



4th Open Discussion Forum of GADRI

Achieving the Objectives of the Charter of GADRI

Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), Kyoto University, Uji Campus, Japan

Online Zoom meeting

15 March 2022

21:00 to 23:00 JST

The 4th Open Discussion Forum of GADRI under the theme of “Achieving the Objectives of the Charter of GADRI” was held virtually on 15th March 2022 from 21:00 to 23:00 JST.

A total of 72 participants from 30 economies joined the discussion.

The programme was opened by Prof. Paul Kovacs, Chair, Board of Directors of GADRI; and Prof. Hirokazu Tatano, Secretary-General, GADRI.

1. Committee on S&T Roadmap

Chair: Prof. Sumit Sen, IIT, Roorkee, India

Presenter: Dr. Stefan Hochrainer-Stigler, IIASA, Austria

In the absence of Dr. Stefan Hochrainer-Stigler, IIASA, Austria, Prof. Tatano stated that this is much discussed area and much work has already been done by the UNDRR. Many reviews and documents are available online too. What GADRI plans to do is work on missing research gaps, and seek opportunities for improvements.

The commitment made in the Charter of GADRI is that one of the core things GADRI would be involved in is to be part of the global determination of what the agenda is for issues being dealt with from a science and technology point of view. In this field, there is insufficient foresight and much need to be done to promote foresight and techniques of foresight and GADRI’s initiatives will be welcomed.

The Chairs of the following committees shared the objectives and views for each committee:

2. Committee on Institutional Capacity Building (Annex 4-a)

Chair: Dr. Indrajit Pal, AIT, Thailand

Presenter: Prof. Wei-Sen Li, NCDR, Chinese Taipei

Prof. Wei-Sen Li

Directions to work together on DRR (1/2) - through Institutional Capacity Building

1. Case studies on evidence-based disaster risk reduction

To study policies and implementations on applying science and technology for DRR through finding gaps and needs (to connect the last mile and initiate first mile – Rajib Shaw)

Possible topics: individual nation plans in science development, land-use planning, early warning, risk maps, etc.

2. Build back better- trend & policy on post-disaster recovery

To understand required and necessary elements for short-term, mid-term and long-term recovery (to learn lessons from successes and failures)

Possible topics: reviews on large disasters, reconstructions plan, economy revitalization, livelihood restoration, etc.

3. Leadership and decision making on disaster management

To learn skills and the best practices for leading a team of policy making, emergency response or on-field operations (to educate scientific disaster manager)

Possible topics: risk communication, crisis management, principles of emergency operation, ICT & GIS tools of decision support, etc.

4. Role of NGO, NPO & business by public-private partnership

To explore contributions on DRR by private sector and policy to engage them at different phases of disaster management. (to channel DRR knowledge to stakeholders)

Possible topics: community-based disaster risk management, business continuity plan, risk perfection, etc.

5. Regional and global mechanisms and resources for DRR, CCA and SDGs

To understand frameworks, trend, policy guidelines, operations, projects, and funding agency at regional and global levels (to leverage resources by better networks)

Possible partners: UN organizations, APEC, ASEAN, GADRI, IRDR ICoEs, Future Earth.....

3. Committee Data and Information Sharing (Annex 4-b)

Chair: Dr. Rodrigo Cienfuegos, CIGIDEN, Chile

Presenter: Prof. Andrew Collins, UKADR; and DDN, Northumbria University, UK

Current Vision: An action based, dynamic, multi-voice data information system

Principles:

- The global research community is only as effective as the usefulness and applications of its data ... bridging knowledge gaps through activating data and information for utilized knowledge.
- Bridging of knowledge gaps through a whole of society objective, influencing social and behavioural change to enable disaster risk reduction.
- Identifying the keys to a more comprehensive bridging of knowledge gaps through activating data and information for utilized knowledge?
- Learning how GADRI institutions use their disaster research data processes to have more impact in disaster risk reduction?

