



GADRI ACTIONS

Spring 2022

Volume 1— Number 1

4th Open Discussion Forum of GADRI



Contents

Dear All,

We hope you are doing well and keeping fine.

The Spring 2022 newsletter gives a detailed highlight of the 4th Open Discussion Forum of GADRI held virtually from 21:00 to 23:00 JST on 15th March 2022. The discussion focused mainly on the newly established Committees of GADRI. We invite you to look at the information provided under each committee by the respective Chairs of the Committees. If you would like to contribute to these committees, do not hesitate to get in touch with us. It gives an opportunity for your institute to engage directly with the activities of GADRI.

We took the opportunity of the 4th Open Discussion Forum of GADRI to say goodbye to four valuable members of the Board of Directors of GADRI whose term of office ended as of 31st March 2022. We also welcomed five new members to the Board of Directors of GADRI from 1st April 2022 for a period of four years.

Preparations are underway for the 6th Global Summit of GADRI. While we are weaning out of remote work and trying to accustom ourselves to regular office life once again, we remain optimistic to hold the 6th Global Summit of GADRI in hybrid fashion. Hopefully we can have a face-to-face meeting of the summit at DPRI, Uji Campus, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan. The dates for the summit are from 15th to 17th March 2023. The dates are set in consideration of the World Bosai Forum will be held in Sendai, Japan from 10th to 13th March 2023. Those of you who wish to attend the Bosai Forum can arrange to attend the GADRI summit from 15th March 2023. Do block these days in your calendars. We will be updating GADRI web page and sharing information through e-mail too.

We intend to publish the GADRI newsletter in a quarterly basis. Do send us any information that you would like to share with the community of GADRI. For example, reports on achievements, awards, disaster reports, publications, etc.

Stay safe and keep-up with your good work.

Hirokazu Tatano and the Secretariat of GADRI

- 4th Open Discussion Forum of GADRI
- Board of Directors of GADRI
- GADRI Contributions to COP26 through UKRI
- New Members of GADRI

Photos are from zoom meeting recording and Pixabay.com.

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

4th Open Discussion Forum of GADRI
Achieving the Objectives of the Charter of GADRI
15 March 2022

From 21:00 to 23:00 Japan Standard Time



**4th Open
Discussion
Forum of
GADRI**
15 March 2022

In his welcome remarks, Prof. Paul Kovacs stated that GADRI has been able to achieve international recognition going forward from Sendai to Kyoto in 2015 when GADRI was formally launched. The alliance bringing together the leading disaster research institutes all around the world to work cooperatively and collectively to achieve the goals of disaster risk reduction is an incredibly important opportunity. It has been very exciting to be part of GADRI and noted how the alliance have proceeded and all the potential there is going forward.

The objective of the 4th Open Discussion Forum of GADRI is to give an opportunity for all Members to speak-up and share their thoughts and ideas on the five newly established committees which are organized around the important issues identified during the time the Charter of GADRI was formulated.

Prof. Hirokazu Tatano, Secretary-General, GADRI reported on the activities of GADRI. He started by sharing a bit of history which led up to the establishment of GADRI. In November 2011, the same

the Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI) was established.

The five objectives of GADRI are:

- To establish a global research network that promotes and engages disaster research.
- To provide a research roadmap, with plans that help facilitate the organization of disaster research groups.
- To promote capacity building and development of disaster research institutes and enhances researcher and student exchange.
- To promote exchange and sharing of data and information for scientific research across the globe.
- To serve as an advocacy organization presenting evidence-based approaches that influence decision-making processes.

GADRI continued to organize the global summit series once every two years. The third Global Summit was held in Kyoto, Japan in March 2017 and the fourth in Kyoto, Japan in March 2019. During each summit, GADRI have been achieving important goals especially contributing to the UNDRR Science and Technology Roadmap for the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

With regard to The 5th Summit; Engaging Sciences with Action, this was originally planned to be held at EC

-JRC, Milan, Italy, sponsored by EC-JRC and supported by the Northumbria University, UK and the Mid Sweden University, Sweden. Unfortunately, due to the corona virus pandemic, GADRI Secretariat had to improvise and organise the summit online during the last summer (31 August to 1 September 2022). With the help of the regional alliances, all members of GADRI and GADRI's valuable partners, the summit brought in 91 speakers from all over the world to discuss, share their experiences and expertise in different disciplines of disaster risk research. Over 600 participants from 71 states logged in through zoom meeting. Further details of the 5th Global Summit can be found at the newsletter, GADRI Actions 15. With the help of the UK research and Innovation, GADRI shared the 5th Global Summit of GADRI recommendations on climate change and adaptation at the COP26 held in the UK in November 2021.



year of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami happened, the Disaster Prevention Research Institutes (DPRI), Kyoto University was celebrating its 60th anniversary and the Global Summit conference was organized to commemorate the occasion.

The occasion was memorable for two reasons: first the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the DPRI; second the conference recommendation to established an international forum of institutes engaged in disaster risk research fostered by the DPRI, Kyoto University. This recommendation was seconded during the Second Global Summit of Research Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction organized by DPRI, Kyoto University held in Kyoto, Japan in March 2015 immediately after the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan, and

Committee on Science and Technology Roadmap

(To provide a research roadmap, with plans that help facilitate the organization of disaster research groups)

**Session Chair: Prof. Sumit Sen, Member, Board of Directors of GADRI,
IIT, Roorkee, India**

The Science and Technology Roadmap is a very popular topic. Many related discussions have taken place at various forums and especially during the Global Summits of GADRI. Extensive work has been done in this area by the UNDRR Sendai Framework and the Science and Technology Roadmap. GADRI Committee work in this may entail working on missing research gaps and seeking opportunities for improvement.

During the 2017 Global Summit of GADRI, it conducted a voluntary evaluation of all institutions to find out about the research gaps, opportunities and most important research areas. And during the Global Summit of GADRI in 2019, it directly contributed to the contextualization of the Science and Technology Roadmap. GADRI continue to engage its members in various field exercise to maintain continuous discussion among them.

As mentioned in the Charter of GADRI, one of the core things to 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. Would it be clear for those volunteering on the committee? What do you think they should be looking into? How best can others participate in the Committee?

A suggestion from Prof. Sumit Sen who was the Chair for the session on Committee on S&T Roadmap, was to promote management practices such as the soil water index-based landslide early warning system, which has been developed and implemented in Japan quite successfully. Such instruments in other disciplines will be useful for communities who are working in disaster risk research as they can take it and implement. Such type of information and developed practices can be taken up and can be shared.

Prof. David Alexander stated that there is an insufficiency of foresight. Facing a time in history when the past is no longer an adequate guide to the future prediction, as Niels Bohr, the prize-winning physicist said, is very difficult, especially when it is about the future. Although it is very true, there is much more needs to be done to promote foresight and techniques

of foresight, facing a series of challenges for which the time honoured tradition of using examples from the past in order to plan the response to the future is not going to work. He mentioned that his comments particularly refer to unplanned mass migrations, proliferating technological failures and the changing magnitude and frequency of extreme events due to climate change. He reiterated that GADRI can promote techniques of foresight.

The Chair, Prof. Paul Kovacs said that when launching GADRI, it took several years of build-up time. One of the key aims was to create an alliance that is making a contribution that could not have been done any other way. He noted that each one of the members, as individuals have opportunities to get involved in some of the global conversations and some of them are doing it in various ways. A critical part for striking GADRI is what it is collectively able to do that could not be done without GADRI.

Reflecting across all of the topics and certainly for the 4th Open Discussion Forum of GADRI, by setting the agenda, there is a knowledge shared within GADRI that can really help with the determination of the global science and technology agenda. Sometimes through GADRI's collective efforts, it is possible to bring a synthesis and bring a new perspective beyond what everyone can do individually and having the drive through committees is powerful.

Further he stated that the Committee on S&T Roadmap, is trying to bring GADRI more structure. There are many who have tried individually and within the mechanisms of GADRI to work on this topic and how to capture it means is a way forward.

During the 5th Global Summit of GADRI where hundreds participated from all around the world, some of the recommendations on climate change were shared at the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) at the end of 2021 through UK Research and Innovation. The process of contributions is loosely happening and the committees will formalize the process and help carry out the useful combinations on climate change.

Committee on Institutional Capacity Building

(To promote capacity building and development of disaster Research Institutes and enhance research and student exchange.)

Session Chair: Dr. Indrajit Pal, Member, Board of Directors of GADRI, AIT, Thailand

Presenter: Prof. Wei-Sen Li, The Chair of the Committee, NCDR, Chinese Taipei

The Chair of the Committee, Prof. Wei-Sen Li, NCDR, Chinese Taipei shared his vision for the Committee on Institutional Capacity Building. He stated that institutional capacity building should meet data, information, knowledge, wisdom, plus action.

- under the umbrella of GADRI, the Committee on Institutional Capacity Building could host from data, information to knowledge, wisdom, and action.
- through knowledge, scenario and risk and evaluation, by collecting some resources, it is possible to divert knowledge and wisdom.
- Through institutional capacity building, encourage the decision making and application practices.
- Action is needed to deliver a good ecology environment for the disaster research.

To move forward the work the institutional capacity building, first some case study on evidence-based disaster risk reduction and to it is important to connect the last mile and initiate the first mile as stated by Prof. Rajib Shaw.

Directions to work together on DRR - 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

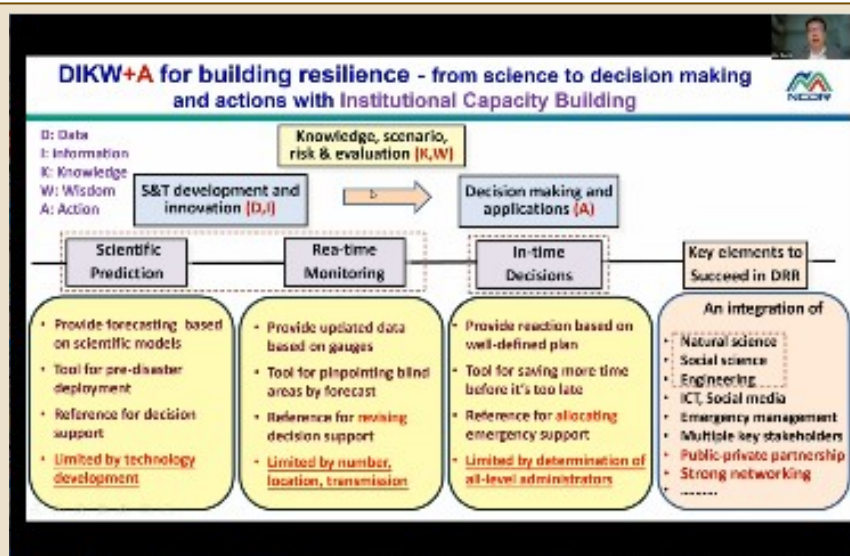
To explore contributions on DRR by private sector and policy to engage them at different phases of disaster management. (To channel DRR knowledge to stakeholders.)

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, etc.



The Committee will initiate in two parts:

- First to maintain a good life cycle to improve disaster risk reduction.
- Second part is to build back better training policy on disaster recovery to learn lessons from successes and failures.
- On leadership, decision making and disaster management: to educate scientific disaster managers to improve their capabilities to connect better with the scientific community.
- On understanding is to know the role of NGOs, NPOs, business by private sector and to channel disaster risk reduction knowledge to various stakeholders.
- On direction by the regional and global mechanics and resources for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, sustainable development goals: to use existing resources by better network.

The Committee hope to have a global partnership leveraging different stakeholders in the channel. The disaster reduction knowledge are with key stakeholder in the society.

Comments:

- Prof. Tatano stated how many young researchers and practitioners of DPRI benefitted through cutting-edge knowledge and training received during the International Training courses offered by NCDR.
- Encourage implementable mechanisms through evidence sheets as examples to show the methodology
- Collection of country level evidence sheets on various capacity building initiatives
- On the topic of capacity – there are countries with sufficient capacity and others with capacity problems ranging to all fields. GADRI could enhance capacity through its network.
- Case studies that show positive examples of how capacity is being built affectively and moving forward.
- Another dimension is for the committee to bring to GADRI a definition of capacity. There are various different understandings of what does it mean to not have complete capacity and need to have greater capacity. In what way?
- There is a strong focus on capacity development of higher education. Specifically innovative curricular approaches which combine research and education in multinational teams could be a great platform to build on for GADRI.
- Capacity building and capacity assessment are both extremely important and absolutely valid. But what we are going to see in the future is substantial destruction of capacity. Therefore, there is a need to look at as well is redundancy. Redundancy has two sides. It has the intellectual side. Other ways of doing things that has the physical side. For example, other forms of equipment and so on.
- Look into case studies that make comparison between countries. For instance, in Chile, they try to help from disaster risk management arena by dealing with the sanitary problem.
- Lessons from disaster management, where it is used, or useful or not in dealing with the pandemic. For example, the op-ed done by GADRI on disaster risk management and the pandemic.

The Committee on Data and Information Sharing

(To promote exchange and sharing of data and information for scientific research across the globe.)

Session Chair: Dr. Rodrigo Cienfuegos, Member, Board of Directors of GADRI, CIGIDEN, Chile

Presenter: Prof. Andrew Collins, The Chair of the Committee on Data and Information Sharing, DDN, Northumbria University, UK

The Chair of the Committee on Data and Information Sharing, Prof. Andrew Collins, DDN, Northumbria University, UK stated that the Committee will serve the needs of data informed in an action orientated framing, action orientated knowledge partnerships and more actionable, impactful and responsive to the high demands in particular areas.

