

## **Message from IRDR to the Tokyo Conference on International Study for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience**

Your Highness

Mr Chairman,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I bring a message of greeting on behalf of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk programme (IRDR), one of the sponsors of this, the Tokyo Conference on International Study for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience.

I don't need to tell those present that the coming months are ones of immense importance for all those working in the field of disaster risk reduction. We are heading for – indeed are already in – an exciting and at the same time challenging period, as the governments of the world take stock of the achievements and shortcomings of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and seek to put in place a successor strategy to serve the world's needs for the coming decade and beyond. Integrated Research on Disaster Risk programme (IRDR), which is co-sponsored by International Council for Science, International Social Science Council and UNISDR, are initiatives with key roles to play in making sure that the results of integrated, interdisciplinary, relevant research are used by decision-makers at all levels.

2014 was an exciting and engaging one for the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) programme as we continued to expand on the previous year's activities to deliver on our research objectives. We recorded several milestones that underscored the significance of the IRDR message in the global disaster risk reduction dialogue: from the outcomes of our four project working groups; to the holding of the second IRDR conference, at which more than 300 persons from 54 countries participated; and to our integral role in the preparatory process for the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

One of the key messages that emerged from the second IRDR conference was for a more active engagement of the community in the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. We responded to that call and, during the second half of 2014, IRDR

participated in the preparatory process for the Third UN World Conference and, at the invitation of one of our Co-Sponsors, the International Council for Science (ICSU), led the Science and Technology Major Group (STMG) delegation at both preparatory committee (PrepCom) meetings in July and November 2014. As the lead of the Science and Technology Major Group delegation, IRDR participated in all Major Group discussions with the co-chairs of the World Conference preparatory committee concerning the pre- and zero drafts of the proposed framework, and attended all expert open meetings held in Geneva.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Chair of the Science Committee of IRDR let me say that we are keen to strengthen collaboration between our all organizations in DRR over the coming years and continued to build on the collective efforts of the many involved. I thank them all for their contributions in 2014 to IRDR activities and look forward to deepening our relationship in 2015, as we stride forward to create an enhanced capacity around the world to address hazards and make informed decisions on actions to reduce their impacts.

The programme you have developed for this meeting is an interesting one; I myself look forward to learning of the outcomes and feel sure your deliberations will contribute to the body of knowledge so needed by the international community over the months and years to come.

Thank you for your attention.

David Johnston