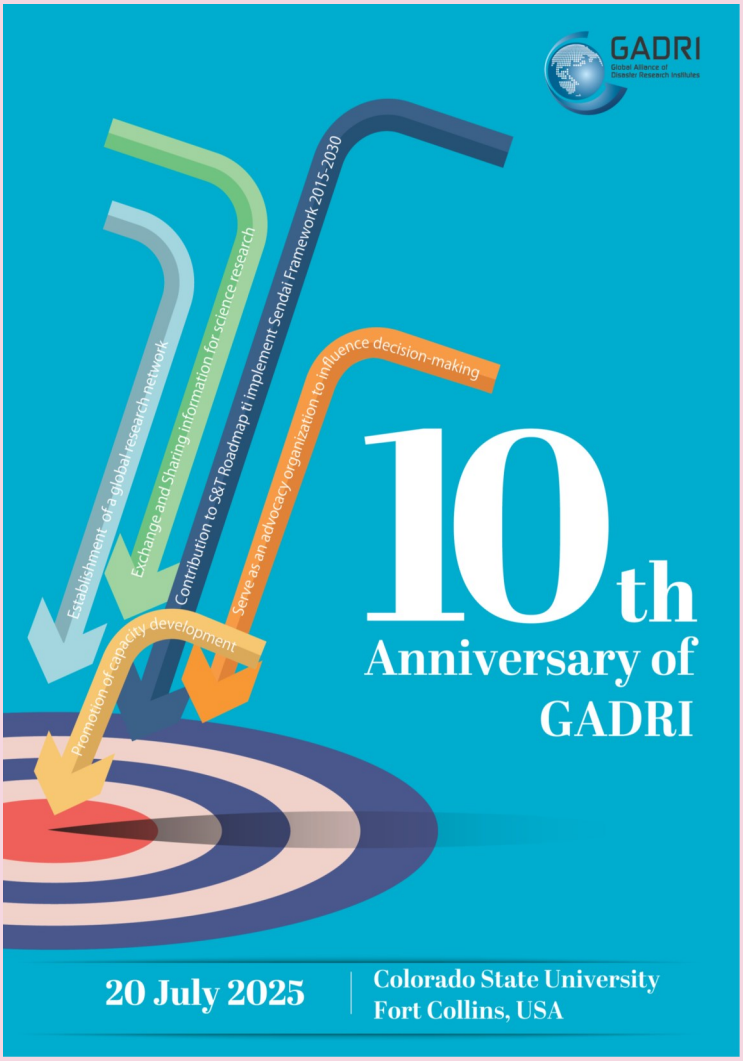
GADRI
Global Alliance of
Disaster Research Institutes

GADRI ACTIONS

Summer 2025
Volume 23— Number 1



Dear Members,

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 establishment in March 2015 soon after the adoption of the Sendai Frame Agenda for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan.

GADRI has collectively contributed to the Science and Technology Roadmap and participated in 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 the 10th Anniversary of GADRI, it also paves us 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

Contents

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

Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of GADRI

20 July 2025

A Decade of Excellence in Collaboration

Congratulations to all members of GADRI for their steadfast support and contributions throughout the past decade. The Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI) Secretariat was happy bring their event to celebrate 10th Anniversary of GADRI at the Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA on 20 July 2025. this was made possible to the generous support and consideration afforded by Prof. John van de Lindt and his colleagues at the Colorado State University, Fort Collins.

To date, GADRI boasts of 218 members from 57 economies, closely engaged in its activities, and continually updating with information on research progress and achievements to emphasize the importance of interdisciplinary research approaches to address in-situ methods to disaster prevention and preparedness and research gaps.

Background:

1st Global Summit, initiated by the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), Kyoto University was organized at the Uji Campus, in November 2011. The March 2011 East Japan mega -Earthquake and Tsunami was the precursor for the event which prompted the science and disaster research communities to reassess the existing practices and management for disaster risk reduction, disaster prevention, and preparedness planning. As a major recommendation of the Summit, it was agreed to form a forum of disaster research institutes fostered by DPRI, Kyoto University. During the 2nd Global Summit this recommendation was adopted and the Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI) was established in March 2015.