There are multiple influences where the current initiative seems to be emerging are from:

- the UNDRR Science and Technology Advisory Group Data Working Group, which brought together different initiatives for consultation and come up with clear guidelines which is summed up as action data.
- The GADRI Summit 2021, the European subsection hosted part of the event focused on data and bridging gaps to knowledge sharing.
- The DPRI funded project on GADRI Database of Collection of World Disaster Research Databases

The current vision is evolved along the lines of an action based, dynamic, multi-voice data information system.

- comprehensive and disaggregated data harnessed across time and space is crucial to effectively define exposure and vulnerability.
- need to make better use of existing data for information and data for disaster reduction is reflective learning, practice and conjecture for improved engagement with current and future risks.
- It is narrative data, it is visual data, and of course numeric data as well.
- the global research community is only as effective as the usefulness and applications of its data; and bridging the knowledge gap was a key challenge and theme that need to take forward.
- bridging knowledge gaps through a whole of society objective – it will be very inclusive and broad based to be able to do that.

- Ultimately, activating data and information for not utilized knowledge, knowledge which is used, and learning how GADRI institutions use their disaster research data processes to have more impact in disaster risk reduction.

It would be astute to work from the existing work of UNDRR for a number of reasons:

- one of the main reasons is this is a good fit with what the Committee is trying to do. Also, the UNDRR is able to call on consultations. The UNDRR Working Group on Data was an entirely voluntary activity of many people to come up with, ideas and direction and an amalgamation of work. They do not have the capacity to implement it. Consequently, the working group folded at the end of 2020 with the clear endorsement and message from UNDRR. It was now time to take this forward with appropriate institutions.
- It is a great opportunity for GADRI to be a lead in implementing what the UNDRR would implement if it had that role in that capacity. It knows it doesn't. But it very much supports this.

To finalize and next steps:

- a committee opening meeting
- a consultation and consolidation of the conceptual framework.
- there are many potentially but need something that will be recognized by the participants of this initiative.

The Chair of Committee Prof. Collins stated that the committee will try to do something innovative to cross the divide between the database of database concept and something of all encompassing. It will be locale grounded, actionable, information sharing with initiatives that are really taking on the challenge to include the full range of data types. It will be responding to a real demand where there is potential for impact at the same time not replicating, but inevitably seeing what is the real response to demand and also what is used for what works.

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

Principles:

"Comprehensive and disaggregated data harnessed across time and space is crucial to effectively define exposure and vulnerability, particularly for those most at risk. **We need to make better use of existing data for information and action.**"

UNDRR (2019) *Global Platform for DRR Co-Chair's Summary*, Paragraph C.14, p.2.

Action data for disaster reduction is reflective learning, practice and conjecture for improved *engagement* with current and future risk. **This assumes the broadest definition of contributing forms of data, considering knowledge as active data.**

(STAG DwG 2018-2020, UNDRR Global Platform, 2019)

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Comments:

- to collect data from across the membership and to articulate what information would really allow to do more than what is done and what is most needed.
- Instead of generating more data, to turn the mass of information that is available into actionable knowledge that can truly inform and move forward.
- Dr. Genta Nakano shared information on the DPRI/GADRI initiative on the Database Collection of World Disaster Risk Reduction Databases.
- The project will be a collection of various databases in different disciplines to promote understanding toward how different disciplines

work among the same objective of disaster risk reduction.

- Another important point is about the dynamism of the multi voice of the data. To hear voices of various stakeholders including local communities, governments, NGOs, etc and share their viewpoints, and to understand different perspectives.
- Prof. Lori Peek shared information on the National Science Foundation funded CONVERGE facility. There are programs that actually trains researchers to publish their data as well as their research instruments and protocols, to increase not just data sharing but also the sharing of instruments and protocols and to try to enhance research replication across field sites.

Committee on Advocacy:

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

Session Chair: Prof. Paul Kovacs, Chair of the Board of Directors of GADRI, ICLR, Western University, Ontario, Canada

The Chair of the Committee, Prof. Rajib Shaw prepared the PPT which was presented by Prof. Hirokazu Tatano

The Chair of the Committee, Prof. Rajib Shaw prepared the PPT which was presented by Prof. Hirokazu Tatano in his absence.

The GADRI platform provides the space to managing disaster risk reduction as effectively as possible. It gives the link to collaboration and work together with governments. Understanding nature of the message collectively to be delivered is very important. GADRI community can bring in an enormous value to better managing risks.

One of the importance of disaster research is to allow for the best public outcomes. From time to time, it may be necessary for GADRI to issue a statement on global issues to the outside of the academic world especially for decision making processes.

In his presentation, Prof. Shaw addressed the following issues:

Where is the gap in advocacy?

- balancing interest and demand. Advocacy based on researcher's interest

- gap identification - There is a need to change one's mindset to understand the gaps, both at the policies as well as grassroot levels.
- last and first mile - The researchers are put as the mile zero and the community are the last mile. The "last mile" needs to be the "first mile" where researchers start from the needs and priorities both at the policy and practice level.
- youth led innovation - this is another dimension Generation Z - who have been born with Internet - has a different mindset for innovation which needs to be explored.

Fulfilling the institutional voice by promoting partnership:

- bringing private sector through research, innovation, knowledge to policy
- need more entities to bring research, and innovation into DRR, climate change, sustainable development.
- Need to promote sci-preneurship = scientist + entrepreneur



Global-regional-national- local thematic.

- regional democracy: 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
- As was emphasized from the beginning, disaster is, in some sense, a local phenomenon as most of disasters happens in a particular location. Definitely the first responders are the local institutes and their inputs are actually very important. They have critical roles to play in the local context and understand many of the local difficulties. If there is a mechanism to share the knowledge, technologies or data, then other institutes can input or support local institutes. As the problem happens on the ground, definitely regional, national level source advocacy is very important.
- 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 is needed.

- GADRI needs to have its specific youth brigade for research and innovation.
- can collaborate with existing youth-led initiative like U-inspire
- provide innovation ecosystem for youth participation and leadership

Media and communication

- needs to provide a specific kind of 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.

Comments:

- GADRI moves forward with its advocacy role on behalf of its members. It will be incredibly powerful if GADRI could establish a conversation to regularly remind others of the huge value of the research that is being conducted. Action not based on science can be dangerous and unhelpful. To talk about the importance of behavior based on science and based on real experience on work is incredibly important.
- Internationally the disaster risk reduction area has been under-resourced and to build some very powerful messages about why having more investment in disaster research would be of great value to society is some of the broad messages to start the conversation.
- GADRI communications will be of a global nature. Perhaps dealing with other global organizations such as the United Nations and different international organizations, GADRI will certainly have news that would help them.
- As the committee figures out how to operationalize and where some of the conversation goes, it would be worthwhile to encourage them to find a voice to be helpful for an international or global conversation. In particular to be helpful for informing some of the global entities about how GADRI community can be useful and can be helpful to them.
- The science committees in the world had been making statements to the UN or governments, or national governments. Perhaps, GADRI Committee could follow them. For example, like The Tokyo Statement initiated by Prof. Toshio Koike, ICHARM.

