation and assessment. The collaboration has resulted in several [reports](#) and [open data](#) for recent disaster events, which have been endorsed and promoted by international organizations and platforms such as PreventionWeb, ReliefWeb, and the AHA Center.

4. Empowerment of young DRR professionals

4.1 IRDR Young Scientists Lumos

IRDR co-organized two IRDR Young Scientists Lumos with U-INSPIRE Alliance and BRIN to collect the innovation cases for the [IRDR&U-INSPIRE Alliance Innovation Platform at GP2025](#). The two webinars focused on the 1) [From Data to Action](#), and 2) [Localization of the Global Agenda](#).

4.2 Call for Application: 6th Batch of the IRDR Young Scientists Programme

The IRDR Young Scientists Programme (YSP) is now open for applications for its 6th batch. The submission deadline is August 31, 2025. Details can be found [here](#).

5. Further news

5.1 IRDR IPO Visited DRR Research Teams in the United Kingdom

In April 2025, IRDR Executive Director Saini Yang and Science Officer Fang Lian visited several [DRR research teams in UK](#) to explore cooperation opportunities, including the IRDR ICoE RIA hosted by Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction at University College London (UCL), the National Hub for Decarbonised, Adaptable, and Resilient Transport Infrastructures (DARe team) from Newcastle University and Edinburgh Climate Change Institute (ECCI) of University of Edinburgh. By strengthening ties with leading UK institutions, IRDR aims to foster innovative partnerships that align with its Action Plan 2025-2027, particularly in areas such as vulnerability assessment, infrastructure resilience, and community-led risk management.

5.2 IRDR ICoE CCOUC Visited IPO to Advance Public Health Collaboration

On 27 May 2025, Director of IRDR ICoE CCOUC Emily Ying Yang Chan, and her team [visited the IRDR IPO](#) to strengthen collaboration on public health and disaster risk reduction (DRR). Discussions focused on joint initiatives to enhance DRR education in health emergencies—a priority area in the IRDR Action Plan 2025–2027. Emily Chan highlighted recent CCOUC and GX Foundation projects addressing public health risks in vulnerable regions across Asia and Africa, including Laos, Cambodia, Djibouti, Mauritania, and Senegal. A potential pilot study on health emergencies and DRR education was explored, with proposed outputs including a training syllabus, toolkits, workshops, and a virtual platform for knowledge sharing.



ICoE CCOUC visited IRDR IPO (source: IRDR). Left (from front to back): Emily Chan, Melody Wong, Wei Huang; Right (from front to back): Fang Lian, Saini Yang, Zhihao Wang

5.3 Chair of the IRDR NC-Iran Visited IPO

On 30 May 2025, Chair of IRDR National Committee for Iran (IRDR NC-Iran) Mohsen Ghafory-Ashtiany, visited the IRDR International Programme Office (IRDR IPO) to strengthen collaboration on urban resilience and capacity-building initiatives in West and Central Asia. Discussions centered on joint efforts to advance disaster risk reduction (DRR) education and a potential tripartite workshop on urban resilience involving IRDR, UNESCO, and the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES). Mohsen Ghafory-Ashtiany further presented recent developments, including a UNESCO-IIEES webinar and IIEES research progress in earthquake engineering and disaster risk mitigation, with emphasis on urban infrastructure resilience.



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