Opening Session

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 10 years of alliancing in disaster risk reduction and resilience to disasters. Participants explored the future direction of GADRI, emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary research, collaboration, and community resilience building to tackle global issues like climate change and sustainable development. The conversation ended with discussions on enhancing scientific connections within GADRI, preparing for future summits, and mobilizing ideas into action to improve disaster risk reduction efforts worldwide. The meeting also addressed the role of regional STAGs and the potential for GADRI to step up in this area.

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.

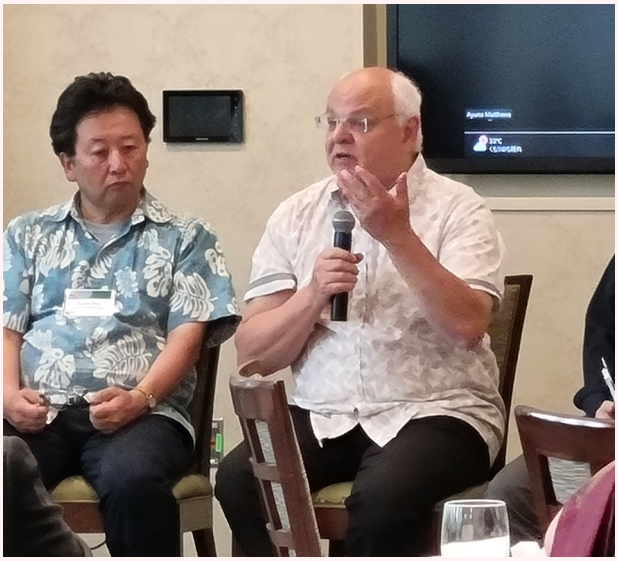
  In his opening remarks, Prof. Hori highlighted GADRI's growth to 218 institutes across 57 economies since its establishment in March 2015. By hosting the GADRI Secretariat at DPRI, Prof. Hori stated how the collaborative initiatives have complemented both, the DPRI and GADRI in their shared goals to reduce disaster risk reduction and resilience to disaster.

- Prof. 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, and 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 GADRI; 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.

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, UK

Prof. Andrew Collins, Professor Emeritus, School of Geography and Natural Sciences, Northumbria University, UK

In his keynote speech, Prof. Andrew Collins focused on the current role and future of the Global Alliance for Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI) and its way forward. He reflected to the time when the discussions were going on and he would argue that the whole emergence of GADRI was responding to needs, real needs in the community of people who do disaster type of research. And GADRI was responding to that need for interdisciplinarity investment expanded parameters and linking up disaster research institutes in particular. the effectiveness of disaster research in the interests of future generations. There was a need for that, and the collective institutional weight of providing moral, political, and technical support to each other. There was a need for research action and impact, in particular, recognizing our growing responsibilities an empirically informed truth to power, speaking truth to power that came out quite a lot using peer review that we have in our community to get external investment into disaster research gaps and then expanded DRR research cooperatively within and beyond the academia speaking to practice, and policy. All that was there, and it still exists. And it still needs to be done. Some of it have been done, and some of it not done so much of the facilitating new researchers whilst maintaining DRR memory and continuity. But what that led to was this discussion about what we are going to create? Is this a network, a collective, a union, an association? Well, the conclusion is, it's all those things we had to call it something. So it's an alliance. t

There are many things that drive disaster risk reduction, and GADRI can be a forum for doing some of these things, as is the wider community it works with.

Looking back, Prof. Collins stated that the enhanced learning and research would be one area, the whole content of where we work. So there has been more voices as a result of this type of alliancing, more interpretations take place because there is lots of different types of people involved coming from lots of different disciplines. There is also enhanced learning and research through embracing the interrelated nature of disaster risk and how it is interpreted. And even just these last few years you hear terminology which were not used 10 years ago. The outcomes of that is certainly great intellectual development. The discussions we have now are much more elaborate in terms of how we deal with the challenges, the things we recognize as relevant, intellectually there is a development. And this is happening not just within the GADRI institutions, but beyond, particularly within our institutions. He stated that because we have this sort of a trajectory of trying to push forward a bit and with that comes the more responsibility. And that's the difficult part, because how do we really make use of that?

