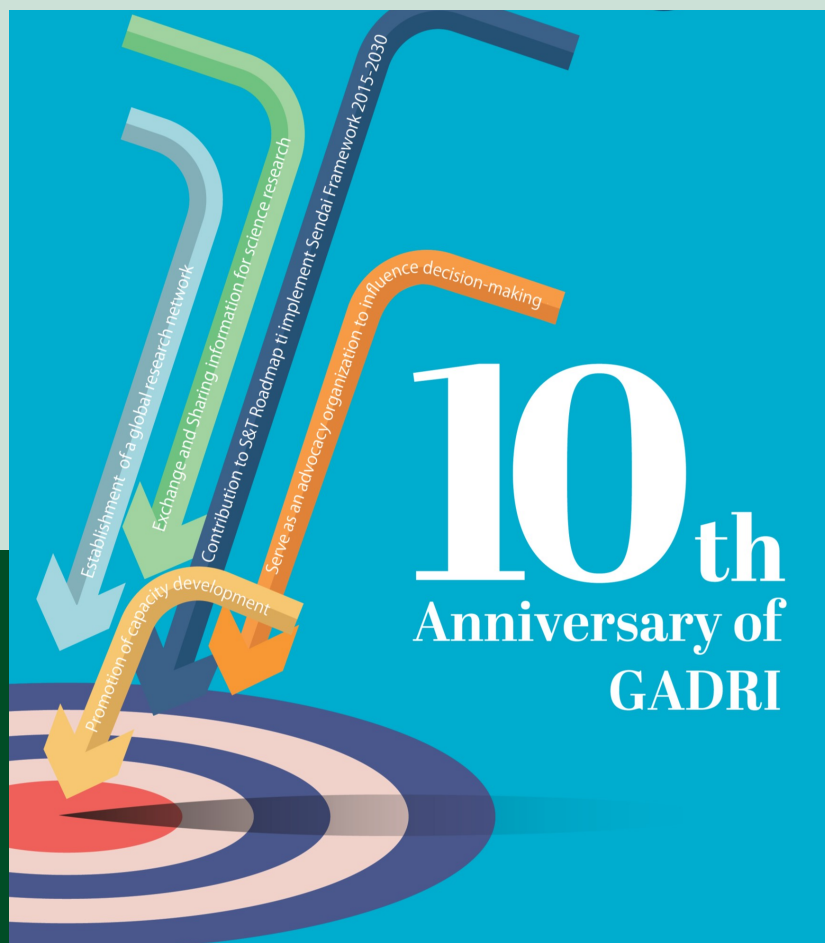


# GADRI ACTIONS

Winter 2025

Volume 23— Number 1



Dear Members of GADRI,

This newsletter reports on the Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of GADRI which was hosted by the Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA on 20 July 2025.

The 10th Anniversary of GADRI explored its activities since its established in March 2015 soon after the adoption of the Sendai Frame Agenda for Disaster Risk Reduction.

GADRI has collectively contributed to the Science and Technology Roadmap and participated STAG and GRAF and many other UNDRR committees and activities. GADRI was particularly involved in contextualization of the Science and Technology Roadmap.

On this milestone occasion of GADRI anniversary, it also paves an opportunity to look at past research, review what has been done, and how it has evolved in time with the current DRR research and practices.

- Was GADRI built on the right foundation?
- Did we set the right objectives?
- How far have we moved in supporting the SFDRR 2015-2030?

The answer to some of the above-mentioned questions is an “overwhelming yes”; and

Yes, we are supporting and contributing to the Sendai Framework and other global stakeholders, too.

When GADRI was formed we knew that we were in the right path to work on the disaster risk and reduction and disaster resilience. The scientific knowledge, and tools are there to make the right decision. However, it remains a challenge as how to bring forward that scientific knowledge to the forefront and convince the practitioners and decision-makers to utilise it in today's disasters and mitigation strategies.

GADRI Community continues to significantly contribute to the Sendai Framework. Through our biennial questionnaire survey, we were able to stocktake of progress and achievements of our science community in their research towards disaster risk reduction and disaster mitigation in national and local levels.

This occasion of the 10th Anniversary of GADRI, also prompts us to reflect on proven strengths and gaps in our research, future directions, and ways to enhance and strengthen community awareness and practice to disaster resilience.

I hope you will enjoy reading the discussions held at the 10th Anniversary of GADRI workshop.

Hirokazu Tatano

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- 10th Anniversary of GADRI Celebration
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- Recommendations

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GADRI Actions is designed, formatted and edited by Hirokazu Tatano and Wilma James.

# Celebration of the 10th Anniversary – 20 July 2025

## A Decade of Excellence in Collaboration

### 10 Years of International Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction



10 years of alliancing in disaster risk reduction and resilience to disasters. The meeting focused on the history and future of the scientific community, particularly GADRI activities and its future directions. The importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing were discussed; and noted the importance of global platform such GADRI to coordinate science reports and activities. The meeting

also addressed the role of regional STAGs and the potential for GADRI to step up in this area.

Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI) celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA on 20 July 2025 from 13:00h to 17:00h. The Master of Ceremonies for the program, Dr. Roger Baars, GSGES, Kyoto University welcomed everyone to the meeting and encouraged them to share their experiences and stories during the past

The first distinguished speakers for the opening ceremony of the workshop were as follows:

- Prof. Tomoharu Hori, Director, Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), Kyoto University, Japan.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Hori highlighted GADRI's growth to 218 institutes across 57 economies since its establishment in March 2015. By hosting the GADRI Secretariat at DPRI, Prof. Hori stated how the collaborative initiatives have complemented both, the DPRI and GADRI in their shared goals to reduce disaster risk reduction and resilience to disaster. Prof. Hori further stated that DPRI will continue to support the activities of GADRI in its future research activities, especially in the integration of much more needed research, knowledge and data sharing and focus on risk, informed decision making as researchers in the field of disaster risk reduction, and science. It should also be one of our important aims to

promote community awareness and resilience to disasters. Together we can continue to promote better preparedness in our communities and societies so as to reduce vulnerability to disasters.



# Celebration of the 10th Anniversary – 20 July 2025

## A Decade of Excellence in Collaboration

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- Prof. John van de Lindt, Co-Director, Center for Risk-Based Community Resilience Planning, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA

Prof. van de Lindt, representing Colorado State University, welcomed attendees and acknowledged the collaborative efforts leading to hosting the event. Prof. van de Lindt initiated hosting of GADRI events leading to the 10th Anniversary of GADRI and the 7th Global Summit of GADRI as well as the Board meeting by the Colorado State University, Fort Collins, in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

- Prof. Paul Kovacs, Chair, Board of Directors of GADRI; and Executive Director, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR), Western University, Canada

Prof. Kovacs reflected on GADRI's progress since its establishment, emphasized the need for continued research collaboration and community resilience, while expressing gratitude for the organization's relevance amidst global challenges. Prof. Kovacs is one of the founding members of GADRI.

- Prof. Hirokazu Tatano, Secretary-General of GADIR; and Head, Research Center for Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, DPRI, Kyoto University, Japan

Prof. Tatano expressed his appreciation and thanked everyone for the continued support, cooperation and collaborations extended to GADRI. He acknowledged and thanked the host, Prof. John van de Lindt for helping GADRI realize the vision to move GADRI Summit series abroad. Prof. Tatano stated that he looks forward to learning from the speakers to find pathways to advancing GADRI's role in disaster risk reduction research.

The speakers also reflected on the establishment of GADRI way back to 2011 when the First Global

Summit of Disaster Research Institutes was organized by DPRI, Kyoto University during the aftermath of the mega earthquake and tsunami in East Japan in March 2011 where it was proposed to form a forum of institutes engaged in disaster risk research. During the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015 held in Sendai, Japan, the members recalled how the same conversation was picked up once again. Impressively, all those who proposed to establish an alliance of disaster research institutes moved all the way from Sendai to Kyoto by train after the UN Conference, and GADRI was established in March 2015 at DPRI, Kyoto University. GADRI's birthday coincides with the birthday of the Sendai Framework Agenda for 2015 to 2030.

**Happy Birthday GADRI!**  
**Hooray!**



Group Photo: 10th Anniversary Celebration of GADRI, Lory Student Center, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA—20 July 2025

## Keynote Speech

What has it meant to alliance disaster research, and what next?

Prof. Andrew Collins, Professor Emeritus, Northumbria University, New Castle, UK



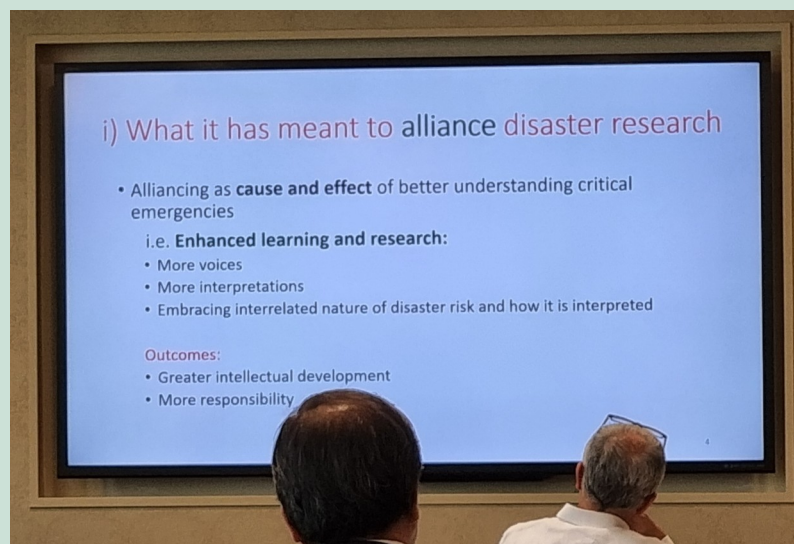
- “Re-alliancing” for effective disaster research involves enhancing collaboration among diverse stakeholders; its importance in addressing interdisciplinary research needs, enhancing learning, and improving disaster risk reduction; **“keeping pace with new demands of research and learning”**;

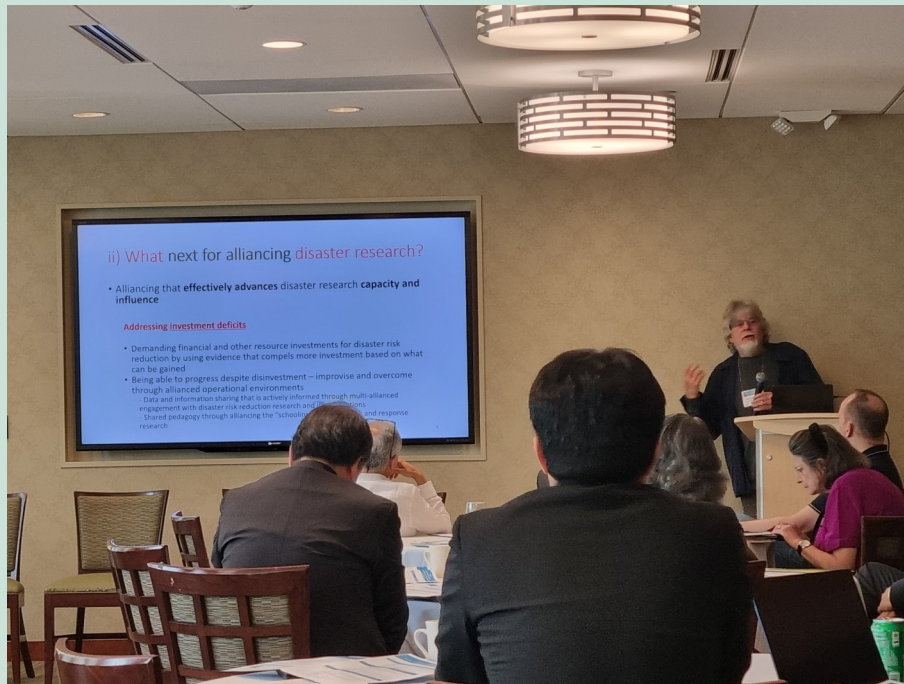
- emphasized the need for GADRI to advance knowledge, confront misunderstandings, misrepresentation, and other obstacles to progress with evidence-based awareness and solutions;

