

United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth Participation at UNISDR Science and Technology Conference





UN Major Group for **Children and Youth** the space for children and youth in the United Nations

--- UNISDR Science and Technology Conference Report---

UN MGCY PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT AT THE UNISDR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T) CONFERENCE

Geneva,

Switzerland

27-29 January 2016

1.Executive Summary

The [UNISDR Science and Technology \(S&T\) Conference](#) was organized from 27-29 January 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland. Its aim was to provide a forum for scientists and innovators to discuss how to leverage their skills toward Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The core outcome of this conference was the adoption of the [UNISDR S&T Roadmap](#) which will assist in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030, adopted at the Third UN World Conference on DRR in Sendai, Japan, on March 18, 2015. A [S&T Partnership](#) was also launched, inviting relevant stakeholders to operationalize the S&T roadmap and commit to assist in the implementation, monitoring, and review of the Sendai Framework within their local contexts.

The participation of young scientists through different roles in the conference was made possible through the active outreach and engagement of the UNISDR Secretariat. They provide opportunities and facilitating the involvement of the group. Young scientists were engaged and active in all aspects of the conference; they were speakers in plenary and breakout sessions, poster presenters, organizers of side events, and active contributors to ongoing discussions about the S&T Roadmap. This report summarizes all relevant information related to young scientists engagement in the conference, and provides a comprehensive breakdown of their participation.



2.Introduction

From 27 – 29 January 2016, The UNISDR Science and Technology (S&T) conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland. The aim of the conference was to : (1) launch the UNISDR Science and Technology Partnership for the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and (2) discuss and endorse the UNISDR S&T roadmap to 2030 in order to define the expected outcomes of science and technology as a means of implementing and monitoring each of the four priorities for action in the SFDRR, as well as identifying emerging needs. The [UN Major Group for Children and Youth](#) (UN MGCY) was active in all working group sessions, with an aim to facilitate meaningful participation of young scientists, practitioners, and scholars in the conference and its outcomes. UN MGCY was able to advocate for the priorities and recommendations of youth in science and to ensure that youth were fully engaged in all aspects of the conference. A video summary of UNISDR S&T Conference can be seen [Here](#).

3.UN MGCY Activities in Geneva

The UNISDR S&T Conference on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 promotes and supports the availability and application of science and technology to assist decision-making in Disaster Risk Reduction. The conference launched the UNISDR S&T Partnership for the implementation of the Sendai Framework and adopted the UNISDR S&T Roadmap. The S&T Roadmap will define the expected outcomes of the science and technology work under each of the four Sendai Framework priority areas of actions, and the ways to monitor progress and needs.

The conference was organized into 4 Works Streams (WS), each with 3 Working Groups (WG):

Working Stream 1: The Science and Technology Partnership for the implementation of the Sendai Framework

Working Stream 2: Understanding Disaster Risk, Risk Assessment, and Early Warning

Working Stream 3: Use of science, technology and innovation tools, methods and standards to support the implementation and reporting of the Sendai Framework

Working Stream 4: Leveraging science through capacity development and research

Additionally, 6 side events were organized, ranging in topics:

1. Knowledge Hubs for DRR science for the implementation of the Sendai Framework
2. Science and Technology for Addressing Gender Inequality of Disaster Risk
3. Supportive publishing practices in DRR: Leaving no scientist behind
4. The Role of Youth in the application of Science for DRR (Organized by UN MGCY)
5. Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology in DRR
6. Research Funding for DRR

UN MGCY organized one side event on the topic of “The role of youth in the application of science for DRR” on the second day of the conference, Thursday, 28th January, 2016. Detailed information on the side event can be seen on the section 3.2.

3.1 Youth Speakers on Working Group and Side Event Session

Young people were actively engaged by sharing their ideas as speakers and discussants in working group panels and side events. In the WS4, WG3 on Research Gaps, Michelle Marteleira, a young scientist from University of British Columbia, contributed as a discussant. In WS4 WG2 on capacity building, two young scientists, Mario Salgado, a Ph.D. Candidate on earthquake engineering at Barcelona Tech and researcher at the International Center for Numerical Methods in Engineering and Moa Herrgard, Deputy Organizing Partner of DRR Working Group, UN MGCY took part in the discussion. Vitor Silva, a young scientist from Global Earthquake Model (GEM) and Uttam Shreshta, an early career scientist from Global Young Academy (GYA) participated in the WS3 WG3 on Sharing Innovations to Improve Implementation and Reporting of Sendai Framework. Moreover, in the side event on “Science and Technology for Addressing Gender Inequality of Disaster Risk”, Lydia Cumiskey from Deltares and UN MGCY discussed the role of young scientist and women in research on DRR.

3.2 Side Event on The Role of Youth in the Application of Science for DRR

Young scientists in both the social and natural sciences, as well mid-and-late career scientists attended this side event hosted by UN MGCY in large numbers. The session produced two main outcomes: (1) Key Messages and (2) Recommendations and commitments to the implementation of the S&T Roadmap.