The second area is alliancing as cause and effect of better understanding, critical emergencies. Because we have an alliance, we can better understand things because we interact with people better. But it works the other way around that, in a sense, generates the need for an alliance. The more we know, the more we need to alliance. So it works as cause-and-effect enhanced approaches and methods in this second area.

The first one is about the sort of the content and the intellectual development. And it is the responsibility and application that comes with that. Then there's the approaches and methods, methodologies even through to knowledge environments now which involve different epistemologies because there are many different people involved.

For example, if you are going to have hundreds of institutions, and coming together, this is going to mean different ways we use and understand the creation of knowledge. in the 1st place, so quite interesting that sharing of human resources and infrastructure is a much more practical matter but also access to more context through connecting research processes and field experiences.

It is a way of hearing from different people's circumstances in different parts of the world, different ways of doing research, different types of techniques that are used in the field. The outcomes of that is certainly more data available if we want, and information sharing and application opportunities but also comes with that the greater responsibility to ensure disaster research is both excellent and influential. We can include more and more things in what we do and of sufficient quality to be really useful.

The third area of looking back part is the cause and effect of better understand, or on the cause and effect of better understanding. Critical emergencies is the enhanced practice and policy impacts. This we have been hearing how the links with United Nations have been very positive and good. We subscribe very strongly to the Sendai framework and also practice-based collaboration with non-governmental organizations and collaboration experiences with local authorities. Doing that also in an internationalized way is potentially quite powerful. Critical mass that is capable of nudging policy environments is there, and there are feasible improvements in disaster prevention, and response services as a result of that.

The outcomes, therefore, are coordinated actions that provide better informed practice and policy and the engagement of knowledge and evidence-based practice and policy. This, however, raises expectations of what we can deliver.

What next for alliancing?

It is quite challenging, as it is sort of all the things we do not do necessarily. But we would like to do it. We know somebody should be doing it, and perhaps GADRI can do some of this.

Keeping pace with the new demands of research and learning is going to be really quite important. So the more what we know about the causes of major

disasters and major environmental degradation, social decohesion and environment and economic collapse, the more it is we have to know about it.

So it produces this demand for knowledge and the global advances. We have actually now analyze the insufficient global advances if the knowledge environment has increased. But then beyond the knowledge environment, we are not seeing a real effect. Then we need to know what is stopping that, and that is going to be a very strong theme, in the next coming years. Particularly as the tension rises with SFDRR approaching 2030 and questions arising as to why did not we achieve this target? Didn't we achieve that target? There's a huge amount of research to work out.

Why not bring in knowledge to bear on processes of compound cascading, systemic policy, crisis, and complex multi hazard, multi-vulnerability capacity. You name it. They are all important. It is that expanded thinking then generates a need for us to go into those areas because we know they matter.

A multi-hazard multi-vulnerability approach is fundamental. We need to know what we mean by that. A lot of work to do with this sort of terminology, which was not commonplace 10 years ago. There is also a lot of new additionality in all of these terms using knowledge more effectively to grow responsibilities for wide reaching disaster prevention, confronting misunderstanding, misrepresentation, nihilism and so forth even to the extent of creating new words. Destructionism, the war on nature, but the war on many things and other barriers to progress with evidence-informed awareness and solutions.

We are in a war - the knowledge war, and what is going on in the world is very real. GADRI is obliged to acknowledge that and do what it can by embracing complexity whilst providing accessible approaches that manage disaster risk and response.

The last point, the sort of thinking of is the way that you know our world, our knowledge, environment does become quite complex. We look at multivariate analysis or so many different things - 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?

It is just as important in alliance in that effectively advances disaster, rich capacity and influence through addressing investment deficits which are absolutely fundamental. It is quite a common trait to see disinvestment in the area which is so fundamental to the future. Demanding financial and other resource investments for disaster risk reduction by using evidence that compels the need for more investment. Being able to progress despite disinvestments, we need to think about, how can we be not dependent on?

They are the institutions that traditionally support research. This is too important an agenda to let slip just because some department decides to not fund a particular area of research. But we know the research has to continue, then what do we do? Do we just chase the funding sources? Or do we carry on doing what we believe in being able to progress despite this investment improvise and overcoming through allianced operational environments? So here the Alliance comes in again. We are already quite powerful with so many people and institutions, institutes and different knowledge bases.

