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Mobilising Science for the Reduction of All Types of Disaster Risk

In the last quarter of 2025, IRDR mobilised the global disaster risk reduction community through a wide range of initiatives as it continued to implement the [IRDR Action Plan, 2025-2027](#). Highlights include:

- convening the 28th meeting of the IRDR Scientific Committee (SC28), the second for the current cohort of SC members;
- increasing the staff complement of the International Programme Office (IPO) thereby enhancing the ability of the Secretariat to operationalise the [Action Plan](#);
- selecting three new ICoEs; and
- welcoming 15 young scientists to the membership of IRDR's Young Scientists' Programme (IRDR YSP).

Altogether, the initiatives undertaken during the last quarter of 2025 demonstrate IRDR's commitment to promoting a better understanding of disaster risk and the effective use of risk science in decision-making, and of the importance of knowledge exchange and partnerships among international organisations, academia and the private sector.

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Enabling the Full Operation of IRDR Phase II

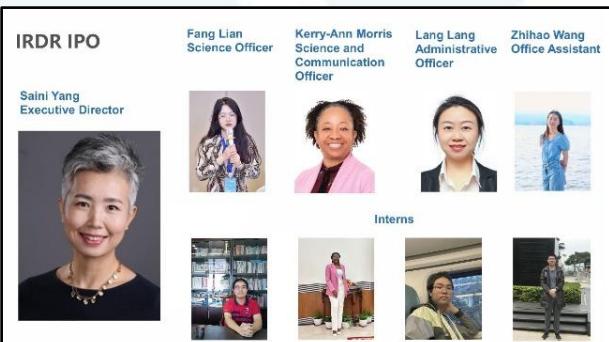


28th Meeting of the IRDR Scientific Committee

The 28th meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC) was held during the period 15-16 October 2025. This was the second meeting for the current cohort of SC members, who discussed important activities of the programme toward the implementation of [IRDR's Action Plan](#), and provided scientific guidance to the IRDR community and the IPO in planning, implementation and development.

The SC members also agreed that IRDR should play an integral role in providing scientific background for accelerating the implementation of the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015-2030](#).

For more information:
<https://irdrinternational.org/news/846>.



Staff of the IRDR International Programme Office

The technical staff of the IRDR [IPO](#), was increased thereby enhancing the ability of the Office to operationalise the [Action Plan](#).

Several interns also joined the IPO team to assist with the administrative and communication functions of the IPO.

For more information:
https://irdrinternational.org/irdr_community/ipo/.

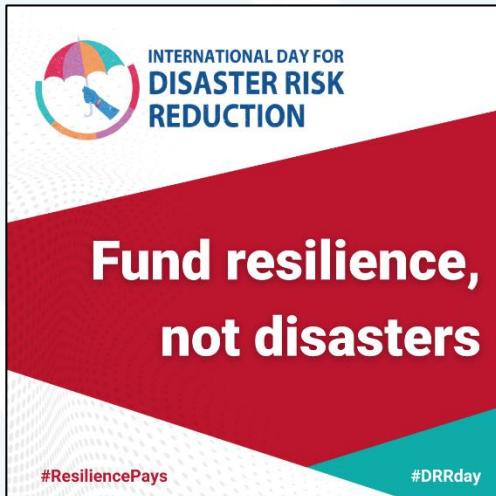


IRDR International Centres of Excellence

The programme welcomed [three new ICoEs](#) to the IRDR community. Following a rigorous evaluation process, it was found that the three selected host institutes embodied integrated approaches to DRR that directly contributes to IRDR's mission.

The full list of the 17 IRDR ICoEs can be found here:
https://irdrinternational.org/irdr_community/icoe/.

Coordinating and Facilitating International Research Cooperation



Observance of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025

The theme for the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025, observed on 13 October 2025, was “*Fund Resilience, Not Disasters*”, which called for a decisive shift to fund resilience now to avoid paying for disasters later.

IRDR SC members, Maria Soledad Garcia Ferrari, Nuraini Rahma Hanifa, and SC Chair Alik Ismail-Zadeh, provided messages for the observance of the day. [Ferrari's message](#) focused on building resilience through co-production in Latin America, [Hanifa's message](#) focused on local leaderships and inclusive initiatives, while [Ismail-Zadeh's message](#) highlighted the importance of prioritizing investments in disaster risk reduction as a cost-effective means of safeguarding communities.

IRDR ICoE Fudan Co-Organised 2nd International Conference on Chemical Weather and Chemical Climate

The 2nd Chemical Weather and Chemical Climate conference
CWCC 2025

African Research Center on Air Quality and Climate Change.