Note: GADRI, GS 2021

Transfer of the UNDRR DwG (2020) concluding orientation into GADRI Data Sharing Committee key elements:

- Identification of ongoing case studies that trace the effectiveness of action data processes.
- Establishment of a network of 'data champions' to oversee this process, either managed by UNDRR or outsourced to other networks.
- Enhance sense making at all levels of risk governance to improve data driven decision-making for DRR and sustainability.
- Maintain an integrative approach to data using all relevant global, regional and local initiatives in multi-disciplinary terms of engagement, such as through the GRAF, Sendai Framework Monitor, UNDRR partnerships and non-UN Alliances such as for example the Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI).
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Note: Collins, A.E., Richardson, B. and Zodrow, I. (2020) UNDRR STAG Data Working Group (DWG): Report on Concept, Activity and Implication, United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction; <https://www.undrr.org/publication/stag-data-working-group-report>

GADRI Data Sharing, Action Data and Active Data Base – next steps:

1. Committee opening meeting
2. Consolidation of conceptual framework
3. Compilation of ready formed contributing ingredients
4. Evolution of methodology - actions toward the vision
5. Engaging stakeholders
6. Initial report (target date ?)

Prof. Lori Peek shared information on a project on data training, data publication, and Data Ambassadors.

<https://converge.colorado.edu/data/>

4. Committee on Advocacy (Annex 4-c)

Chair: Prof. Paul Kovacs, Chair, GADRI; and Executive Director, ICLR, Adjunct Research Professor, Economics, Western University, Canada

Presenter: Prof. Rajib Shaw, Fujisawa Campus, Keio University, Japan

Objective 5: to serve as an advocacy organization presenting evidence-based approaches that influence decision-making processes

Where is the gap in advocacy?

- Balancing interest and demand: We do advocacy based on “our” [researcher’s] interest
- Gap identification: Need to change our mindset to understand the gaps, both at the policy as well as grassroots level
- Last and first mile: The so-called “last-mile” [where we put us, the researcher as Mile Zero and community as the last mile] needs to be the “first mile” [where we start from the needs and priorities both at the policy and practice level]
- Youth led innovation: Generation Z [who have been born with internet] has a different mindset for innovation, which need to be explored

Fulfilling the Institutional Void by promoting partnership

- Need more entities to bring research, and innovation into DRR, Climate Change and Sustainable Development
- Need to promote:
- Sci-preneuership = Scientist + Entrepreneur

Global-regional-national-local-thematic

- Regional advocacy: While global advocacy is important, the actual advocacy actions happen in regional and national level: focus on regional GADRI like SAADRI (south Asia) as well as other regional nodes
- National advocacy: Strengthening national nodes through knowledge and evidence resources
- Thematic advocacy: need to be specific on thematic issues like: water management, urban resilience, eco-DRR, blue-green infra, critical infra etc. : need to prioritize some specific areas

Youth involvement

- GADRI needs to have its specific youth brigade for research and innovation

- Can collaborate with existing youth led initiatives like U-Inspire
- Provide innovation ecosystem for youth participation and leadership

Media and communication

- Need to provide specific advocacy message for policy and practice
- Co-design the message with science communication
- Work closely with different types of media and generate media and advocacy strategy

5. Committee on Networking (Annex 4-d)

Chair: Prof. Ortwin Renn, IASS, Potsdam, Germany

Presenter: Prof. Charles Scawthorn

Networking: *the action or process of interacting with others to exchange information and develop professional or social contacts*

(GADRI context): ***“fostering [mechanisms and actions for] communication and exchanges to promote disaster research”***

- Just formed, no specific activities as yet
- Possible activities being considered:
 - Some sort of **blog on disaster research** (time intensive, need a natural blogger)
 - Or, **aggregate other blogs related to disaster research** (ditto)
 - Develop and promote a **template for personnel exchanges (“GADRI Scholars”)** (funding?)
 - Create a scholarly *journal of disaster research* (what is GADRI already doing?)
 - Better utilize social media

Prof. Charles Scawthorn stressed that the Committee on Networking is more about communicating with people and not organizations.

Prof. Lori Peek shared the following information on existing networks within the organisation:

GEER and STEER also have member surveys similar to SSEER member survey. So perhaps those could also be used for potential items to help if a directory were to be launched.

For example: <https://geerassociation.org/join-geer>