Committee on Networking:

(To establish a global research network that promotes and engages disaster research)

Session Chair: Prof. Ortwin Renn, Member, Board of Directors of GADRI, IASS, Potsdam, Germany

Presenter: Prof. Charles Scawthorn, The Chair of the Committee on Networking, PEER, University of California, Berkeley, USA

The Chair of the Committee on Networking, Prof. Charles Scawthorn, PEER, University of California, Berkeley, USA, started by stating that the dictionary defines networking as the action or process of interacting with others to exchange information and develop professional or social contacts. But in the context of GADRI, “fostering that is mechanisms and actions for communication and exchanges to promote disaster research”. That is the working definition of networking.

Networking should be both within GADRI and in to the larger world. It is important to put in context the networking committee within the activities of the other committees as networking activities overlaps with activities of all the other four committees.

Each of the committees will be networking within themselves and within GADRI. Networking is required for the activities of all of the committees. For example, networking that would occur for data information sharing, it might be personal exchanges. Institutional capacity building, it might be bringing people together. For advocacy, it might be establishing into determining what positions are needed and would require a large consensus activity or networking. For the S&T Roadmap, it would mean bringing the mappers together and what data to share and so on.

The networking committee will actually, in a sense be trying to bring the other committees and GADRI into all these activities at the same time. In other words, to form teams so each of these committees can interact. These activities will also occur externally, where with the advocacy committee or the scientific and technology

roadmap committee or the other committees want to reach out. They will need to network in that regard.

The Committee on Networking is:

- Just formed, no specific activities as yet
- Possible activities being considered:
- Foster 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 (for example formation of “GADRI Scholars”) for example, someone in one of the member institutes would spend a few months or more at another GADRI institute. (funding is needed for this initiative) –
- Create a scholarly *journal of disaster research* (what is GADRI already doing?) GADRI does not yet have an official journal. Several people were very active in GADRI or editors of journals that might be, appropriate for GADRI. For example, Dr. Walter Amman. Chairs, the Journal of International Disaster Research. Or is one of the editors of that, Dr. David Alexander is lead editor. Or a new journal, the Annuals of Disaster Research. That

Global Disaster Researcher Directory

Then, if I'm interested in say **Earthquake** + **Fire** + **Field data collection**

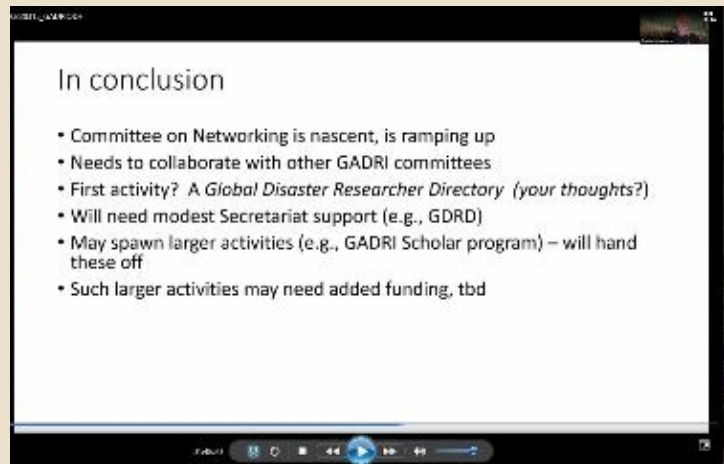
- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Earthquake | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field data collection | <input type="checkbox"/> Etc |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flood | <input type="checkbox"/> Testing | <input type="checkbox"/> Etc |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volcanism | <input type="checkbox"/> Analytic Models | <input type="checkbox"/> etc |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wind | <input type="checkbox"/> Statistical/empirical models | <input type="checkbox"/> etc |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drought | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazard analysis | <input type="checkbox"/> (to be properly structured per some taxonomy) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire | <input type="checkbox"/> Vulnerability analysis | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pest | <input type="checkbox"/> Risk analysis | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tsunami | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ... | | |

And I find all other researchers in that field



- Better utilize social media - GADRI has a Facebook page, but it is not really being reaching its potential. The younger generation are more familiar with social media and its potentials. There is a need in some way see how social media can be better employed for bringing for networking, for the disaster research community.
- Currently the GADRI website is a directory of member institutes. In networking, it is necessary to talk to people and this cannot be done through directory of member institutes. Therefore, it is proposed to create a global directory of disaster researchers. This can be done by circulating to all of the member institutes an invitation for all of their researchers to register online into a directory. They fill out their names, their filiation and so on. Check off the languages that they are fluent in, provide their ID for example, and check off their interests, whatever it might be. Earthquake or analytical models or statistical empirical models and so on and so forth. The interests would be structured according to a disaster taxonomy or several out there.
- And of course, collecting all this information, the following must be concerned with:
 - First of all, the registration would be opt-in,
 - coordinated with the member institutes.
 - GADRI Secretariat would provide suitable safeguards against hacking or other kinds of abuse.
 - It would be a voluntary registration of people.

Given the several hundred member institutes of GDRI, this directory would quickly grow to 1000 or more, disaster researchers around the world. This would be a very valuable directory. For example, someone is interested in the intersection of earthquake and fire and field data collection. They input those people, check off their interests. Then they go to the directory and check off those interests and find all the other researchers that are interested and have the same interests. With that they can begin networking with those people. That networking may take the form of a blog on the narrow topic, or it may take the form of some kind of a symposia, colloquium, or other kinds of meetings where they



would explore that topic that interests them. But all this is fostered by simply having a directory where one can quickly identify like minded people. This is something that GADRI can easily create and maintain at relatively low cost and would be very valuable.

In conclusion:

- committee on networking, like the other committees, is just a nascent and is now ramping up
- need to collaborate with the other committees because networking is one of the fundamental tools by which we all advance.
- The first activity might be a global disaster research directory (GDRD). Would like your thoughts on that and the discussion here.
- If the directory is to go ahead, support from the GADRI Secretariat is needed.
- AS the committee go forward, the committee may spawn larger activities, such as a GADRI scholar program but that would need added funding to be determined.