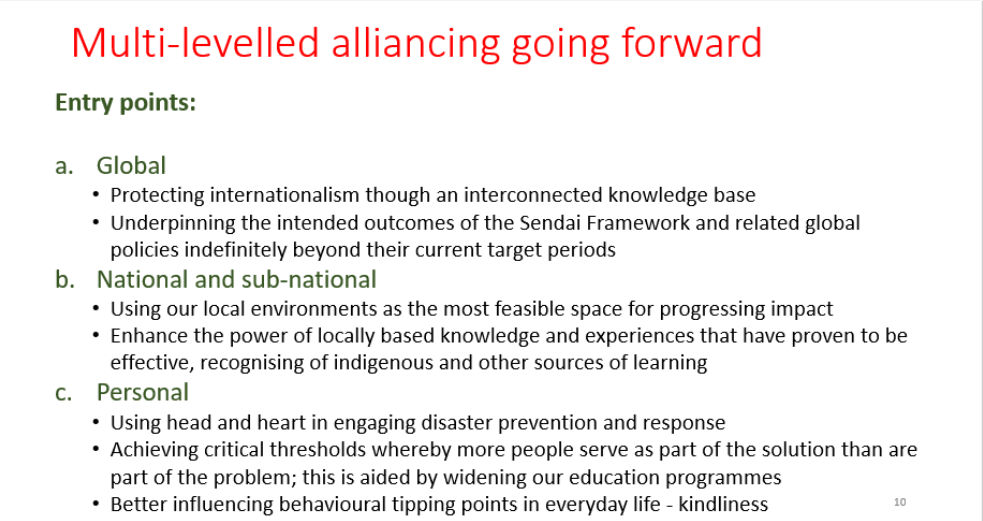
What is next - Re-alliancing that effectively advances disaster research. Remember that the conclusion is that we have not made enough progress when we look at what is in the latest UN or GAR risk reports – there is not enough progress. The following will discuss all about it.

The advancing impact pathways of disaster risk reduction and response – this is more on monitoring, evaluation and replication of learning and research impacts would be useful things to focus on. That is we continue to learn from each other. What are impactful collaborations to remove barriers to disaster risk reduction response impact and then bringing forward the knowledge accumulated to new settings as part of an ongoing multi-contextual impact analysis albeit recognizing that just because it works in one context, it doesn't necessarily work somewhere else.

This can be achieved through a sort of multi-leveled vision. This is for GADRI, but also what we do in our day-to-day personal lives as well from global, national, personal, types of multi-leveled approach. But national, or subnational, because it is often, a sub area of a nation state where all the action can actually be going on.

The global protecting internationalism is a big theme. If we are a global alliance, we are fundamentally signed up to the principles of internationalism, an interconnected knowledge base underpinning the intended outcomes of the Sendai framework and related global policies indefinitely beyond the current target periods.

It is partly because internationalism is under threat in the current world, and it is relevant to GADRI. Then at a national and subnational level, we can use our local environments as the most feasible space for progressing impact.



We know now from looking at all the case studies we get access to through this type of forum that it is what goes on at the local level that seems to really answer to the real impact. Changing people's lives, reducing risk, enhance the power of locally based knowledge and experiences that have proven to be effective, recognizing of indigenous and other sources of learning. Most of these things are being said in the policy environments. The question is, how do we do it?

Drawing attention to this the latest Global Platform took place in Geneva in June 2025. It produced the Geneva call for disaster risk reduction 2025. It is a short document. You can read it very quickly. A few notes from that is, that the 1st 2 bullets are definitely say progress on a lot of things, and we should celebrate that mortality is down and risk governance is up in terms of what nation States say they do, at least, and it is good. It's better than not happening.

