



IRDR

Integrated Research on Disaster Risk



ANNUAL REPORT 2010



Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

Annual Report 2010

1. The IRDR

- The Integrated Research on Disaster Risk program was initiated in late 2008 by the co-sponsors ISSC, ICSU and UN ISDR. The first meeting of the IRDR Science Committee was held in Bergen Norway coincident with the World Social Sciences Forum. Subsequent meetings of the SC have taken place in Paris (October 2009, April 2010) and in Beijing in November 2010.
- Through internationally competitive processes, the Chinese Association of Science and Technology (CAST) was chosen as the host of the International Program Office and Dr. Jane Rovins of the United States was appointed as Director of the IPO.
- The opening ceremonies for the IPO were held in Beijing on November 18th, 2010.

2. Scientific Activities, including a description of the activities and an indication of the main outcomes

- Following the Science Plan, initial activities have focused on better understanding of the scientific gaps and strengths and on establishing partnerships with appropriate existing international programs (see 3 below). The Science Committee concluded that as part of this process it would be appropriate to undertake a series of very in-depth analyses of previous events. These studies would be called Forensic Disaster Investigations (FORIN for short). An ad-hoc FORIN study group has been established.
- FORIN is a series of case studies that will aim at analysis of crises or disasters caused by natural phenomena from which lessons can be learnt. The forensic investigations would be selected by the IRDR-SC, with invitations to individuals or groups to set up case study teams; there would also be invitations to the community to propose events to be studied in depth. The investigations will be carried out over the first three years of the IRDR programme and will be a key mechanism of identifying research to be carried over the ten-year programme. The new FORIN Working Group, led by Professor I. Burton (Canada), has now been established to formally

undertake the leadership of this project and is responsible for developing the common “template” for the studies and is charged with the further development and implementation of the forensic investigations. This group met in October in Geneva. We expect a template after the first of the year.

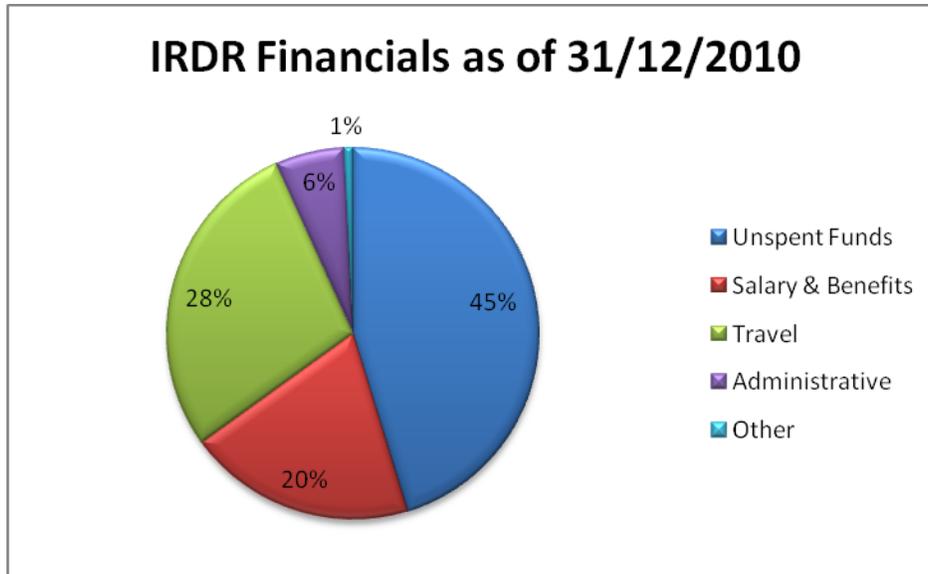
- The second objective of the IRDR was focused on decision making in risk contexts. In this context it was decided to establish a Risk Interpretation and Action working group under the chair of Professor R. Eiser (UK). The first meeting will be held the first quarter of 2011.
- IRDR National Committees launched in Canada, China, France, Germany and Japan. Several others are being developed. These are trans-disciplinary committees dedicated to the support of IRDR’s research initiatives, address local and regional concerns in the IRDR context and the establishment or further development of vital links between national disaster risk reduction programmes and activities within an international framework.
- An agreement has been concluded between the International Council for Science, the Academy of Sciences located in Taipei and IRDR to establish an IRDR International Center of Excellence. This Center is independently funded and will promote the IRDR objectives through research, capacity building. It is planned that there be other centres established, each with its geographical and scientific focus, consistent with the IRDR mandate.