Prof. Andrew Collins, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences / Disaster and Development Network (DDN), Northumbria University, UK

On discussions of the role and future of the Global Alliance for Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI) and way forward, he stressed the importance of:

- “alliancing that **effectively advances** disaster research **capacity and influence**” - with the introduction of new technology, societies are more exposed to more vulnerabilities; facing investment deficits: investments for disaster risk reduction is shrinking; and impact pathway.
- Are we really creating the impact that we needed?
- Embracing complexity whilst providing accessible approaches that manage disaster risk and response; how can we really communicate that?
- How can we present that in a way that is accessible beyond our own science or our own academic environments?
- address investment deficits in disaster research; demanding financial and other resource investments for disaster, risk reduction by using evidence that compels the need for more investment. **A means to investing in quality of life:** Whereby human security offsets disaster loss and damage, being foundational for well-being, to thrive beyond just surviving;

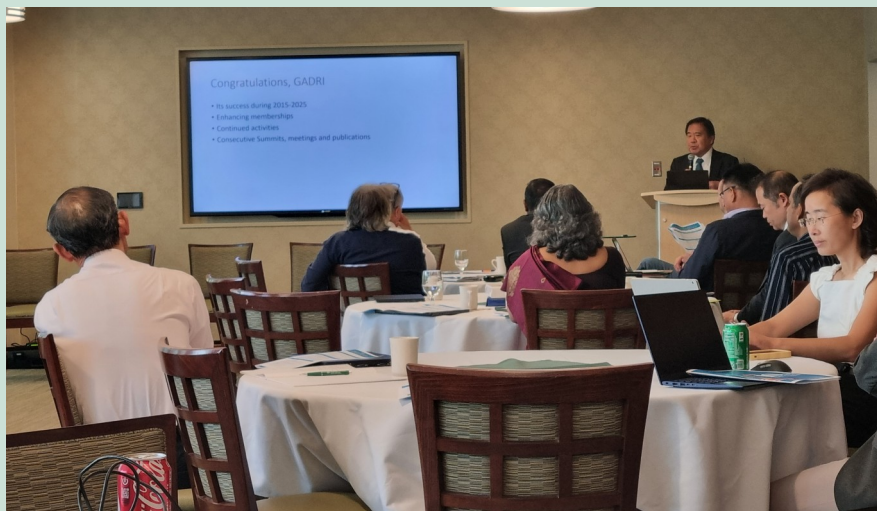




- importance of monitoring, evaluating, and replicating research impacts, as well as collaborating to remove barriers to disaster risk reduction and response; and bringing forward the knowledge accumulated to new settings; and
- **Conflict and Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR):** Whereby conflict early warning, prevention and peace building post conflict draws from the research and learning of integrated disaster prevention, reconstruction and rehabilitation actions.
- Disaster risk reduction is needed in all aspects of sustainable development. The engine of change is to think and act globally, think and act locally and identifying and helping to alter social, environmental and economic ways of living orientated to survivability. It is part of the interrelated agenda of disaster risk reduction and response, using our research and education orientated capacities indefinitely and at all levels.



## Panel Discussion Session I: First Decade of GADRI: Achievements and Our Collective Contributions to the Science and Technology Community — Chair: Norio Maki and Kaushal Keraminiyage



Prof. Takara emphasized the need for GADRR to address conflict prevention and resolution. What is scientific research and technology development. Research is creation of knowledge and development is creation of value. Science is collection of knowledge created by research and technology is various means creating value.

Linking with the new demands, Prof. Kaoru Takara's presentation on "Progress of DRR DX Science and Technology". He looked at how technology is related to disaster risks that we are facing in the future like digitalization. As a society, we are exposed to more digitalization and that itself is a challenge that creates more digital vulnerabilities.

Prof. Gretchen Kalonji after congratulating the visionary founders of GADRI and stressed that without doubt, what brings GADRI community

together is the mutual trust and respect. She highlighted three important items for GADRI to focus on going forward:

- GADRI to focus on post-Sendai-SDGs
- work on economic losses, new resilience targets such as Covid and conflicts; and DRR investments not only financial but human resources as well. More economic studies to prove the importance of investment in DRR.
- GADRI could submit a proposal to: Pacific STAG; and Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on disaster discussion.





Prof. Ono Sensei discussed the importance of monitoring loss and damage data and financing disaster risk reduction in a global scale.

While agreeing with the other speakers, Prof. Ono mentioned that the Midterm Review on the implementation of Sendai Frameworks noted while some progress has been made in areas such as governance and early warning systems, it is not sufficient to meet the 2030 targets especially in the area of investment in disaster risk reduction. Some of the hindrances could be economic, war and conflict in regions, the global pandemic, and other factors. He stated that prior to Sendai Framework, many countries did not collect loss and damage data. Sendai Framework collected and measured these data to

minimize loss and damage by disasters. He also discussed the difficult accessing this data due to various policies or restrictions by national or local governments. The Sendai Framework also clearly calls for evidence-based and data-based policymaking. If this is not adhered to by policymakers, there is the risk of progress and making ineffective decisions. Investment in disaster risk reduction is not much talked about. There is a need for more economic studies to prove the importance of investment in DRR. GADRI could focus on this area; and consider submitting a collective report to the forthcoming Pacific STAG or the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference.



## Summary of Panel Discussion Session I

by Prof. Norio Maki, DPRI, Kyoto University, Japan



### A brief summary of the Panel Session I:

The keynote speech by Prof. Andrew Collins touched upon why it was necessary to establish a forum such as GADRI; and where it is now. The main objective of GADRI is to support the Sendai framework; the importance of moving forward with impactful collaborations to removing barriers to disaster risk reduction and response; and bringing forward the accumulated knowledge into new settings. He encouraged **“to change to think and act globally, think and act locally and identify and help to alter social, environmental and economic ways of living orientated to survivability”**.

Prof. Collins summarized the future of GADRI with 3 key points:

- the challenges that we are facing with; the new demands - with the introduction of new technology, societies are more exposed to more vulnerabilities.
- investment deficits - investments for disaster risk reduction is shrinking.
- impact pathway. Are we really creating the impact that we needed?

Various speakers touched upon the challenges and gaps of the Sendai Framework Agenda and its implementation. Linking with new demands, Prof. Kaoru Takara's presentation was on digitalization - Dx sciences. How technology is related to the disaster risks that we are facing in the future like digitalization. That is of the key challenges that we are facing in the future. As a society, we are exposed to more digital information, more digitalization which creates more digital vulnerabilities.

Prof. Gretchen Kalonji presented on big data for SDGs, and the need for creating a scientific community of mutual trust to promote data and knowledge sharing. She emphasized on GADRI's role looking at disaster risk reduction in the conflict areas, and at the same time liaising more closely with UN agencies.

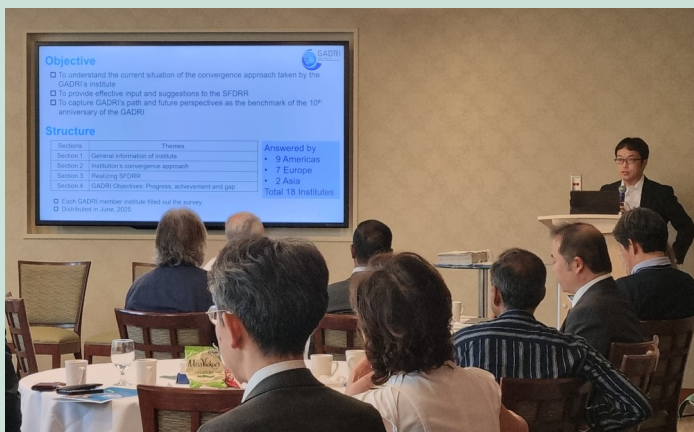
Prof. Yuichi Ono touched specifically on the theme of financing disaster risk reduction in a global scale; and about GADRI's role related to loss and damages; recovery and investment.

## Panel Discussion Session II: Panel discussion II: Roadmap for the Next Decade of GADRI and Contributions to the Sendai Framework

Chair: Tetsuya Takemi, and Nobuhito Mori, DPRI, Kyoto University

- Presentation of results of the two ongoing surveys:
- GADRI questionnaire survey; and the
- Academic survey

Survey Insights, Dr. Genta Nakano, DPRI, Kyoto University



The GADRI Questionnaire survey results were presented by Dr. Genta Nakano. He noted that only 18 out of 218 member institutes responded this time



compared to 90 responses in the previous survey. He highlighted that most institutes reported expanded research networks since 2015, with increased interactions among researchers globally, and approximately half of the responding institutes indicated their research plans address global agendas like Sendai Framework, climate change, and sustainability.

Roadmap for the Next Decade of GADRI and Contributions to the Sendai Framework, Prof. Virginia Murray, Head, Global Disaster Risk Reduction, UK Health and Security Agency, UK



Prof. Virginia Murray, another founding member of the Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI), briefly discussed about her longstanding

involvement with the UN; and efforts to integrate science into disaster risk reduction starting with the Hyogo Framework of Action (2005-2015). Prof. Murray reflected that science was there but it has not been used for disaster risk reduction. She used her phrase “useful, usable and used” to emphasize the importance of putting science into practice and “interdisciplinary scientific cooperation being essential to translate research and innovation into practical action”. Prof. Murray also called for better data for understanding risks to help people recognize and respond easily to early warning systems and messages.

## Advancing DRR Science in Africa– Prof. Desmond Manatsa, AADRI, Bindura University of Science Education, Zimbabwe

Prof. Desmond Manatsa's presentation on "Contributions from the African Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (AADRI)" highlighted how AADRI connect with GADRI's global resources with local knowledge to co-design solutions for Africa. He stated that they are committed to champion the development and deployment of actionable and equitable technology. GADRI could effectively use the African Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (AADRI) to move forward the Sendai Framework Agenda in Africa; and make it the ground to implement science policy in Africa" with an aim to bridge global science and technology excellence within a local context.

Prof. Manatsa concluded his presentation by stating that AADRI is a strategic partner for achieving tangible impact in Africa; AADRI's commitment to GADRI for the next decade is concrete, active, and operational; and it is an affiliate a network of on-ground transdisciplinary action.

Finally, he stated: "let's make the next decade the one where we fulfill the promise of the Sendai Framework for all our communities. Let us turn the Sendai Framework's final decade into Africa's first decade of serious disaster prevention. In this regard, we propose a single theme for this period: "African science that prevents disasters, not merely documents them. Let's turn the Sendai framework into a lifeline for millions."