Fig 1. Young, early-career, and senior scientists actively engaged at the launching of Young Scientists Platform on DRR

(See [Here](#) for more pictures of the event)

3.2.1 Key message

1. The first key message was that young scientists are actively involved in DRR. This includes not just the contributions to the Sendai process, but also research and academic inputs to the wider scientific community. Through this, young people have shown that they can provide valuable contributions.
2. There was a consistent call for collaborative platforms which bridge gaps to be multidisciplinary, intergenerational and effectively translate research into policy and practice. Such collaborations can foster innovative solutions for DRR and provide a paradigm shift in the research community, which can be further facilitated by technology.
3. An example of such a collaborative platform is The Young Scientists Platform on DRR which was launched at this side event (See [Here](#) for the concept note of the Platform). This platform will facilitate the collective sharing of information, identification of research gaps and foster collaborative research projects to build the capacity of young people.
4. Lastly, to develop the work and capacity of young scientists, it requires a two way responsibility. On one hand, young people need to build credibility and actively undertake research; on the other hand, the wider research community needs to provide more networking, training and capacity building opportunities for young

scientists.

3.2.2 Recommendations and inputs and commitments to the implementation of the S&T roadmap

1. Create and maintain a young scientists platform on science-policy interface which is streamlined in the local to global implementation of the Sendai Framework
2. Incorporating youth as a stakeholder to be engaged in the evaluation of science in policy formation
3. In priority area 4, adding provisions for training and mentorship for students and young professionals

Overall, young people have highlighted their commitment to the implementation of the Science and Technology roadmap, and their coordination enhanced by the Young Scientists Platform on DRR which was launched at this event. Young people are active and stand ready to be a key stakeholder partner in the Science and Technology partnership to implement the roadmap. The side event has gathered young scientist as well as early career and senior scientist together nicely and built up an effective conversation around the role of young scientist for Sendai Framework implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Detail list of moderator, speakers, and discussants can be seen in Annex 2.

3.3 Poster

In total, there are 10 posters presented by the young scientist from various disciplines of DRR science, ranging from health, risk communication, to governance issue. The detail information on the representation can be seen in Annex 3

3.4 Youth Speakers on Conclusion Session

The Deputy Organizing Partner of DRR Working Group, Moa M. Herrgard delivered the summary points on the overall 6 side events. Her role in such a prominent session shows young people as an equal partner on the process. (Summary points can be found [Here](#)).

3.5 Technical Contribution to the conference

a. Rapporteur

Four young scientists assisted the organizing committee members of the conference as a co-rapporteur together with one senior rapporteur. They were given an opportunity to gain experience and develop their capacity to summarize important

key messages from each of the session. Please find our coordination document and rapporteur notes [here](#).

b. Time Keeper

Several young scientists provide technical assistance as time keeper for some panels and working group session. Their role was significant to keep the time efficient during the sessions.

4.Stakeholder Connections

Over the course of the UNISDR Science and Technology conference, the team had many opportunities to meet and discuss interest on collaboration for the young scientist platform on DRR. UN MGCY is currently working on following up the communication in order to see potential cooperation in developing the young scientist platform with various stakeholders.

5.Media Coverage

Given the strong, widespread and successful youth representation across the different forums outlined, many of the media coverage and subsequent articles written about the event highlighted the strong youth voice at the conference, and the consistent call for young scientist to be included in complementing the UNISDR Science and Technology Roadmap. The following section provides an overview of the media coverage mentioning youth participation in the conference.

Media, News Outlets, or other stakeholders

- i. Closing statement from the newly appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Dr. Robert Glasser [link](#)
- ii. PeriPeri U website [link](#)
- iii. PreventionWeb [link](#)
- iv. Balguru news-India [link](#)
- v. Facebook Page -UNISDR on young scientist role [link](#)
- vi. Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response [link](#)
- vii. Global Young Academy [link](#)

6. Conclusion and Next Steps

Overall, young scientist has been taking a role to contribute on the evidence-based implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of Sendai Framework. They are actively engaged on the science aspect and keen to nourish the young scientists platform on DRR to be able to facilitate more engagement of young generation in scientific aspect of DRR. They are an equal partner on the effort to enforce science on policy making for Sendai Framework implementation. As of the time of report, follow-up is in process in the following ways:

1) Mobilising outreach to engage young scientist in young scientists platform on DRR

The governance structure of young scientists platform has been established and we are currently developing mechanism on outreach. This is important in order to ensure the widespread distribution of opportunities to engage young scientist from various geographical area and various field of science to endorse multi- and interdisciplinary as well as inter-generational approach.

2) Continuing communication with Member States and stakeholders

Secondly, there are many expression of interest to collaborate from various institution (i.e research, NGO, UN bodies, national government authorities). We are currently working on follow up in order to open the opportunity for positive collaboration in the activities of the platform.

3) Continued developing young scientist roadmap and indicators

Thirdly, the young scientists platform on DRR for the past months prior to UNISDR S&T Conference has been developing the young scientist roadmap ([link](#)) in order to complement the existing UNISDR S&T roadmap. The young scientist roadmap is aimed to specify activities and building repository on existing youth initiatives to contribute to action points of UNISDR S&T roadmap.

