

# **2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

## **Cancun, Mexico, 24-28 May 2017**

### **Opening Ceremony of the Global Platform**

The Official Opening Ceremony for the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was held on 24 May. H.E. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico, attended the Opening Ceremony and delivered a speech. He mentioned: “To protect the population from natural disasters is one of the most important humanitarian responsibilities. This is a task in which we should all participate and where we can all contribute. We should work together, society and government, to greater protect our communities.”

### **Session “Contribution of Science and Technology to Achieving the 2020 Sendai Target”**

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP), as recognized by the UN General Assembly, is the main forum at the global level for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development and the review of progress in the implementation of international instruments on disaster risk reduction. It is the world’s foremost gathering of stakeholders committed to reducing disaster risk and building the resilience of communities and nations. The GP is characterized by a format that facilitates dialogue and exchanges among all stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental. It features a high-level dialogue which brings together senior government officials, including heads of state and government, ministers, mayors and parliamentarians and leaders from the private sector, science, and civil society.

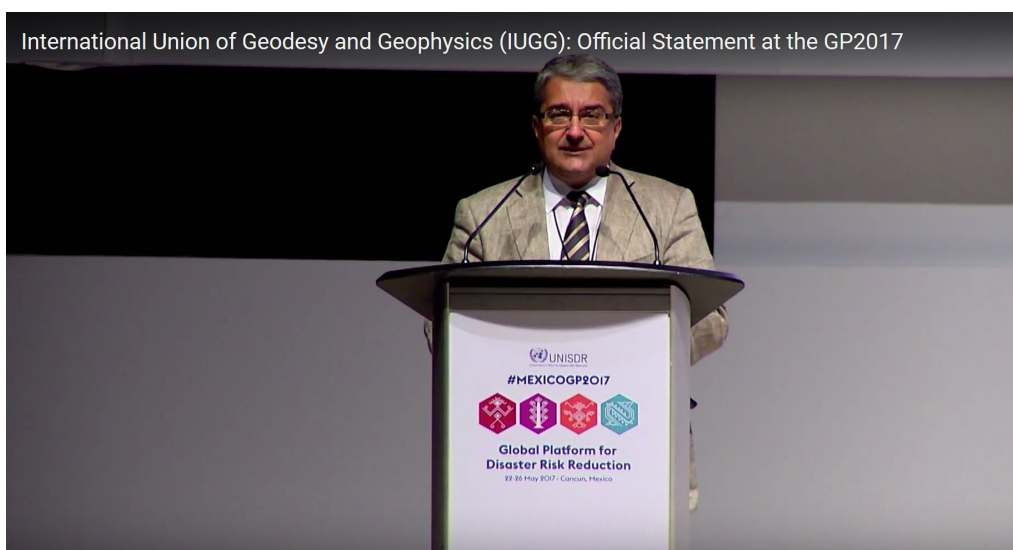
To achieve Target E of the Sendai Framework that focuses on national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, countries will need to access and use credible and robust multi-hazard risk assessments. This includes evidence-based risk information provided by and developed together with the science and technology community. The Sendai Framework calls on the science and technology community to focus on understanding disaster risk factors and scenarios, support action by local communities and authorities, and enhance the interface between policy and science for decision-making.

The Session built on the outcomes of the UNISDR Conference on Science and Technology held in January 2016 in Geneva that launched the UNISDR Science and Technology Partnership and Roadmap. It discussed the contribution of science and technology in achievement

of Target E of the Sendai Framework with focus on illustrating how appropriate global, national, and local disaster risk assessments and scientific analysis have been used to inform disaster risk reduction planning and monitoring at national and local levels. Alik Ismail-Zadeh was involved in [organization of the Session on Science, Technology and Innovations](#) and took part in the session on 25 May.

### **IUGG Statement at the UN Global Platform on DRR 2017**

On behalf of IUGG, Alik Ismail-Zadeh delivered an IUGG [statement](#) on 26 May, which can be watched [here](#).



### **Meeting of Scientific Committee for the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)**

*Alik Ismail-Zadeh participated in the business meeting of the Scientific Committee for the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) co-sponsored by the International Council for Science (ICSU), International Social Sciences Council (ISSC), and the U.N. Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). He was invited to the IRDR Scientific Committee meeting to discuss the importance of a periodic synthesis and assessment of disaster risks.*

To promote the use of science in disaster risk reduction (DRR) policymaking and to promote coordination among scientific and technological research activities at national, regional, and global levels, synthesis of scientific evidence should be produced in a timely, accessible, and policy-relevant manner (Ismail-Zadeh and Cutter, 2015). This include comprehensive knowledge

on the state of science and technology related to the identification of disaster risks, the assessment of the socio-economic impact of disasters, the approaches to substantial reduction of human and economic losses should be presented in a clear, easy-to-understand way for the worldwide application of disaster risk reduction policies. Integrated synthesis reports should be produced periodically (i.e., mid-term and final reports during the period of the Sendai Framework) and by thematic areas of work under the Sendai Framework priorities of action by coordinating international scientific and technological research initiatives. Collaboration should be strengthened not only among disaster risk reduction community but also with other areas closely related to disaster risk reduction, such as those concerning climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

### **Discussions on Disaster Risk Assessment**

A business meeting of representatives of several international and intergovernmental organizations was organized by IUGG on 24 May to discuss a cooperation in further development of the initiative on setting up an international panel for disaster risk assessment. The following people attended the meeting:

- *Jaime Urrutia Fucugauchi*, President, Mexican Academy of Sciences, New Mexico, MEXICO
- *Alasdair Hainsworth*, Chief Disaster Risk Reduction Services Division, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Geneva, SWITZERLAND
- *Alik Ismail-Zadeh*, Secretary General, International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), Karlsruhe, GERMANY
- *Thorsten Klose-Zuber*, Division for Humanitarian Assistance, German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin, GERMANY
- *Toshio Koike*, Chair, Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction and International Coordination, Science Council of Japan, Tokyo, JAPAN
- *Gordon McBean*, President, International Council for Science (ICSU), Paris, FRANCE
- *Vladimir Tsirkunov*, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, World Bank, Washington, D.C., USA
- *Chadia Wannous*, Senior Advisor, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Geneva, SWITZERLAND
- *Soichiro Yasukawa*, Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris, FRANCE



*Meeting participants (from the left to the right): V. Tsirkunov, T. Koike, G. McBean, C. Wannous, A. Hainsworth, J. U. Fucugauchi, T. Klose-Zuber, and A. Ismail-Zadeh*

The basic topics was how disaster risk synthesis and assessment should be implemented in policymaking. IUGG proposes to work together with international organizations, intergovernmental agencies, and other stakeholders on setting up an intergovernmental panel on disaster risk assessment.

### **Lecture at Colegio Nacional, Mexico City, Mexico**

Colegio Nacional is a Mexican honorary academy with a strictly limited membership (40 Members) created by presidential decree in 1943 bringing together the country’s foremost scientists and artists. Prof. J. U. Fucugauchi, as a Member of Colegio Nacional and President of the Mexican Academy of Sciences, invited Alik Ismail-Zadeh to give a public lecture at the Colegio “Why earthquake hazard turns to become a disaster?”. The lecture was held on 22 May at 12:00, simultaneously translated into Spanish, live broadcast, and continued until 14:00 including more than 1-hour time for questions and comments.



*A. Ismail-Zadeh (left), J. U. Fucugauchi, and X. P. Campos (photo: Colegio Nacional)*