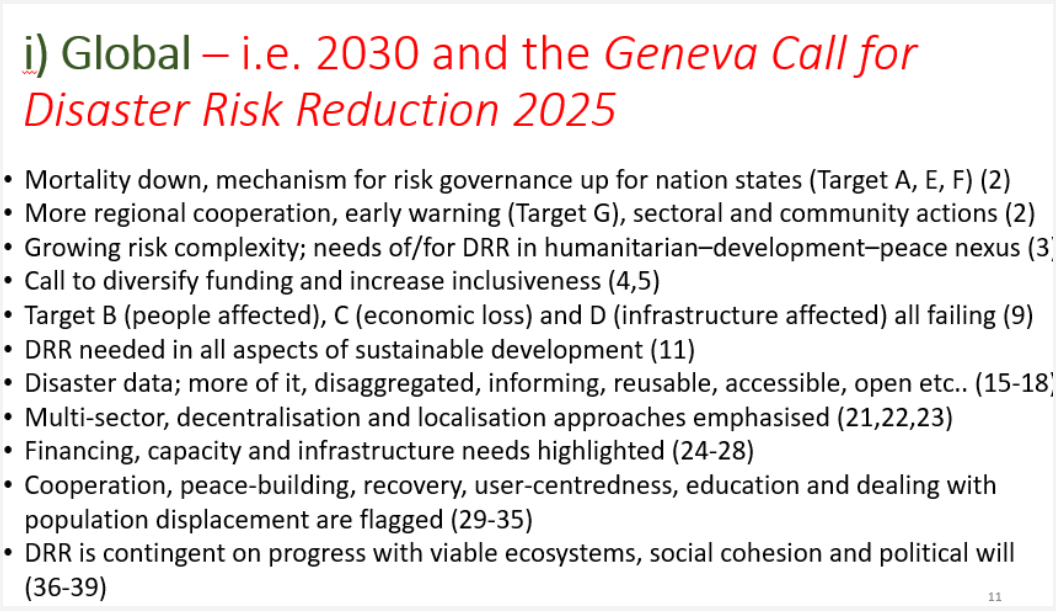
And on second one covers more on regional cooperation. That is definitely evidenced. Early warning is a taken a lot more seriously, and there is more going on. But then there is a huge recognition of growing risk complexity, the needs for DRR in humanitarian development peace nexus.

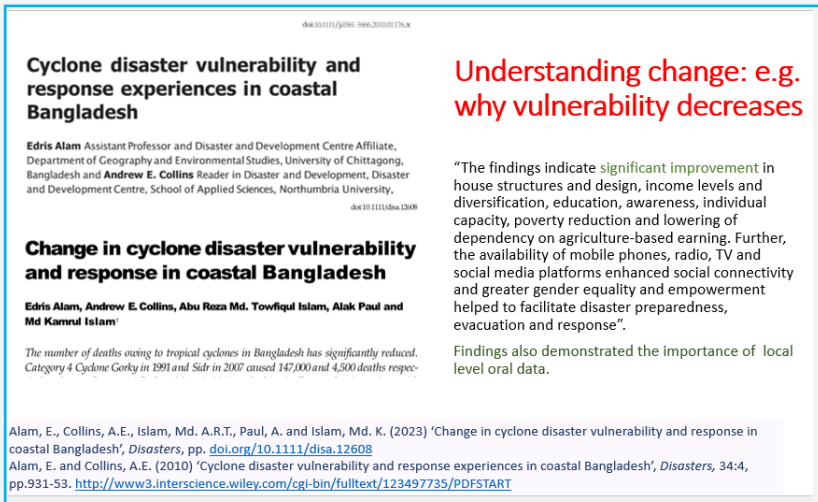
In the same way as we have linked climate and DRR, we are now moving towards at some point a better integration with humanitarian sectors and peace nexus. It was quite pleasing to see much detail on it as it is more of an acknowledgement. We see an acknowledgment, perhaps 10 years later, we see something actually happen which is good. That is where we were 10 years ago with some things and now that we take for granted a call for diversity to diversify funding and increase inclusiveness, which is diversity.

Target B people affected and target C economic loss and D infrastructure affected. This is all failing. DRR Is needed in all aspects of sustainable development. It is one of the conclusions of that.

In the document, there are the eight priorities which do not quite match. The better data transit risk has got an implication for the research community very strongly. Because this is something new - the conflict and disaster risk Reduction-. New themes seems to be coming through eventually. But how much can we do to be aware of it and also how different sort of strands of sustainability feed into this. The conflict inflicted, destruction of health care and humanitarian infrastructure does actually produce lots of questions for prevention and response and risk assessments.

The subnational local environments was the second area where we wanted to emphasize. **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.** I guess these are the things we would all sort of warm to, because 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.