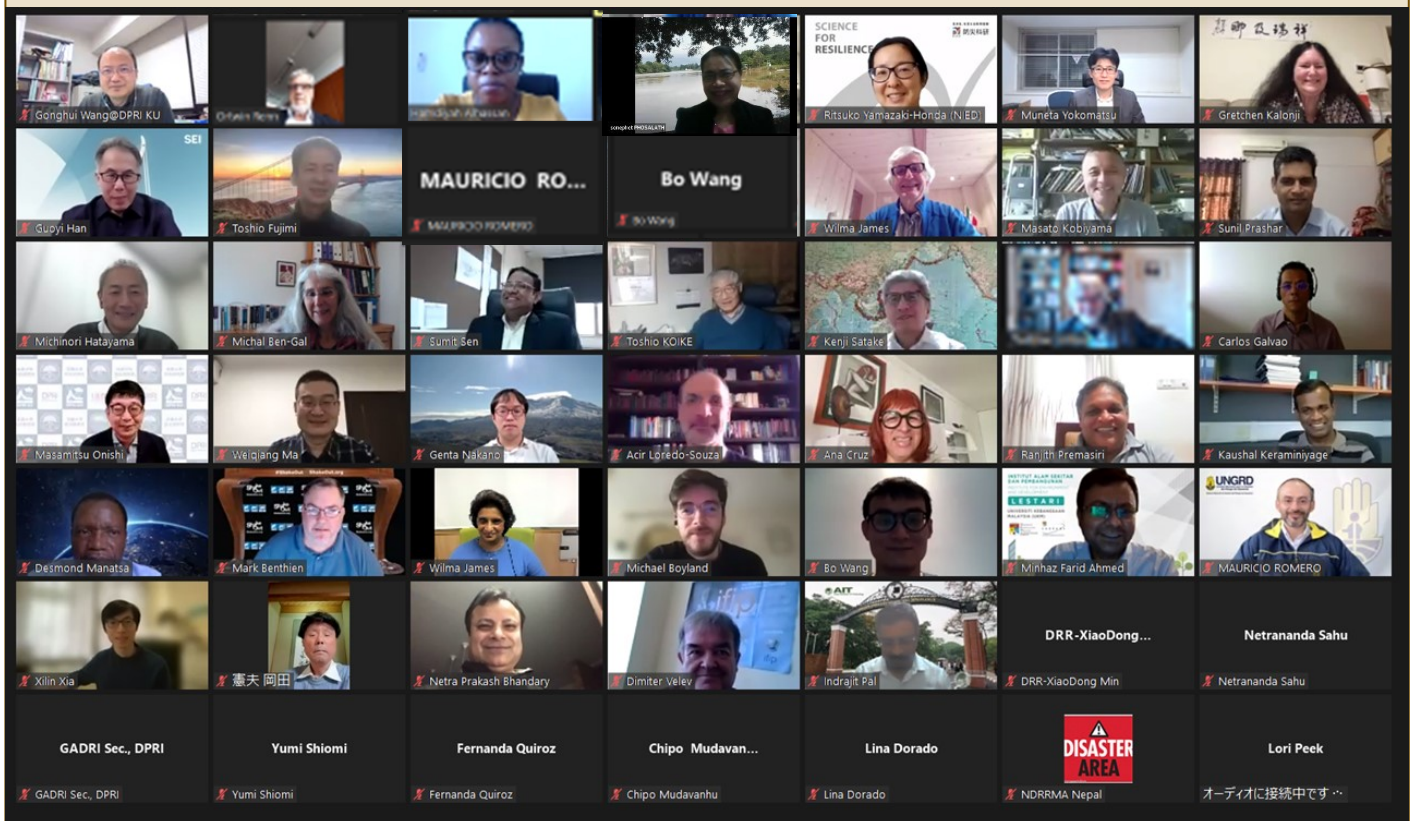
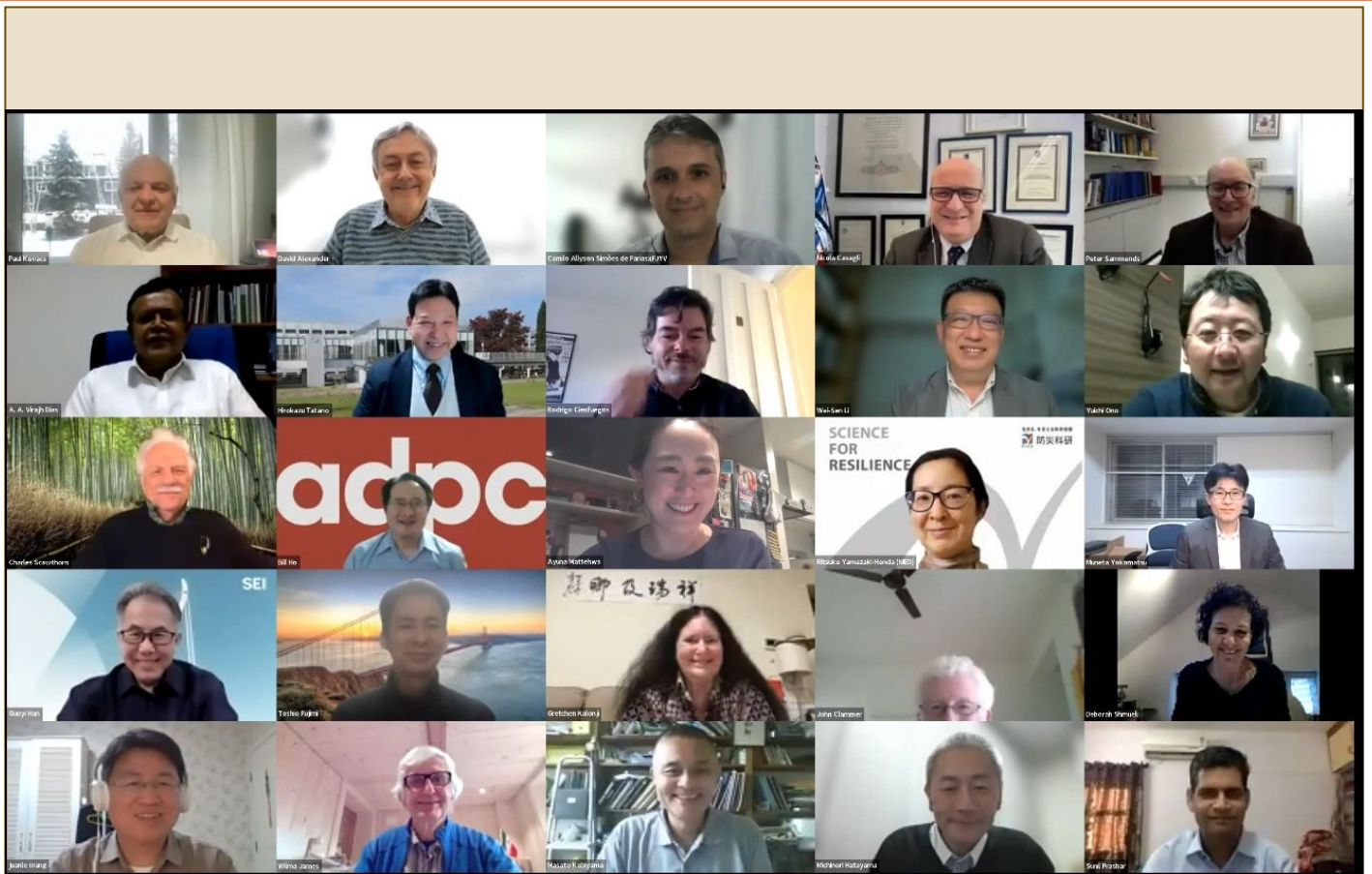
The Chair of the session reiterated that the Committee on Networking will be focused on communicating with people than with institutions. He also confirmed two main proposals that came out of the presentation, i.e to establish a directory of researchers of GADRI members; and the formation of GADRI scholars programme which of course may need funding to be implemented.

