

Date: September 2017

Subject: Invitation to the Global Forum on Science and Technology for Disaster Resilience 2017, Tokyo, Japan, 23– 25 November 2017

Dear XXXXXXXX

We are pleased to invite you to the Global Forum on Science and Technology for Disaster Resilience 2017 (hereinafter ‘The Forum’) co-organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the International Council for Science (ICSU), Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) and the Science Council of Japan (SCJ). The Forum will be held at the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) in Tokyo on 23–25 November 2017.

The Forum recognizes the importance of a solid evidence and science base for risk-informed development and investment, which is emphasised in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030¹. It also highlights the important linkages and mutual reinforcement for disaster risk reduction with the 2030 agendas: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the New Urban Agenda.

The Forum builds on the outcomes of the UNISDR International Science Technology Conference, held in Geneva in January 2016, which resulted in the adoption of the Science and Technology Roadmap for Sendai Framework and the launch of the Science and Technology Partnership². It also takes into account the adoption of Disaster Risk Reduction Indicators and updated DRR Terminology to measure the progress to achieve the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework³.

The Forum will bring together scientists, researchers from universities and academic institutions, as well representatives of Disaster Risk Reduction national authorities, policy makers, and key United Nations and other International Organizations and relevant development partners.

To pursue steady implementation of the four priorities for action of the Sendai Framework, the Forum aims to promote all stakeholders to develop plans for the following two **outputs** through working together in interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary way:

- 1) Guidelines for strengthening DRR national platforms and coordination mechanisms through enhanced contribution of science and technology; and
- 2) Periodic synthesis reports on the state of science and technology for reducing disaster risk.

¹ <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>

² <http://www.unisdr.org/partners/academia-research/conference/2016/>

³ <https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/51748>



The concept note and the tentative agenda of the Forum are attached, for your reference.

In view of your knowledge, experience and commitment to disaster risk reduction and to the implementation of Sendai Framework, we are pleased to invite you to participate in the Forum as a speaker/discussant and to join one of the four working groups outlined in the concept note corresponding to the four priorities of the Sendai Framework, to develop the outputs of the Forum during the period of two years following its conclusion. The co-organizers will cover travel costs of very limited number of participants particularly from developing countries. More information, including accommodation options, will be shared with those participants in due time. Your acceptance of this invitation and contribution to the Forum will be highly valued.

Please kindly confirm your participation by registering on <http://wci.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/ResilienceForum2017/index.html>

as soon as possible, latest by 06 October 2017. On the registration website, please also select **two** options from the four priority actions and **one** from three cross-cutting thematic sessions. Based on your choice, your role in the Forum will be confirmed in October.

Just before and after the Forum, four science events will take place in Japan. These are: 1) the IRDR Science Committee meeting on 20-21 November at the same venue as the Forum in Tokyo; 2) the scoping workshop of Knowledge-Action Network (KAN) on 22 November at the United Nations University in Tokyo; 3) the "World Bosai Forum" on 25-28 November 2017; and 4) the Japan "National Conference for Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction", hosted by the Cabinet Office of Japan. The two latter events, 3) and 4), will be held in Sendai city. We encourage you to attend these valuable discussions forums on the implementation of Sendai Framework.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Forum.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Robert Glasser
Special Representative
of the UN Secretary-General
for Disaster Risk Reduction

Prof. Takashi Onishi
President
Science Council of Japan

DR. Shuaib Lwasa
Chair, Science Committee
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk

Prof. Gordon McBean
President
International Council for Science