3. Policy and Capacity Building

- Developed Terms of Reference for the IRDR International Centers of Excellence
- Developed Terms of Reference for the IRDR National Committees
- Signed Partnership Agreement with the World Climate Research Program (WCRP) and have several others pending.

4. The Finances and Budgetary Issues of the IRDR International Programme Office, including a brief summary of income and expenditure

- The baseline budget for the IPO is 2.7 million RMB (~€300,000). Additional contributions have been received: €30,000 from ICSU and USD\$30,000 from UNISDR.
- The ICSU funding was used to host the 3rd Meeting of the IRDR Scientific Committee in Paris, France. The UNISDR funding was used to fund one of the FORIN meetings and the rest will be used early next year to fund the Risk Interpretation and Action (RIA) working group meeting.
- To date a summary of expenditures is as follows -



NOTE: IRDR had a full year of funding for 2010. But was only open from June 1, 2010.

5. Governance and, the composition of the Scientific Committee.

The IRDR Programme is governed by a 15 member Scientific Committee (SC). The SC is comprised of the disaster and risk reduction experts from around the world. Members are chosen based on their scientific speciality as well as to ensure a geographical and demographical balance within the SC. The present members are:

- BENOUAR, Djillal, University of Science & Technology Houari Boumediene (USTHB), Algeria - seismology engineering
- CARDONA, Omar Darío, National University of Colombia, Manizales, Colombia – earthquake engineering and risk mitigation
- CHAN Kin Sek, Raymond, Civil Engineering and Development Department of Hong Kong, China – civil engineering, landslide mitigation
- CUTTER, Susan, University of South Carolina, USA – hazards & vulnerability
- EISER, Richard, University of Sheffield, UK – psychology, perception of risk
- JOHNSTON, David, Massey University, New Zealand – earth sciences, disaster management
- LAVELL, Allan, FLACSO, Costa Rica – social and developmental aspects of risk and disasters
- McBEAN, Gordon, Inst. for Catastrophic Loss Reduction, University of Western Ontario, Canada – CHAIR
- PATEK, Maria, Vienna, Austria – avalanches, torrents
- SIWAR, Chamhuri, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia – sustainable development and economics
- TAKEUCHI, Kuniyoshi, ICHARM, Japan – hydrology, civil engineering

- VOGEL, Coleen, University of the Witswatersrand, South Africa – geography, environmental studies
- WIRTZ, Angelika, Geo Risks Research, Munich Re, Germany – economic data on disasters
- + two (2) vacancies

Ex-officio:

- GUO, Huadong, Center for Earth Observation and Digital Earth (CEODE), CAS, Beijing
- HACKMANN, Heide, International Social Science Council (ISSC)
- MASKREY, Andrew, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
- MOORE, Howard, International Council for Science (ICSU)

Past members:

- MODARESSI, Hormoz, BRGM, Orléans, France – geohazards, remote sensing
- RENN, Ortwin, University of Stuttgart, Germany – environmental sociology

The IRDR International Programme office was opened on June 1, 2010 with the arrival of the Executive Director to China. The IPO moved location and was officially launched on November 18, 2010 in the new Center for Earth Observation and Digital Earth building in Beijing, China. The staff of the IRDR IPO consists of the following:

- Executive Director – Dr. Jane Rovins (two year contract)
- Administrative Officer – Lang Lang (two year contract)
- Science Officer - vacant
- Communications Specialist – Luke Driskell (three month contract)

The IPO has been actively recruiting potential science officers.