Comments:

- The GADRI directory idea is remarkable and it is something the Committee on Networking could focus initially.
- GADRI Secretariat organizes the Global Summit of GADRI every biennium to promote networking. But the work of the Committee on Networking will be outside of the meetings organized by the GADRI Secretariat
- the committee's purpose is to foster and to create and help to strengthen mechanisms for exchange of information. The Committee will be alert to opportunities to foster, strengthen, networking when there is a global summit or any other kind of GADRI activity.
- It is recommended to strengthen existing tools for social media.
- The Chair of the Committee stressed that the biggest contribution to make would be to try to create mechanisms for networking that do not already exist. For example, the directory could take on a life of its own. Another the concept of GADRI scholar program, although this may require funding. Member institutes can help with this by getting funding from their national sources to foster a program of GADRI scholars and exchange between institutes. This could be a vibrant activity.

The 4th Open Discussion Forum was closed by the Chair of the Board of Directors of GADRI, Prof. Paul Kovacs; and the Secretary-General of GADRI, Prof. Hirokazu Tatano. They thanked all participants for taking time off from their busy schedules to join the 4th Open Discussion Forum and for their thoughts

and ideas. They reiterated that it is through working together that it is possible to better serve society, better advance many of the personal goals, and achieve GADRI goals for a better world which realize disaster risk reduction in the reality.



New Members of the Board of Directors of GADRI

Farewells and Welcome

Through the end 2021 to early 2022, GADRI Secretariat conducted a election process among the members of GADRI to elect new members to fill the positions of the outgoing members of the Board of Directors of GADRI. There was a very good response from the community of GADRI and we thank everyone who supported and participated in the process.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Board of Directors of GADRI whose term of office ended as of 31st March 2022. They serve the community of GADRI for four full years since 1 April 2018.

- Prof. Ortwin Renn, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Potsdam, Germany
- Prof. Mahua Mukherjee and Prof. Sumit Sen, IIT, Roorkee, India
- Dr. Indrajit Pal, Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management (DPMM) at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand
- Dr. Rodrigo Cienfuegos, CIGIDEN, Chile

They brought in their valuable voluntary services to the Board of Directors of GADRI:

- experiences and expertise in their respective fields of science to share in with the community of GADRI. To mention a few:
- Contributions to the Global Summits of GADRI held in March 2019 and August 2021
- Contributions to the GADRI Open Discussion Forum held in 2018, 2020, and March 2022
- Representing GADRI at various conferences
- Making time to participate in meetings of the Board of Directors of GADRI

Although they will be missed by the Board of Directors of GADRI, it is comforting to note that they will be actively involved in the Committees of GADRI and other initiatives to support the work of GADRI.

On behalf of the members of the Board of Directors of GADRI and the community of GADRI, we thank all of them for the generous contributions during the past four years.

While we let go of the above members from the Board of Directors of GADRI, we welcomed the following five members to the Board:

- Dr. Kaulsahl Keraniyage, Research Centre for Disaster Resilience, University of Salford, UK
- Prof. Yuichi Ono, International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University, Japan
- Dr. Sunil Prakash and Dr. Bill Ho, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Thailand
- Dr. James Kendra, Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware, USA
- Dr. Lina Ospina, National Unit for Disaster Risk Management, Colombia

They will serve the community of GADRI during the period of 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2026. The members of Board of Directors of GADRI and community of GADRI look forward to working with them and benefitting from their expertise to attain the visions and objectives of GADRI.

Current Members of the Board of Directors of GADRI

1 April 2022 to 31 March 2026

Americas covering North and South America



Prof. Paul Kovacs

Chair, GADRI Board of Directors; and
founder and Executive Director of the Institute
for Catastrophic Loss Reduction at Western
University, Canada



Dr. Lina Marlene Dorado González

Deputy Director, Unidad Nacional para la
Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres de Colombia
-UNGRD) - National Unit for Disaster Risk
Management in Colombia



Dr. John van de Lindt

Professor, Harold H. Short Endowed Chair, Co-
Director, Center for Risk-Based Community
Resilience Planning, Colorado State University,
USA



Prof. James Kendra

Professor, Biden School of Public Policy and
Administration; Director, Disaster Research
Center Disaster Research Center, University
of Delaware, USA

Asia and Oceania



Prof. Gretchen Kalonji

Dean, Institute for Disaster Management and
Reconstruction (IDMR), Sichuan University,
China



Prof. Toshio Koike

International Centre for Water Hazard and
Risk Management (ICHARM) under the
auspices of UNESCO, Japan



Prof. Yuichi Ono

Professor, Practical Research and Collaboration
Division, International Research Institute of
Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University,
Japan



Dr. Bill Ho

Director, Asian Disaster Prevention Center
(ADPC), Bangkok, Thailand



Dr. Sunil Prashar

Project Officer, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Thailand

Europe and Africa



Dr. Sebesvari, Zita

Institute for Environment and Human Security, United Nations University (UNU-EHS), Germany



Prof. Peter Sammonds

Institute Director and Head of Department, Institute for Risk and Disaster Research (IRDR), University College London (UCL), United Kingdom



Prof David Alexander

Professor of Risk and Disaster Reduction, Inst for Risk & Disaster Reduction, Faculty of Maths & Physical Sciences, University College London (UCL), United Kingdom



Dr. Kaushal Keraminiyage

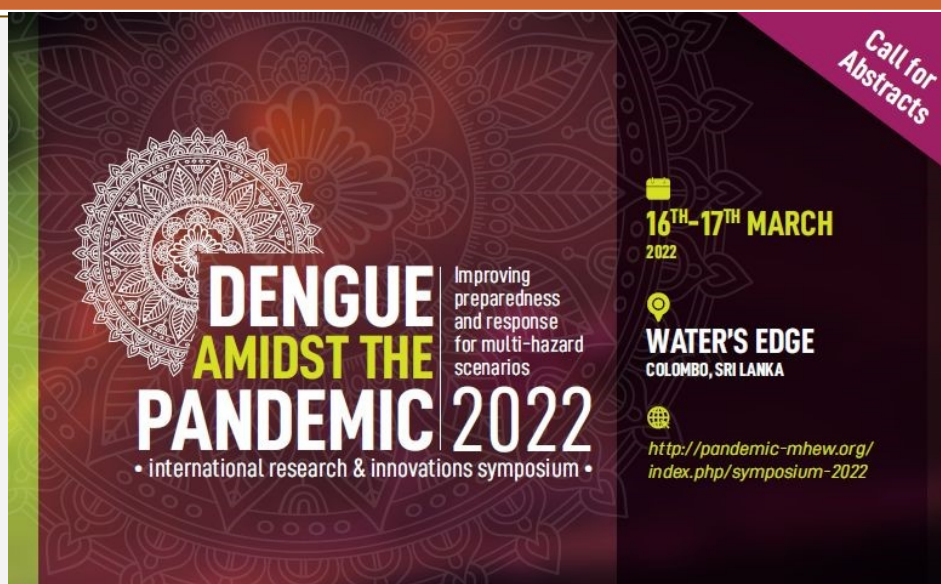
Centre for Disaster Resilience, University of Salford, Manchester, United Kingdom