The conference hosted plenary talks from prominent speakers in the field and covered a wide variety of topics ranging from historical evolution of atmospheric sciences along with a future outlook; global and African emissions; the connection between air quality and health; early warning systems; science-policy-governance nexus from an African perspective; and an introduction to regional and global initiatives focused on advancing environmental sustainability in Africa by integrating multi-platform observations with multi-scale models and emerging AI technologies.

Two side events were also organised by IRDR ICoE Fudan in fostering engagement and collaboration with African academics, government agencies and stakeholders on climate change and health, AI for urban sustainability, and climate resilience, with participants expressing interest and willingness in joining related global initiatives.

After the successful 1st International Conference on Chemical Weather and Chemical Climate (CWCC) held in Shanghai in 2023, the [2nd CWCC](#) conference was held at the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) in Morocco during the period 14-16 October 2025. The conference was co-organised by Fudan University, International System for Monitoring, Analysis, and Prediction of Air Quality (MAP-AQ), International Global Atmospheric Chemistry (IGAC) Project, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), IRDR, and the

Coordinating and Facilitating International Research Cooperation (cont'd)



IRDR Plenary Session at 2nd International Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

On 20 October 2025, IRDR held a plenary session titled *“The emerging issues in the international cooperation on climate change and disaster risk”* during the conference. This session addressed the emerging challenges in international scientific cooperation on climate change and disaster risk reduction, and fostered dialogue on practical solutions that support inclusive and resilient international scientific collaboration.

For more information:
<https://irdrinternational.org/news/852>.



IRDR Co-Organised the Second Silk Road International Training Course on Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development

IRDR, along with the China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences and the UNESCO Chair for Mountain Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience, co-organised the “Second Silk Road International Training Course on Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development”, held during the period 21 October to 4 November 2025, in Chengdu, China. Two IRDR Young Scientists received full financial support to participate in the course.

For more information: <http://irdrinternational.org/news/857>.

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

Coordinating and Facilitating International Research Cooperation (cont'd)



IRDR High-Level Roundtable Event, *“Enabling an All-of-Society Engagement to Accelerate the Implementation of the Sendai Framework”*

This IRDR-organised high-level event, held on 3 November 2025, coincided with the mission to China of Mr. Kamal Kishore, the UN’s Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for DRR and Head of the UN Office for DRR (UNDRR).

The roundtable event brought together leaders from academia, top financial and insurance sectors, and non-governmental organisations in China to compile insights, identify actionable solutions, and to forge partnerships to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

For more information:

<https://irdrinternational.org/news/847>.

IRDR ICoE-Coherence Organised Academic Forum “The Future of Global Disaster Risk Reduction: Strengthening the Resilience of Megacities through Science, Technology and Innovation”



Speakers, SCJ members, and the ICoE-Coherence Secretariat at the Academic Forum. (Source: IRDR ICoE Coherence)

action.

On 9 December 2025, the Academic Forum *“The Future of Global Disaster Risk Reduction: Strengthening the Resilience of Megacities through Science, Technology and Innovation”* was held at the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) in Tokyo. The Forum was organised by the SCJ, in cooperation with IRDR ICoE-Coherence, and was conducted in a hybrid format with simultaneous Japanese–English interpretation, allowing wide participation from Japan and overseas.

Lessons from Recent Disasters in Japan

The first part of the Forum focused on lessons learned from recent disasters in Japan, particularly the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake and subsequent heavy rainfall. Speakers highlighted how cascading and compound disasters place pressure on disaster response systems and expose underlying vulnerabilities, especially in geographically isolated and aging communities. Scientific perspectives emphasised the importance of linking hazard analysis and disaster management with governance frameworks and community-level

Coordinating and Facilitating International Research Cooperation (cont'd)

Science, Technology and Innovation for Resilient Megacities

The afternoon session addressed the global importance of megacities, where dense populations and large concentrations of assets can significantly increase disaster impacts and their social and economic consequences. In this context, the Forum examined the forthcoming recommendations, “*Science, Technology and Innovation to Strengthen Disaster Resilience in Megacities Facing Catastrophic Disaster Risks*”, which are being developed under the Subcommittee on IRDR of the SCJ, with ICoE-Coherence also actively participating in the deliberation process.

The structure and purpose of the 14 recommendations were introduced, covering areas such as land-use management, public health during disasters, disaster information and communication, damage and loss assessment, capacity building, and the development of STI platforms for DRR. These recommendations aim to support evidence-based and risk-informed decision-making, while remaining practical and responsive to societal needs and future uncertainty.

International Perspectives and the Role of IRDR



Prof. Saini Yang, online, explaining “The Changing Global Risk Landscape” (Source: IRDR ICoE Coherence).