Cyclone disaster vulnerability and response experiences in coastal Bangladesh

Edris Alam Assistant Professor and Disaster and Development Centre Affiliate, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh and **Andrew E. Collins** Reader in Disaster and Development, Disaster and Development Centre, School of Applied Sciences, Northumbria University,

Change in cyclone disaster vulnerability and response in coastal Bangladesh

Edris Alam, Andrew E. Collins, Abu Reza Md. Towfiqul Islam, Alak Paul and Md Kamrul Islam

The number of deaths owing to tropical cyclones in Bangladesh has significantly reduced. Category 4 Cyclone Gorky in 1991 and Sidr in 2007 caused 147,000 and 4,500 deaths respec-

Understanding change: e.g. why vulnerability decreases

"The findings indicate significant improvement in house structures and design, income levels and diversification, education, awareness, individual capacity, poverty reduction and lowering of dependency on agriculture-based earning. Further, the availability of mobile phones, radio, TV and social media platforms enhanced social connectivity and greater gender equality and empowerment helped to facilitate disaster preparedness, evacuation and response".

Findings also demonstrated the importance of local level oral data.

Alam, E., Collins, A.E., Islam, Md. A.R.T., Paul, A. and Islam, Md. K. (2023) 'Change in cyclone disaster vulnerability and response in coastal Bangladesh', *Disasters*, pp. doi.org/10.1111/disa.12608
Alam, E. and Collins, A.E. (2010) 'Cyclone disaster vulnerability and response experiences in coastal Bangladesh', *Disasters*, 34:4, pp.931-53. http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/fulltext/123497735/PDFSTART

use of data to do so. The main point is looking to these local level examples. And of course there are thousands of these around the world. But this is a particularly good one. If we went around the room everybody would be able to think of an example or something they know about somewhere locally, which did in effect do disaster risk reduction because and where the knowledge environment played some sort of role.

Through examples, Prof. Collins discussed disaster understanding what changed, what can happen in the local environment, understanding how it is happened, why it happened, and seeing if we can do more of translating it into other contexts. He shared two papers on the subject prepared by Prof. Edirs Alam who worked on the case in Bangladesh within a span of 10 years.

The papers are examples of linking going back into an area, and monitoring and understanding with the people in that area as to what small changes happened in everyday life to bring about major effects on disaster risk reduction. And by that we are talking about tens of thousands of less people being affected by cyclones than previously.

That involves this sort of longer-term view, but also the understanding change. It also involved perhaps quite a lot of different sort of methodologies and

Prof. Collins also shared information and examples of his current engagements with local communities. He showed a 19th Century map where the people were forcibly displaced from the land in order to make room for sheep. The current local community and committees are trying to see whether they could do peat restoration. Fundamentally, he stated, it is all about people's livelihoods, people's perspectives, how they see the world, the wider world and locally. Working through the different ideas of how we can be useful, but also respecting of the history, the culture, the livelihoods, and so forth. The committee will engage a wider group of people that there needs to be more young people, and more women. He concluded with the thoughts that that if we use this sort of projects into our everyday life, we can all carry on contributing to this indefinitely.

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. Kaoru Takara, President, National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED), Japan, emphasized the need for GADRI 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 a collection of knowledge created by research, and technology is various means creating value.

Linking with the new demands, Prof. Kaoru Takara's presentation was 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, International Research Center for Big Data for SDGs (CBAS), China, after congratulating the visionary founders of GADRI, 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 and 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. Yuichi Ono, International Research Institute for Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University, Japan 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 has made some progress in areas such as governance and early warming systems. Yet, 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 difficulty in 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 lack 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.

Prof. Ono recommended that 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 was provided by Prof. Norio Maki:

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 brining 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 pathways. 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.

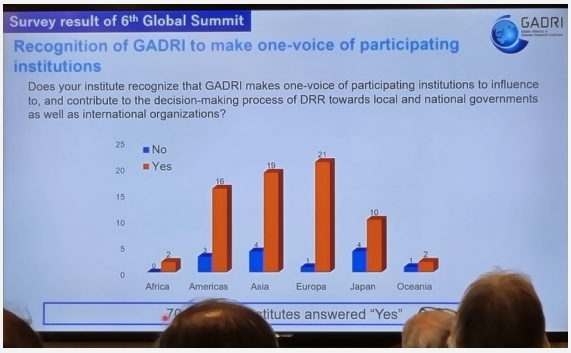
Prof. Gretchen Kalonji presented on big data for SDGs, and the need for creating a scientific community of mutual trust to promote data and knowledge sharing. She emphasized on GADRI's role looking at disaster risk reduction in the conflict areas, and at the same time liaising more closely with UN agencies.