GADRI Secretariat



Prof. Hirokazu Tatano

Secretary-General, GADRI; Professor and Head, Social Systems for Disaster Risk Governance, Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), Kyoto University, Japan



Dr. Dilanthi Amaratunga, Professor of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; Head, Global Disaster Resilience Centre, School of Applied Sciences, University of Huddersfield, UK shared information on the “International Research and Innovation Symposium on Dengue amidst the pandemic: Improving preparedness and response for multi-hazard scenarios - 2022 which was held from 16-17 March 2022, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The ongoing COVID-19 outbreak is an unprecedented event in modern human history. The impact of the pandemic also reflects what the international scientific community has recognised for years: that in an increasingly interdependent world, our lifestyles, our choices mean that hazards are spread throughout communities, societies and economies in complex ways that lead to systemic and cascading risks.

With this backdrop, this high-level, international symposium will debate and discuss:

- The impact of COVID-19 pandemic and other communicable diseases, such as dengue and malaria, and their role as part of overall multi hazard scenarios, integrating both natural biological hazards
- Opportunities for pandemic preparedness and response to make better use of the existing infrastructure, including other hazards' early warning protocols
- Multi-stakeholder approaches to collectively examine impacts, coordinate fiscal, monetary, and social measures, share practices and to learn lessons

The symposium is being organised by:

- Project consortium of the UKRI/EPSRC funded research collaboration: Improving COVID-19 and pandemic preparedness and response through the downstream of multi-hazard early warning systems, led by University of Huddersfield, UK
- Ministry of Health Sri Lanka (National Dengue Control Unit, Anti Malaria Campaign, Disaster Preparedness & Response Division)
- National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka

The symposium will take place via a hybrid modality that includes on-site and online participation. The on-site venue is Waters Edge, Sri Lanka (<https://www.watersedge.lk>). These arrangements are subject to change based on any COVID related restrictions.

For further details on symposium themes, key dates, and special features, please visit the symposium web site at: <http://pandemic-mhew.org/index.php/symposium-2022>."

GADRI Recommendations

UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)

Glasgow, UK, November 2021



The international community is called to take action on climate change, and encourage communities to help in the effort to maintain the temperatures at 1.5C degrees in order to maintain a healthier environment, and health. The 5th Global Summit of GADRI: Engaging Sciences with Action held virtually and intercontinentally 31st August to 1st September 2021, focused specifically to contribute to the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) held in Glasgow, UK in November 2021. The conference programme focused on topics related to climate change and requested the group discussion sessions to share recommendation to be submitted to COP26. Prof. Andrew Collins, former Chair of the Board of Directors of GADRI and a member institute of GADRI, coordinated with the United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) to submit the recommendations of the 5th Global Summit of GADRI to COP26. Following are the “Priority research themes arising from discussions of the Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI) for COP26 in collaboration with United Kingdom Research and Innovation¹.

Priority research themes:

- **An integrated approach for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)** that is timely in the contexts of speeded up climate emergency
- **Data and knowledge sharing** both at national and international level, including transboundary collaboration and evidence from observations spanning **in-situ and remotely sensed observations** of weather and climate and associated levels of exposure
- **Impact-based forecasting, early warning and rapid information dissemination** in the interests of achieving more resilient

infrastructure and societal preparedness

- **Multidisciplinary research that develops comprehensive models** of physical, social, and economic infrastructure at local level, with local **engagement from the very beginning** for grounded understanding of strengths and vulnerabilities
- **Science in action** for residents, governments, practitioners, and researchers. **National and local DRR policy feeds** boosted by dealing with multi-hazards and new risk landscapes that engages **multi-stakeholder** and inter-sector corporations in **win-win relationship**.
- **Boosted international collaboration through funding mechanisms** rooted in research into action. Bridge risk reduction and adaptation gaps through shared understanding and **improved communication of science** for populations, researchers, policy makers and economic actors.
- Greater understanding and proactive engagement with the **criticality of eco-systems-based disaster risk reduction and nature-based solutions** in climate change adaptation and resilience. Understanding of the **role of heterogeneity and biodiversity** within mixed narratives providing context for evidence.
- **Intergenerational equity and justice** in confronting climate induced disaster risk by making sure **young people have a seat at the table**. Enroot a “**culture of protection**” and **engagement** through ongoing practice guidelines for **Disaster Risk Management education**, as normal to education systems for all age groups, and those beyond formal education - include the UN in endorsements.”

¹ GADRI is an alliance of 209 disaster research institutions, centres and groups from 53 economies that also works alongside five world regional alliances and engages with global, regional, national and local level policy and practice. The 5th Global Summit of GADRI in 2021 was attentive to regional alliances, including UK Alliance for Disaster Research (UKADR) and a collaboration with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) on Adaptation and Resilience, to bring disasters research to bare on the outcomes of UN COP26.



5th Global Summit of GADRI and COP26

The United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI)'s COP26 Series on Adaptation and Resilience ran a 'finale event' twice on the 15th December, to be active in two time zones and include participation of many of the countries that hosted the series. As GADRI is one of the partners and linked into this process through its Global Summit output, that was taken into the COP26 display, they requested GADRI participation in the panel in the finale event on the 15th December 2021.

GADRI was represented by:

- Prof. Paul Kovacs, Chair, Board of Directors of GADRI, GADRI; and
- Prof. Mahua Mukherjee, Member, Board of Directors of GADRI, GADRI; and
- Prof. Andrew Collins, Co-chair, UKADR; and Member, GADRI; Disaster and Development Network, Northumbria University, UK

The report on UKRI's COP26 Adaptation and Resilience Series for which GADRI served as a partner was prepared and shared by **Dr. Sarah Blackburn**, Head of International, Natural Environment Research Council, UK shared information by the "[UKRI and partners report of the COP26 Adaptation and Resilience Events Series](#),

which was published on the UKRI website on 16 March 2022: [UKRI report outlines key priorities for climate change adaptation – UKRI](#)".

