



Name of Event: [Side Event] Science Meets Practice

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Organizers: DPRI (Kyoto University), International Disaster Risk Reduction Conference – Global Risk Forum Davos, Integrated Research for Disaster Risk, International Council for Scientific Unions

Speakers:

- Walter J. Ammann, President, Global Risk Forum GRF Davos (Moderator)
- Jane E. Rovines, Executive Director, IRDR International Programme Office, Beijing
- Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, Director, UNESCO-ICHARM, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan and Associate Member of Science Council of Japan
- Toshiharu Kojiri, Professor, Head, Water Resources Research Center, DPRI, Kyoto University, Uji, Kyoto, Japan
- Franco Gabrielli, Head, Civil Protection Department – Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministries, Rome, Italy
- Daniel Eriksson, Head, Information Management Section, Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining, GICHD, Geneva, Switzerland

1) Overview

This Side Event was a session that intended to consider people's needs for efficient, sustainable solutions for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Integrative risk management, vulnerability reduction, and resilience increase are topics that need the multidisciplinary approach. How can science learn from practice and respond appropriately to practical needs? Are the practitioners ready to accept solutions from science? How can we bridge the gap between science and practice? The following five speakers addressed these questions in the session with scientists and practitioners, contributing to a better understanding of each other's needs and possibilities.

2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations

- Dr. Jane E. ROVINS (Executive Director, IRDR International Programme Office, Beijing) talked on "*Forensic investigations and risk - interpretation to action projects of IRDR*",

introducing IRDR science plan, its scope, objectives and cross cutting themes. Showing a number of IRDR partners, she stressed the importance of FORIN (Forensic Investigation), RIA (Risk Interpretation and Action), Disaster Loss Data Project, and Disaster Assessment Report. Important IRDR Legacy supposed are: An enhanced capacity to address hazards and make informed decisions on actions to reduce their impacts; and societies to shift focus from response-recovery towards prevention-mitigation, with resilience and reduced risks.

- Dr. Kuniyoshi TAKEUCHI (Director, UNESCO-ICHARM, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan and Associate Member of Science Council of Japan) made a presentation "*IRDR-Japan response to Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami*". He first introduced GEJET (Great Eastern Japan Earthquake to Tsunami) as a quick report. Then he mentioned the formation and activities of of the Japanese National Committee for IRDR (IRDR-Japan) so far. Raising some basic questions and necessity of climate change adaptation, he again dealt with GEJET shock affected Japan and the world, and suggested some lessons/reactions in Japan. IRDR Conference 2011 in Baijing was also introduced.
- Dr. Toshiharu KOJIRI, (Professor, Head, Water Resources Research Center, DPRI, Kyoto University, Uji, Kyoto, Japan) gave a talk "*Impact Assessment of Water Environment in the Future due to Global Warming*". He informed of earthquake and tsunami disaster in Japan in March 2011, especially damages on river channels. He then showed countermeasures against disasters and stressed the importance of integrated water resources management. He suggested a GCM-based water resources analysis method with a distributed hydrological model and that ACGM20 can detect regional impacts of climate change on water environment at river basin scale.
- Mr. Franco GABRIELLI (Head, Civil Protection Department – Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministries, Rome, Italy) talked on "*The need of a Global Risk Modeling initiative*", suggesting the co-ordination of emergency management resources is a major challenge in many countries. Various activities of Italian Department of Civil Protection were introduced. Showing examples of disasters in Haiti, Pakistan, New Zealand, Chile and Japan, he mentioned that better risk awareness is better constructions and planning, improved emergency response, and greater access to insurance. He also suggested the importance of uniform, standardized, internationally agreed methodologies and tools for computing and modeling the risks and introduced GEM (Global Earthquake Model) Initiative as a good example of global scientific collaborative approach.
- Mr. Daniel ERIKSSON (Head, Information Management Section, Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining, GICHD, Geneva, Switzerland) was the last speaker who talked on "*What practice needs from science: Lessons from mine action*". He first introduced the activities of the GUCHD, reviewed historical tendencies of science in mine action and said that research focus was on technologies for finding and destroying mines and reducing risk. The result was that the methodologies used to determine a

contaminated area were secondary, prioritization was inadequate, and clearance of huge areas without mines. He suggested land release for mine action risk management, reduction of suspected hazardous areas, increased efficiency and great reduction of clearance cost, showing an example in Mozambique during the past decade.

3) Conclusions

- The theme of the session was how science contributes to DRR practice. There were more than 60 participants from science (60%) and practice (40%) areas.
- A question was raised for the current situation of Global Climate Model application to water resources management and the loose linkage between science and practice. It was replied that spatial resolution of the model and computer simulation capacity are the burdens for scientists for giving better answers to the practitioners.
- IDRD could be one of the leading international research programs managed by ICSU. Another raised question for this was: how FORIN approach can contribute to fastest recovery? Societal, institutional, administrative order and societal capacity are very important to avoid longer "Paradise in hell" situation when disaster happened.
- Other several interesting discussions were made on the gap between science and practice as well as the efficiency of science.