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 is another founding member of the Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI). After congratulating GADRI on its 10th Birthday, she 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; and Executive Dean, Faculty of Science and Engineering, 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 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, Canda

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); IIT Roorkee, India

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 of Japan 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 was delivered by Prof. Tetsuya Takemi:

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 a poster presentation by his student which will provide further details on the survey result.

Prof. Virgina Murray introduced the roadmap for the next decade, 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 emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary research.

Prof. Desmond 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 Mukherjee 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.

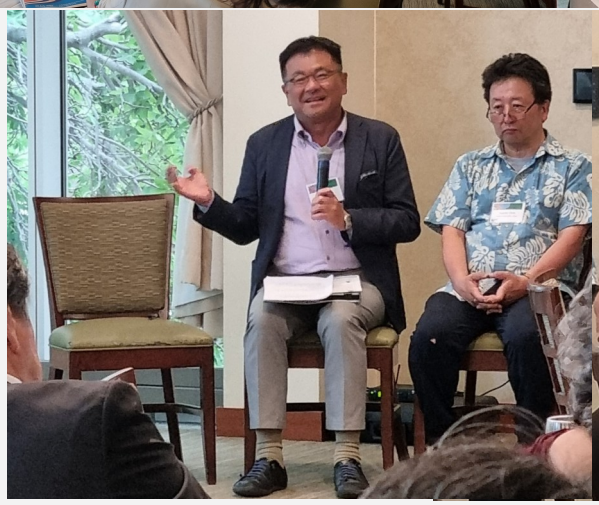
Prof. Nobuhito Mori talked about recent research activities in Japan, focusing on climate change impacts on disasters and the impact of research activities on the government policy making processes in Japan. He placed emphasis on the importance of continuous collaboration and sharing of knowledge and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


The End
mori@oceanwave.jp


The End
mori@oceanwave.jp



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).

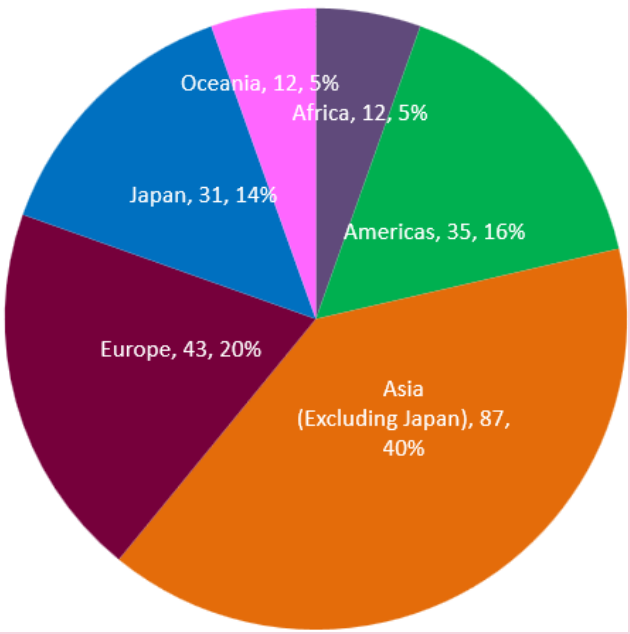
In line with its vision, GADRI strives to deepen the understanding of disasters and find implementable solutions to achieve disaster resilience; i.e. human, technical system and infrastructure resilience, survivability and well-being, by integrating knowledge and technologies from around the world. Over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

Geographical Distribution of GADRI as of 31 August 2025

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



GADRI
Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes

Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI) Secretariat

Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI)

Kyoto University, Uji Campus, Gokasho, Uji-shi

Kyoto 611-0011, JAPAN

Tel: +81-774-38-4651

Fax: +81-774-38-4654

E-mail: secretariat-gadri@dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Web: https://www.gadri.net