4) Application of S&T partnerships

Lastly, as the outcome of UNISDR S&T Conference is to build mutual partnerships, we are submitting the application to join the partnerships. This is crucial to institutionalize the contribution of young scientist to meaningfully contribute to the joint efforts on mainstreaming science and evidence based policy making for better implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of Sendai Framework.

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank the UNISDR Secretariat and Science and Technology Advisory Group (STAG) which is fully supporting and facilitating the establishment of Young Scientists Platform on DRR. We also thank other partners including United Nations Education Science and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), International Council for Science (ICSU), and Global Young Academy (GYA) for the meaningful support for the platform.

Annex 1

Young Scientists Representation in UNISDR S&T Conference

Name	Organization	Contributions to Conference
Michelle Marteleira	UBC / MEOPAR	Discussant in WG 4 Research Gaps
Karin Geffert	bvmd Germany, National Member Organization of IFMSA	Poster
Mehrnoosh Samaei	TUMS, National Member Organization of IFMSA	participant
Srijesa Khasnabish	Boston University	participant
Janice Ho	CCOUC/ Chinese University of Hong Kong	poster
Tiffany Yeung	Public Health England	part of organizing committee
Sharon Lo	Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response (CCOUC) / UN MGCY	Poster presentation Moderating C&Y Side Event
Moa Herrgard	UN MGCY / IFMSA	Coordinating DRR activities/advocacy; Speaker in Session on Education on DRR; Speaker in Conference Closing Ceremony
Annisa Triyanti	UN MGCY, University of Amsterdam	Rapporteur - Opening Plenary, WS3; poster- speaker side event
Donovan Guttieres	UN MGCY, Boston University	Rapporteur - WS3, WG3

Aashish Khullar	UN MGCY, CYI	Participant
Aleksandrina Mavrodieva	UN MGCY	Rapporteur - WS3, WG1
Lydia Cumiskey	Deltares	Speaker Side event, 2 posters
Lucy Fagan	UN MGCY, GHNGN, RCN	Rapporteur - WS3, WG2 Side event
Joel Gill	Geology for Global Development	Speaker Side Event; Poster WS1
Mario A. Salgado-Gálvez	CIMNE - UNISDR	Speaker side event, Poster WS2, discussant WG1 and WG3
Michelle Ford	UNEP	Participant

Annex 2

List of Speakers at the Side Event on The Role of Young Scientist for Sendai Framework Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation

Name	Organization	Outline of Statement
Sharon Lo (moderator)	Project Officer, Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response (CCOUC)	Moderator Guidance
Alexandrina Mavrodieva (opening speaker)	UN MGCY	
Joel Gill (panel speaker)	PhD student at King's College London, Founder/Director of Geology for Global Development	Speaking Points
Mario Andrés Salgado Gálvez (panel speaker)	Ph.D. Candidate on earthquake engineering at Barcelona Tech, Research Fellow of the International Center for Numerical Methods in Engineering	Speaking Points
Annisa Triyanti (panel speaker)	PhD candidate on governance and inclusive development at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands	Speaking Points
Dr. R.B. Singh (discussant)	Head and Coordinator-UGC SAP DRS III: Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi	
Luca Ragazzoni (discussant)	MD, PhD Disaster Medicine, CRIMEDM	

Uttam Babu Shrestha (discussant)	Global Young Academy	
Anne-Sophie Stevance (discussant)	ICSU	
<u>Outcomes:</u> Recommendations given on post-it notes can be found here and contacts here .		

Annex 3

Young Scientists Representation in Poster Session

Name	Organisation	Title of Poster
Workstream 1		
Sharon Lo / Janice Ho	Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response (CCOUC)	Building Community Health Resilience to Disasters: A Multi-stakeholder Partnership Approach
Lydia Cumiskey	Deltares	Supporting the UNISDR Science and Technology Partnership and Sendai Framework implementation
Workstream 2		
Janice Ho	Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response (CCOUC)	Awareness and Risk Perceptions of Extreme Temperature Warning in a Subtropical City in Asia: A Glimpse of the Young Educated Population

Annisa Triyanti	Amsterdam Institution for Social Science Research (AISSR) - University of Amsterdam- Centre of Sustainable Development Studies (CSDS)	Linking Interactive and Adaptive Governance for Disaster Risk Reduction
Mario A. Salgado-Gálvez et al.	International Center for Numerical Methods in Engineering	Probabilistic assessment of life-lost years due to premature mortality because of earthquakes in Latin America and the Caribbean
Mario A. Salgado-Gálvez et al.	International Center for Numerical Methods in Engineering	Urban seismic risk assessment with a holistic approach for the National District in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Lydia Cumiskey et. al	Deltares	Mobile Services for flood early warning in Bangladesh
Workstream 3		
Sharon Lo	Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response (CCOUC)	What are the Knowledge Gaps in Global Civil Society for Disaster Risk Perceptions? Insights from a Global Online Training Program
Karin Geffert	Medical Mission Institute, Germany	MEDBOX: Strengthening Quality of Health Action in Humanitarian Relief Through Online Library. Experiences from Two Years Online.

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