

Dear Board Members,

Invited by Mr. HAN Qunli, the director of the International Program Office (IPO) of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR), the WFEO-CEIT team had a visit to the office on March 26. IRDR is a decade-long research programme co-sponsored by the International Science Council (ISC) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) started in 2010. It is a global, multi-disciplinary approach to dealing with mitigating natural disasters' impacts and improving related policy-making mechanisms. IRDR International Programme Office is hosted by the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth (RADI) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and obtained core funding from China Association for Science and Technology (CAST). IRDR has brought expertise from the natural, socio-economic sciences as well as policy-making together, showcased its fruitful dialogue and cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, scientific communities and other stakeholders. A good practice of IRDR is that collaborated with local research institutes, a Big Data based Agricultural Monitoring System has been established in Mozambique, which achieved a great improvement in alleviating agricultural disasters. Every year, IRDR provides disaster risk reduction cases for the United Nations Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), and has been successfully selected to the *United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction: 2019 annual report*.

However, IRDR needs the support of engineering. Since this project will be ended by 2020, we have discussed the necessity to continue this work to give stronger support to implement SDGs based on the outcomes from the first decade and with the engagement of engineering. I have shown the intention of WFEO to join the next phase of the project (in proposal) and take this as a concrete hurdle of WFEO-ISC cooperation.

For the cooperation with ISC on the IRDR project, I would like to propose:

1. CDRM-IRDR Collaboration

The core work of IRDR is closely related to CDRM's, it could play an active role in the project. By the way, the GP2019 and a relevant forum organized by UNISDR, ISC, STAG and IRDR on Science-Policy are on May 13-14 in Geneva. Mr. HAN is kindly suggested to ISC and UNISDR to invite WFEO to join **Session 4 on Technology on Disaster Risk Reduction**. I suggest WFEO and its CDRM should join it.

2. CEIT-IRDR Collaboration

IRDR aims to design an overall framework for disaster loss data and to establish distributed database. This is directly related to one of the CEIT's proposed International Meridian Circle Project (IMCP). And, IRDR is keen on introducing AI and other emerging technologies, which are in line with CEIT strategy.

3. Collaboration Opportunities for WFEO members

The proposed cooperation will bring good opportunities to WFEO's member organizations to join in with data acquisition and sharing, capacity building and so forth. I think this could be an incentive to our members.

The outcomes of the cooperation are deeper understand to the dynamics of natural disaster and better measures to reduce and manager the risks, databanks, reports/proposals/guidelines and trainings will set up and carry out with WFEO engagements. These could certainly increase the visibility of WFEO globally.

Therefore, I would like to raise the issue of cooperation with ISC on proposing next phase of IRDR project on the Board Meeting to seek your support and suggestions.

Yours sincerely

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