



GADRI

Global Alliance of
Disaster Research Institutes

The Charter

of the Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI)

Adopted by the GADRI Board of Directors meeting held at GADRI Secretariat, Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), Kyoto University, Uji Campus, Kyoto, Japan on 24 June 2016



GADRI Charter

Background

Based on the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), advances have been made in the application of damage reduction principles, yet many challenges remain as seen by the continued increase in disaster losses. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR) has pointed out the needs to better link sustainable development and climate change towards a universal goal of harmonious life with nature and our planet. The Framework explicitly called for coordinated efforts by the scientific community to deepen the understanding of disaster risks, promote evidenced-based implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, and transfer and disseminate scientific knowledge and technologies in support of decision making processes.

Building on the momentum of these efforts, the “2nd Global Summit of Research Institutes for Disaster Risk Reduction: Development of a Research Road Map for the Next Decade,” discussed how the disaster research institutes could contribute to disaster risk reduction in the next 15 years, in accordance with the goals set out by the SFDRR.

In 2015, the Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (hereinafter referred to as “GADRI”) was established as a collaborative platform for engaging discussion, sharing knowledge and promoting networks on topics related to risk reduction and resilience to disasters.

Article 1: Name and vision

1.1 Name

Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI) – hereinafter referred to as “GADRI”.

1.2 Vision

GADRI strives to deepen the understanding of disasters and find implementable solutions to achieve disaster resilience; i.e. human, technical system and infrastructure resilience, survivability and well-being, by integrating knowledge and technologies from around the world.

Article 2: Purpose and Objectives

2.1 Purpose

GADRI seeks to contribute to enhancing disaster risk reduction and disaster resilience in close collaboration with organizations around the world through sharing of information, knowledge, experiences, ideas and initiatives on relevant research.

2.2 Objectives

To achieve the above purpose, GADRI has the following objectives:

- a. To establish a global research network that promotes and engages disaster research.
- b. To provide a research road map, with plans that help facilitate the organization of disaster research groups.
- c. To promote capacity building and development of disaster research institutes and enhances researcher and student exchange.
- d. To promote exchange and sharing of data and information for scientific research across the globe.

- e. To serve as an advocacy organization presenting evidence-based approaches that influence decision-making processes.

Article 3: Activities

GADRI will engage in the following activities:

- a. Planning and organization of collaborative disaster risk research initiatives
- b. Formation of international research groups to investigate current global disasters, and implement new research methodologies for disaster risk reduction and implementation
- c. Establishment of an international network for timely communication related to research on disasters
- d. Organization of conferences, workshops and meetings
- e. Dissemination and sharing of information, publications, reports, data and other research outputs
- f. Facilitation of rapid reconnaissance field surveys following disasters
- g. Preparation of GADRI news releases, policy recommendations, news bulletins, research reports, and other publications.

Article 4: Membership

- 4.1 Institutes with an aim to contribute to the advancement of disaster research, and those working in the field of disaster risk reduction are eligible to become members of GADRI.
- 4.2 Those interested institutes should complete the membership form and submit it to the Secretariat for acceptance.
- 4.3 For the purpose of sharing knowledge and promoting collaboration, GADRI may designate, on grounds of excellence related to disaster research implementation for risk reduction, certain institutions and centers as associated institutions/collaborating institutions, on terms and conditions to be decided by the Board of Directors.

4.4 At present, there is no membership fee charged to members. Donations are welcomed.

Article 5: Organizational Structure

The structure of GADRI consists of:

- a. General Assembly which includes all GADRI member institutions.
- b. Board of Directors that shall serve as the governing board of GADRI based on representatives from institutions elected to board level by GADRI membership.
- c. Chair elected by the Board of Directors.
- d. Secretariat with Secretary-General elected by the Board of Directors.