In this session, Prof. Saini Yang, Executive Director of IRDR, delivered a special lecture titled “*Integrated Research on Disaster Risk to Support the Implementation of the Sendai Framework*”. She explained how IRDR connects science, policy, and practice, and how data, emerging technologies, and interdisciplinary research can support the implementation of the Sendai Framework. She also highlighted the importance of capacity development, particularly for young scientists and practitioners.

The panel discussion that followed brought together experts from international organisations, government agencies, universities, and the private sector. Participants exchanged views on how the recommendations could be applied in different regional and institutional settings, reflecting diverse experiences and challenges.

Forum Chair’s Statement: Sharing a Common Direction



Prof. Kaoru Takara, Chair of IRDR ICoE-Coherence and IRDR SC member. (Source: IRDR ICoE Coherence)

The Forum concluded with a Chair’s Statement, delivered by Prof. Kaoru Takara, the Chair of IRDR ICoE-Coherence and IRDR SC member, which recognised that the world is facing increasingly complex and interconnected risks. The Statement reaffirmed the importance of international frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, and the New Urban Agenda, and highlighted the essential role of science, technology and innovation in building resilient and sustainable societies.

Strategic Discussions toward Implementation and Next Steps

The Academic Forum represented steps toward advancing the SCJ recommendations from scientific discussion to practical realisation. Looking ahead, IRDR ICoE-Coherence will continue to work closely with the IRDR community and other relevant

partners to support dissemination of the recommendations, promote capacity development, and explore concrete ways to apply them in megacities and other high-risk urban areas.

Coordinating and Facilitating International Research Cooperation (cont'd)



2025 International Forum on Emergency Medical Rescue

At the 2025 International Forum on Emergency Medical Rescue, themed *“Emergency Medicine: AI-Enabled Future”* was held in Beijing, China on 12 December 2025. As one of the keynote speakers at the plenary session, IRDR's Executive Director, Dr. Saini Yang, emphasised the critical integration of DRR with planetary health, and highlighted IRDR's practical work in health emergency and disaster risk management, highlighting the case from IRDR ICoE CCOUC.

For more information: <http://irdrinternational.org/news/860>.

Upcoming Webinar – Women in Scientific Organisations



To mark the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11 February 2026, the International Science Council (ISC), together with the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) and the Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science (SGCES), will host a webinar on Women in Scientific Organisations.

The webinar will present and discuss the main findings of the 2025 ISC–IAP–SGCES survey on gender equality in scientific organizations, with perspectives from some academies and international scientific unions on current good practices and remaining challenges.

- **Date:** 11 February 2026 (International Day of Women and Girls in Science)
- **Time:** 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (UTC)
- **Registration link:** [Zoom meeting](#)
- **Format:** 90-minute public webinar (Zoom)
- **Language:** English (with recording available after the event)

The webinar is open to all, and is an opportunity for scientific leaders, policymakers, and researchers seeking evidence to explore actionable ways to strengthen gender equality across the global scientific landscape.

More information about the webinar, including its objectives and programme, can be found [here](#).

Knowledge Production and Outreach

IRDR NC Iran Publishes Earthquake Preparedness Guidelines for Children with Disabilities

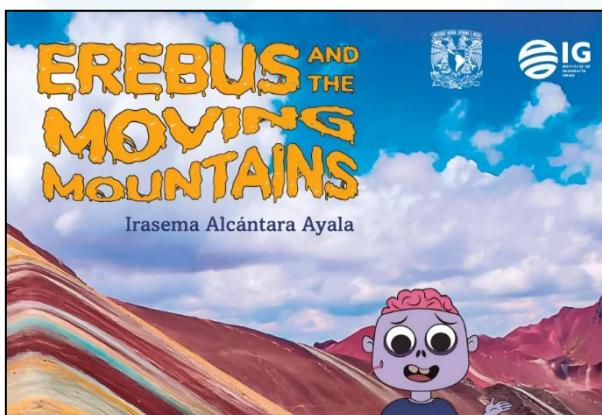


The earthquake preparedness guidelines for children with disabilities were unveiled on Monday, 15 December 2025 in a specialised workshop at the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES) with participation of officials and experts from the Special Education Organisation, the Youth Organisation of the Red Crescent Society, Iran Welfare Organization, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), IRDR Iran National Committee, as well as several non-governmental organisations and charities related to persons with disabilities.

These guidelines were prepared by IIEES

to promote preparedness of children with different types of disabilities for earthquakes in collaboration with UNICEF, UNESCO, and the UNESCO Regional Education and Research Center on Earthquake Risk Management and Resilience for West and Central Asia (RCECWA). These guides that are prepared for the first time in the world will be shared with other countries to be used for supporting these groups.

It is important to note that these guides have been prepared for three target groups: families and caregivers of these children, their instructors, and relevant officials. They highlight key issues to be addressed in the areas of disaster risk mitigation, preparedness, emergency response, and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.