Dr. Blackburn wrote that "the report summarises the findings of an international events series hosted by UKRI last year in the run up to the COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow. The events brought together a range of stakeholders to showcase collaborative, locally-led and globally relevant research aligned to the UK COP26 presidency's adaptation loss and damage theme. Discussions focussed on how we can respond to and prepare for the impacts of climate change in a wide range of locations across the globe and identified shared research interests and core principles for incorporating within future climate adaptation research initiatives. Watch the [compilation video](#) for the highlights!".

([compilation video compilation video](#))

"Please feel free to share the report with any interested colleagues. A huge thank you to all of our UK and international co-host partners and speakers for contributing to the events series, we look forward to working together again in future and continuing to support cross-stakeholder dialogue around key climate adaptation and resilience issues."

New Members of GADRI



Nord University, Bodo, Norway

[Nord university preparedness management lab \(NORDLAB\)](#) provides an arena for situational awareness and risk assessments with a special focus on cold-climate areas, as well as education, research, exercises and tests within crisis management related to sea, land and air-based emergency response. NORDLAB is the lead partner of the UArctic thematic network on safety and security and also holds a chair on Societal Safety and Se [UArctic - UArctic - University of the Arctic](#).

NORDLAB provides computer-based simulation capacities integrated with crisis management decision-support tools and command and control support systems.

In cooperation with world-leading suppliers of emergency preparedness software, modelling and simulation systems as well as decision making support solutions we offer an advanced training and test arena within emergency management for students and professionals.

NORDLAB is doing research on managerial roles, preparedness organization and collaboration, resilience, and crisis management competence development.

NORDLAB participates actively in research and development (R&D) related to different areas of crises, such as maritime disasters and hybrid threats. NORDLAB emphasis research on disaster preparedness and management, including emergency preparedness system analysis, decision-making support tools and leadership. At NORDLAB we also participate in innovation projects related to next generations' cloud-based simulator systems. The research has a focus on testing different simulation approaches including computer-based simulation and full-scale, field exercises.

NORDLAB offer counseling and competent advisors within the field of emergency preparedness. Our competence encompasses public and private sectors, as well as preparedness management and – leadership in private sector and in the communities.

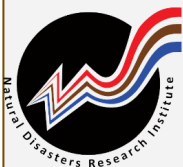
Our research projects increase knowledge about preparedness management in cold climate areas.

Research Interests:

- Crisis management
- Preparedness
- Disaster response
- High impact low probability incidents
- Multi-agency partnership and collaboration
- Crisis management training and exercises
- Cold climate challenges
- Education within crisis management
- Community resilience and human factors

Comparative advantage/contribution to GADRI Activities:

- Contribute to joint education and training concepts within emergency management.
- Focus on preparedness and crisis management in large scale disasters.
- Adapting simulator platforms for crisis management training and exercises
- Risk reduction and disaster resilience through improving disaster response as well as continuity management.
- Enhancing disaster preparedness through increased collaboration at different management levels
- Broaden the network towards the cold climate issues and maritime disaster issues.
- Contribute to international research groups to investigate current and past global disasters and improve crisis management education and training



Natural Disasters Research Institute (NDRI), I.R. of Iran

In the aftermath of the disastrous Gilan and Zanjan earthquake in 1990 in Iran, the Technical Capacity Mobilization Office of Iran was established for the reconstruction of the affected areas in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) under the supervision of the Housing Foundation of Islamic Revolution. By ending the World Bank's loan and approving a new statute in 1993, the Centre for Natural Disasters Mitigation Studies of Iran was established and continued its activities until 1998. In 1998, the Centre was renamed to Natural Disasters Research and Study Centre. As a response to a national need in conducting research on natural disasters, the Centre's statute was revised in 2003. Following the permit issued by the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology and approved by the Higher Education Development Council, the Centre was transformed to the Natural Disasters Research Institute to address these goals:

1. Development and promotion of research in the field of natural disasters
2. Promoting the relevant research activities

At present, the Institute consists of six research groups, i.e. Crisis Management Research Group, Environmental Hazards and Meteorological Disasters Research Group, Structural Retrofitting and Reconstruction Research Group, Geological Hazards Research Group, Hydrological Hazards Research Group, and Post-disaster Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Research Group. There are also affiliation units, including the UNESCO Chair on Natural Disasters Management, Centre of Applied Science, Journal of Housing and Rural Environment, Natural Disasters Technology Start-up Incubator, International Center for Urban Resilience Research (ICURR), Innovation and Future Study Think Tank in Crisis Management, Rural Development Research Centre, Vulnerable and Distressed Urban Areas Research Centre.



The National Disaster Management Strategy of Islamic Republic of Iran and the included national plans were enacted, 15 Dec 2021

Projects:

- Feasibility study of relocation of villages at risk of natural disasters
- Feasibility study of optimal settlement of rural settlements at risk of natural disasters
- Documenting and recording the oral history of the country's past disasters
- consulting on vulnerability assessment and seismic improvement of bridges in Tehran
- Preparation of technical identification of steel, concrete and masonry buildings
- Qualitative and quantitative seismic vulnerability assessment of important buildings in the country
- Preparation of executive instructions for retrofitting and improvement
- Provision of geotechnical services and strength of materials by destructive and non-destructive tests
- Provision of laboratory services of seismic pulse and forced vibration
- Management of the country's school rehabilitation plan
- Landslide risk zoning in the provinces of the country

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,

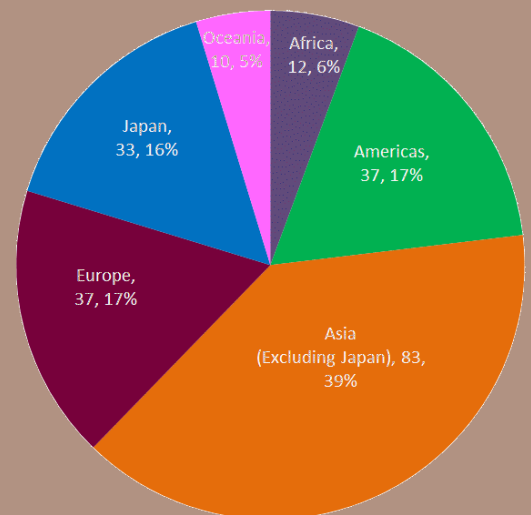
survivability and well-being, by integrating knowledge and technologies from around the world. Over 200 institutions have joined GADRI. GADRI membership is free; and completely voluntary and non-binding.

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

To join GADRI, please contact the GADRI Secretariat: secretariat-gadri@dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Geographical Distribution of GADRI as of 30 April 2022

Area	Members	Economies
Africa	12	7
Americas	37	8
Asia (Excluding Japan)	83	23
Europe	37	13
Japan	33	1
Oceania	10	2
Total Institutes	212	54
	53 economies	



Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI)
Secretariat

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