Article 6: General Assembly

- 6.1 The General Assembly includes all member institutions including the Board of Directors' member institutions.
- 6.2 The General Assembly approves the members of the Board of Directors.
- 6.3 The General Assembly approves important decisions made by the Board of Directors.
- 6.4 The General Assembly approves the location and functions of the Secretariat.
- 6.5 GADRI shall nominally hold a biennial General Assembly as part of the Global Summit.

Article 7: Board of Directors

- 7.1 There shall be a Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as “the Board”) to be established on a broad geographical basis with regard to academic, scientific, educational and disaster vulnerability trends in the world, and recognizing the designated research areas. The Board shall have 11 member institutions serving in their individual capacity, who shall be nominated by the Secretariat and approved by the General Assembly.
- 7.2 The Board shall elect a Chair of the Board to facilitate discussions and present reports to the General Assembly.
- 7.3 The term of Board members is four years. Half of the first Board will serve for two years.
- 7.4 The Board shall:
- a. Formulate principles and policies which shall guide the activities and operations of the Board.
 - b. Accept membership of institutions and centers to encourage cooperation and sharing of knowledge.
 - c. Formulate the work programme and budget.
 - d. Approve project proposals.
 - e. Review outcomes of the execution of its plans.
 - f. Issue directives and recommendations necessary or desirable for the effective functioning of GADRI.
 - g. Report biennially to the General Assembly.
- 7.5 The Board shall meet in regular sessions, with a quorum of two-thirds of Board member institutions, at least once a year. The Board meeting shall be convened by the Secretariat of GADRI.
- 7.6 The Board shall consider options and methods for financing of future operations, and continuity within its framework. It shall also consider various agreements/MOUs with institutions and centers in order to

promote activities of GADRI.

Article 8: Secretariat

- 8.1 With endorsement of the General Assembly, the GADRI Secretariat is currently located at the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), Kyoto University, Uji Campus, Kyoto, Japan which supports its operation.
- 8.2 The roles and responsibilities of the Secretariat are:
- a. The Secretariat shall be responsible for the direction, administration, programming and coordination of GADRI; and ensures effective and prompt action.
 - b. The Secretariat shall function under the instructions and suggestions of the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General shall be decided by majority vote of the Board of Directors.
 - c. To propose specific activities to the Board of Directors.
 - d. To facilitate the formulation and implementation, with the approval of the Board, of policies, programmes and priorities identified by the General Assembly.
 - e. In order to accomplish its goals, the GADRI Secretariat may organize internationally coordinated research initiatives with appropriate institutions and centers.
 - f. To organize meetings of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.
 - g. To coordinate communication and disseminate information among members.
 - h. To provide services to members and other organizations as authorized by the Board.
 - i. To develop publications and outreach materials.
 - j. To maintain a website and update the information contained therein;
and
 - k. To promote membership of GADRI.

Article 9: Representation of the Views of GADRI

The Board shall determine the manner and procedure for establishing the collective views of GADRI pertaining to any matter within its functions, scope or activities. These collective views may be presented to governments or private groups, without impairing the rights of individual members to present their own views.

Article 10: Committees

The Board shall create committees to carry out important functions of GADRI or undertake activities on specific issues. Committees can be formed in response to needs of the disaster risk reduction community.

Article 11: Resources

- 11.1. GADRI shall welcome funds and / or other forms of support necessary for its work through direct or indirect contributions, donations, grants and legacies, provided these are in line with the vision, purpose and objectives of GADRI.
- 11.2. The Secretariat will prepare a budget with the available resources for approval by the Board of Directors.

Article 12: Amendments

The Charter shall be amended with the following procedures:

- a. A request for amendments shall be a written submission to the Secretariat,

either by a member of GADRI or by the Board, not later than two months prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.

- b. Such proposals shall be circulated to the members of GADRI at least one month prior to the General Assembly.
- c. Proposed amendments shall be accepted by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly members present and voting.
- d. The approved amendments enter into effect at the closing of the General Assembly.

Finalized at the GADRI BoD Meeting held at the GADRI Secretariat,
DPRI, Kyoto University, Uji Campus, Kyoto, Japan on 24 June 2016