Former IRDR SC Member Pens Story Book on Landslide Risks

Prof. Irasema Alcántara Ayala, former IRDR SC member and Professor and Researcher at the Institute of Geography of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, published a popular science story book about landslides and disaster risk.

"Erebus and the Moving Mountains" follows the main character, Erebus, a zombie, and his fellow zombie friends as they find themselves facing a situation in which the very mountain ranges they call home are changing drastically. They must work together to better understand what is happening to the mountains and how to respond.

Get your copy [here](#).

Empowering Young DRR Professionals



15 New Members Welcomed to the IRDR Young Scientists Programme

In November 2025, IRDR announced 15 new members of its Young Scientists Programme (YSP). This sixth cohort was chosen from a highly competitive pool from around the world, following a rigorous and independent evaluation process. The 15 successful candidates demonstrated exceptional promise in the field of disaster risk reduction and resilience. The final result reflects IRDR's commitment to geographic and gender diversity, with young researchers hailing from 13 different countries.

For more information: <http://irdrinternational.org/news/855>.



IRDR Young Scientists Programme Online Meeting

On 2 December 2025, IRDR successfully held an IRDR Young Scientists online meeting. This event was a strategic internal gathering for all members of the IRDR YSP, which brought together all six batches of IRDR Young Scientists. It aimed to welcome new members and jointly charted the course for action from 2026 onward. This meeting marks the beginning of a new, dynamically evolving, and member-driven phase of the YSP.

This inaugural IRDR YSP event marked a pivotal shift towards a self-driven and influential young scientists' community.

For more information: <http://irdrinternational.org/news/859>.



IRDR Young Scientist Leads Groundbreaking Study on Ocean Change

A new study led by Dr. Zhetao Tan, a member of the IRDR's YSP, has revealed that the Earth's oceans are undergoing rapid, simultaneous, and deep-reaching transformations due to climate change. Published in [Nature Climate Change](#), the research provides a stark assessment of how marine environments are being pushed into an unprecedented state.

For more information:
<https://irdrinternational.org/news/856>.

Notable Visits to the IRDR IPO



Visit to the IPO of UN SRSG for DRR and Head of UNDRR

On Tuesday, 4 November 2025, IRDR's Executive Director, Dr. Saini Yang, welcomed Mr. Kamal Kishore, the UN's SRSG for DRR and head of the UNDRR, to IRDR's IPO during his visit to the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS).

This visit came on the heels of the IRDR-facilitated high-level roundtable meeting, *"Enabling an All-of-Society Engagement to Accelerate the Implementation of the Sendai Framework"*, on 3 November 2025.

For more information: <http://irdrinternational.org/news/849>.



Visit to the IPO of a Delegation from South Africa's Department of Science, Technology and Innovation

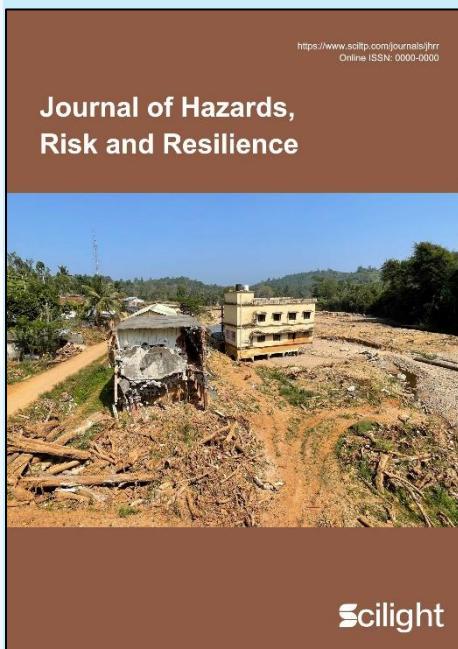
On 5 December 2025, Ms. Nomalungelo Gina, Deputy Minister of the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Republic of South Africa, visited the IRDR IPO during her visit to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Dr. Yang welcomed the delegation and introduced them to the missions, core research areas, and activities of IRDR. Ms. Gina emphasised the importance of disaster risk to sustainable development in South Africa and pointed out the domains for partnership with IRDR, especially in disaster risk assessment and capacity building for young professionals.

For more information: <http://irdrinternational.org/news/858>.

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.

Submission deadline: Thursday, 30 April 2026.

For detailed submission guidelines:

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

IRDR
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The IRDR programme invites submissions to the *Journal of Hazards, Risk and Resilience (JHRR)*. We welcome original research articles, review papers, and applied case studies that address one or more of the following integrated thematic areas:

SCOPE & THEMES

- 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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
• 30 April 2026

CONTACT US
jhrr@sciltp.com

Scan for submission details

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