

(Draft) Statement for the AMCDRR, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia  
5 July 2018

Fumihiko Imamura  
Director, International Research Institute of Disaster Science  
Tohoku University

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen,

IRIDeS would like to deliver a statement from Sendai. We have been restlessly conducting pragmatic research on disaster risk reduction in Japan and abroad since its establishment in 2012, one year after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

IRIDeS, being located in Sendai, our mission is to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction from academic perspectives. Disaster Risk Reduction measures whether they are soft or hard must be developed based on sound science and technology as it is stressed in the Sendai Framework.

All of our 100 DRR researchers in 37 different research areas from human science to physical, engineering, and medical science at the IRIDeS have been making efforts to develop pragmatic, action-oriented research on DRR corresponding to all the elements in the disaster management cycle.

Tohoku University offered campus space for the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015. At the same time, IRIDeS significantly contributed to develop the Sendai Framework, in particular setting up seven global targets such as reducing disaster mortality, number of affected people, and direct economic losses, etc.

However, even though these goals have been set, we would not be able to monitor the progress of the goals, unless disaster statistics, which would become the basic information, is not established in

each country. In reality, the number of countries that have developed a system for disaster statistics is currently still low, even among developed countries.

Therefore, IRIDeS has set up the "Global Centre for Disaster Statistics" (GCDS) in April 2015, for the purpose of supporting the development of disaster statistics.

GCDS facilitates improvement of disaster related statistics including loss and damage data in countries, in collaboration with UNDP and private sector, including Fujitsu and Pacific Consultants, and other partner organizations such as Japan International Cooperation Agency, Asian Disaster Reduction Center, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, and International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management. GCDS supports UNISDR and national governments to monitor the progress of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and facilitates capacity of national / local governments to integrating scientific analysis based on disaster loss and damage data into policy making for comprehensive risk governance. Then, ultimately, GCDS would contribute to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in making policy globally.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I am pleased to announce that GCDS will make a soft launch of the on-line Global Database. The database will have disaster damage data of Indonesia first, followed by the data from six other Asian countries. By the end of 2020, we hope to have data from 20 countries. Also, our value-addition is a great deal of analytical capacity at the IRIDeS with its network.

In particular, we developed an expert group to sharpen macro-economic analysis in disaster risk reduction. With this initiative, we should identify how much investment in disaster

risk reduction should be most appropriate in balance with others.

IRIDeS in partnership with the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) with 50 research universities in the area initiated the Multi-Hazards Program. Among key activities, the program has been offering a Summer School every July where students and young scholars could share the lessons learnt from the experience of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and its recovery process, including through field visits to the affected areas.

Lastly, I would like to invite all of you to the second World Bosai Forum to be held in Sendai, 9-12 November 2019. World Bosai Forum is an international and multistakeholder forum on disaster risk reduction in partnership with the International Disaster and Risk Conference in Davos, Switzerland. Officials and experts from Japan and overseas, including international organizations, governments, private sector, academia, and media, as well as local citizen participate and seek practical solutions in disaster risk reduction through lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and other disasters from the world. The first WBF in November 2017 achieved a great success, bringing together 947 participants from over 42 countries and more than 10,000 local citizens.

I very much look forward to seeing you in Sendai in November 2019.

I thank you.