## Prof. Paul Kovacs, Chair of Board of Directors of GADRI; and Executive Director, ICLR, Canada



Prof. Paul Kovacs presentation reflected on a positive side of science being prominently featured within the Sendai Framework. It was central to what was

described and promised; and their priorities superior to the other global frameworks on sustainable development and climate change. Looking at the interim review of the Sendai Framework, he stated that it was an honest assessment and gives a clear concession about areas that are not going well, such as mitigation and recovery efforts. It clearly talked about the role for science community to help sort it out. Prof. Kovacs stated that the framework is about challenges; and it is not the problem. The problem is with its implementation. As for a next step for the coming five-years, he proposes that "it would be better to shift from writing a list of things the government might do; instead engage directly with people and decision-makers and figure out how the scientific community can help them with disaster risk reduction".

## Roadmap for the Next Decade of GADRI and Contributions to the Sendai Framework, Prof. Mahua Mukherjee, South Asia Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (SAADRI)



Prof. Mahua Mukherjee shared her perspective on disaster risk reduction and the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) through the lens of Asia-Pacific. Noting that

Asia-Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world, Prof. Mukherjee discussed on Asia-Pacific vulnerabilities pointing out that the vulnerabilities are worsened by rapid urbanization, population growth, poverty and inequality, and climate change. Looking at SFDRR targets and current gaps, she noted that the science community have not done much to narrow the gaps as the targets have not been realistic. Especially in the area of urban risks. There is a potential need of nature-based solutions and considerations in this area in future roadmaps. At least, understanding the nature and the community prior to introducing community resilience. Perhaps, this could be a future direction for GADRI to look into technology, space and people; and different types of other sub activities for community engagement to achieve disaster resilience or living with the risks.

## Disaster Research with Climate Change, Prof. Nobuhito Mori, DPRI, Kyoto University



Prof. Nobuhito Mori discussed briefly and specifically about the relationship between climate change and disaster research. “Climate change will accelerate extreme disasters in the near future. It is already happening but it will accelerate in the future.” He shared the Japan story on climate change adaptation against extreme hazard, and the national climate

change research program which updates and publishes the climate change report/data every five years. The climate change projection program is supported by the government based on actual or in-situ research results which facilitated the national dataset – DS2022. Prof. Mori shared examples of how Japan started updating critical infrastructures based on climate change information received through research reports and datasets.

He continued to state that while the current steps remain a first step towards the battle against worsening hazards, it is important to take action. He emphasized that mitigation on reducing global greenhouse gas emission is a global action; climate adaptation on the other hand is a local action which encompasses a wide range of multidisciplinary research fields depending on the region, country and state level. Disaster research for climate change needs a collaboration and the sharing knowledge method with researchers at the institutional level and GADRI could play a pivotal role in this area.

## Summary of Panel Session II by Prof. Tetsuya Takemi, DPRI, Kyoto University



A brief summary of the session is given below:

Dr. Genta Nakano introduced the results of the recent questionnaire survey conducted among GADRI member institutes. He introduced the preliminary survey results of GADRI contributions to the Sendai Framework; and how GADRI should move forward in the next decade.

Prof. Norio Maki introduced the current results of the ongoing academic research survey conducted on the Sendai Framework and the final five years of the Framework until 2030. There will be poster presentation by his student which will provide further details on the survey result.

Prof. Virginia Murray introduced the roadmap for the next decade to Sendai Framework and reviews on the SFDRR reports in the past decade and reflected past DRR initiatives.

She noted how GADRI community has contributed to enhance science and technology usage on disaster risk reduction through coordination of existing networks, and institutions at all levels. She emphasized the importance of promoting scientific research and dissemination of information. She introduced some of the recent outcomes for disaster risk reduction and emphasised the importance of interdisciplinary research.

Prof. Manatsa talked about the activities of African Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (AADRI),

and that how they have been contributing to and promoting disaster risk reduction research in African regions, and what they foresee as an action plan for GADRI for the next decade. Through AADRI, GADRI could implement the targets of the Sendai Framework in the African region by bridging global excellence with local realities and put knowledge into practice.

Prof. Mahua Mukherje focused about her perspective on the Sendai Framework, Asia-Pacific disaster risk reduction and resilience to disasters research, climate change, and impacts of climate hazards. She emphasized the importance of providing opportunities for youth, and local community situations and culture. She stated that prior to introducing technologies such as early warning systems or even nature-based solutions, it is important to understand the resilience of local community hubs.

Professor Mori talked about recent research activities in Japan, focusing on climate change impacts on disasters and the impact of research activities on the government policy making processes in Japan. He placed emphasis on the importance of continuous collaboration and sharing of knowledge and data practitioners and policy- and decision-makers.



## Recommendations

- Extend the deadline for member institutes to complete the questionnaire survey as only 18 out of 218 members have responded so far
- Work on improving data sharing and accessibility among member institutes as identified in the survey results
- Provide feedback on the evaluation of the Four Priority Areas of the Sendai Framework
- Explore establishing formal observer status with UN system and its agencies to strengthen international collaboration
- Discuss potential updates to the Charter of GADRI and committee structure for the next decade
- Prepare contributions for a science report for the upcoming meetings including the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Discussion; and UNDRR Global Platform
- African Alliance for Disaster Research Institutes: Develop partnerships with GADRI members to strengthen disaster research capabilities in Africa
- While continuing global collaboration, focus on developing localized methods, solutions and technologies for disaster risk reduction
- Develop strategies to enhance youth participation and engagement in GADRI activities for the next decade
- Strengthen media relations and public communication strategies to better disseminate disaster research findings of GADRI

# GADRI Members

Established in March 2015, the Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR) and the work of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

In line with its 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,

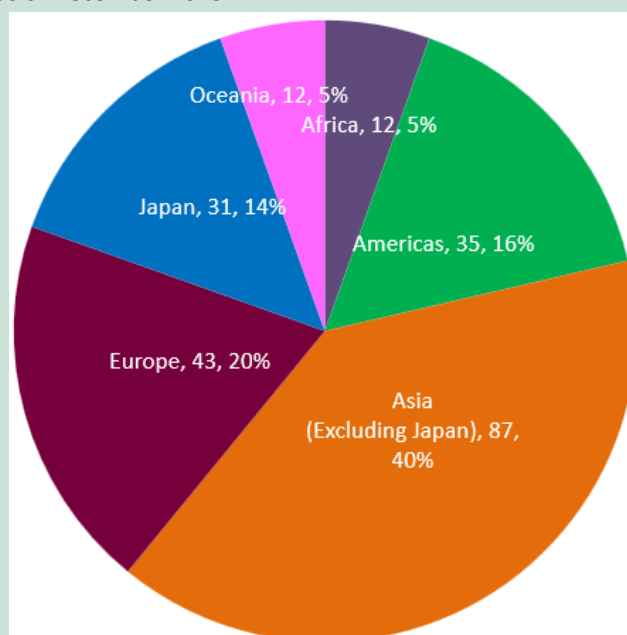
survivability and well-being, by integrating knowledge and technologies from around the world. Over 200 institutions have joined GADRI; membership is free; completely voluntary and non-binding.

GADRI Secretariat is currently headquartered and hosted by the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), Kyoto University, Japan.

To join GADRI, please contact the GADRI Secretariat: [secretariat-gadri@dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp](mailto:secretariat-gadri@dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp)

Geographical Distribution of GADRI as of December 2025

Area	Members	Economies
Africa	12	7
Americas	35	8
Asia (Excluding Japan)	87	24
Europe	43	15
Japan	31	1
Oceania	12	2
<b>Total Institutes</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>57</b>
	57 economies	



**GADRI**  
Global Alliance of  
Disaster Research Institutes

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