



**THE FUTURE OF
GLOBAL
DISASTER
RISK REDUCTION**

Forum Chair Statement

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Acknowledgements

The Forum Chair very much appreciates fruitful discussions made by participants during the Academic Forum “The Future of Global Disaster Risk Reduction: Strengthening the Resilience of Megacities through Science, Technology and Innovation” held in the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) in Tokyo, Japan on the 9th of December 2025.

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The Forum Chair is grateful to the members of the IRDR Sub-Committee and its Activity Promotion Committee for their active participation in drafting and editing the recommendation document “Science, Technology and Innovation to Strengthen Disaster Resilience in Megacities Facing Catastrophic Disaster Risks.”

The 20 member organizations of Japan Hub of Disaster Resilience Partners (JHoP) are also appreciated for their joining monthly meetings during the preparation process of the recommendation document and the Forum.



Morning Session

Having experienced a cascading disaster (earthquake in January and heavy rain in September in 2024) in the Noto Peninsula, Japan,

The morning session heard actual situations of the disaster from the Mayor of Anamizu Town, who also mentioned countermeasures for enhancing resilience of the town, preparedness, and expectations for S&T.

The members of the Committee on Cooperation of Academics for DRR explained the **Advisory Opinion “Preparing for Wide-Area Regional Disasters Based on Lessons from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and Heavy Rain Disaster,”** and discussed scientific aspects of the hazards, lessons learned in terms of disaster management, and countermeasures for the future, especially in local, isolated, rural, and underpopulated areas.



Afternoon Session

Recognizing the importance of megacities, which make strong socio-economic impacts to the world when they are affected by catastrophic hazards such as earthquake, tsunami, hurricane, and volcano eruption,

The IRDR Sub-Committee has drafted the recommendation document during a half year before the Forum.

Hearing a keynote speech on the New Urban Agenda (Quito Declaration),

The Forum Chair summarized contents of the recommendation document, and the authors of each chapter explained some more details of recommendation items.

Panel Discussion Session

Based on the discussions in the Afternoon Session, and
IRDR representative's speech,

The members of the International Advisory Board (IAB) of ICoE-Coherence, which is an IRDR ICoE (International Center of Excellence) and composed of the 20 JHoP member organizations, gave their views on the recommendation document from their expertise.

The panel coordinator had a lively discussion among the panelists and summarized the panel discussion.

Forum Chair Statement (1)

We are living in a vulnerable world.

We would like to transform the world to be sustainable to future generations with a safe, secure, peaceful, healthy, affluent and resilient society.

From this viewpoint, considering rapid global changes in climate and social environment, we especially discussed how to cope with catastrophic disasters in growing megacities, which are home to large populations and vast assets, but face extreme disaster risks, and often lack disaster preparedness and sufficient resilience.



Forum Chair Statement (2)

Recognizing again the importance of global agendas such as the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Agreement for Climate Change and New Urban Agenda (Quito Declaration),

Recognizing also the importance of international cooperation research activities such as IRDR, which sets nine priorities for 2030 and beyond (<https://www.irdrinternational.org/upload/20241211/a117c235ce8ad8.pdf>),

We believe science, technology and innovation contribute to scientific-based, evidence-based and risk-informed decision and policy making towards sustainable future.

We strongly encourage all stakeholders—scientists, policymakers, and practitioners—to get together and contribute to this collective effort and turn these priorities into actionable solutions.



Structure of the Recommendations and the 14 Key Recommendations (1)

1. Background and Objectives of the Recommendations

2. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Megacities

3. DRR Measures for Disaster Resilient Cities

- ◆ Recommendation 1: Implement land use management based on disaster risk
- ◆ Recommendation 2: Account for uncertainties of future changes and disaster risks

4. Public Health in Megacities during Disasters

- ◆ Recommendation 3: Minimize health impacts
- ◆ Recommendation 4: Prevent indirect disaster-related deaths
- ◆ Recommendation 5: Maintain health, medical, and welfare systems

5. Damage and Loss Assessment of Urban Disasters

- ◆ Recommendation 6: Develop standards for disaster risk assessment
- ◆ Recommendation 7: Promote DRR investment



Structure of the Recommendations and the 14 Key Recommendations (2)

6. Dissemination and Distribution of Disaster Information

- ◆ Recommendation 8: Utilize latest technologies and knowledge in disaster information
- ◆ Recommendation 9: Lead in developing AI technologies effective for DRR
- ◆ Recommendation 10: Promote international dissemination, communication, and sharing of information

7. Capacity Building for Urban Disaster Reduction

- ◆ Recommendation 11: Promote interdisciplinary education to understand comprehensive nature of disasters
- ◆ Recommendation 12: Build societal systems that incentivize disaster education

8. Science and Technology and Innovation (STI) for DRR in Megacities

- ◆ Recommendation 13: Establish a STI platform for DRR
- ◆ Recommendation 14: Provide strategic recommendations that address DRR challenges grounded in societal needs

14 Recommendations

“Science, Technology and Innovation to Strengthen Disaster Resilience in Megacities Facing Catastrophic Disaster Risks”

has been submitted to the SCJ and now under a review process.

We still have opportunities to improve it. We welcome your inputs to it.

Encouraging Young People --- future generations



Objectives of this programme

- Promote dialogue and capacity building of youth, young scientist, young professionals
- Encourage YS to undertake innovative and needs-based research
- Foster Actionable Research to policy and implementation
- Propose time: 11-13 August 2026 (tbc)



TOWARDS IRDR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH/YOUNG SCIENTIST YOUNG PROFESSIONAL FORUM (IRDR-IYF) 2026



➤ Possible collaboration with SCJ's Young Academy



Academic Forum organized by the SCJ

The Future of GLOBAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION:
STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE of MEGACITIES
THROUGH SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION