

THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS PROJECT

IN THE IIASA-DPRI FORUM ON INTEGRATED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT
(NEXUS-IDRiM)

INVITATION FOR THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS GROUP

The issue of disaster risk management involves many complicated and different aspects. For this reason, the forum is organized to challenge the problem in an integrated way by calling for world's top disaster researchers from natural and social sciences. Now the forum is recognized as a very unique effort and has achieved successful outcomes. "Integrated" is a very fundamental concept of the conference.

However, scientific discussion in an "integrated" way bears a risk to lose chances to improve expertise of a presented research. Unlike other academic conferences, participating researchers are hard to share the languages of specialty each other in a limited time. Putting it another way, that is one of the reasons why integrated disaster risk management is difficult to realize.

Moreover, for disaster problems, our society expects scientists to find an implementable solution to reduce our risks by something instantly in effect. Therefore, leading disaster researchers are sometimes forced to elicit a solution even before he completes sufficient scientific investigation.

Recognizing this antinomy for integrated science of disaster risk, we have to adhere to be scientific as far as we are a group of scientists. The group of young scientists who are conscious of this question, and have strong motivation to apply basic principles of science to research problems started the NEXUS young scientist project. The members work in their own bases, and the achievements are presented in the young scientist session of the IDRiM forum every year. The project is an unique activity of the forum in that it is organized by the young scientists group itself, and the presentations are intended to review and develop the past IDRiM research works (New participants are not necessary to base their work on the past works.). This is an exceptional chance for young researchers to challenge and discuss with top disaster experts, and to contribute for the development of integrated disaster risk management.

The NEXUS young scientists group is waiting for new fellows getting on this stage together!

3-YEAR STARTUP PLAN OF THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS PROJECT (2005-2007)

To foster our idea in the session, the young scientists group has the following startup plan of session policies for the first three years. This year is the third time of the session. The focus is on showing a hypothesis.

2005 - THE KICK OFF YEAR

We initiated our session by reviewing senior researchers' work. Following three presentations and discussions are raised.

Normative solution in implementation of disaster risk management- thinking in public economics and game theory
Review and comments on the paper "Reflections on Implementation Science"
Practical implications of adopting response strategies within integrated disaster risk management framework

2006 - THE DIRECTING YEAR

The second year of the session, being based on the review, we showed a hypothesis to be scientifically tested. Participants expanded reviews on papers in each academic field and tried to summarize what had been attained in the preceding IDRiM, what was still ambiguous and/or on which points conclusions were in conflict with each other. New participants introduced their interests and research results.

2007 - THE BUILD-UP YEAR

On the third year, we will test the hypothesis scientifically.

THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS GROUP'S RAISON D'ÊTRE (OBJECTIVES)

- Members of the NEXUS are expected to present critical reviews based on the papers previously published in the IIASA-DPRI annual conferences;
- Discussions in the annual IDRiM conferences should not be fragmentary. Ideas should be continuously “improved”;
- Young researchers, although “young” is not defined by physical age, are fit to kick off “the improving process” for the following three reasons:
 - 1) For the purpose of improving the researches, young researchers are required to learn seniors' achievement first. This process gives us not only a good opportunity for our own growth but also for succession of the NEXUS to the next generation.
 - 2) Young researchers' ways of thinking are more “fundamental” and “analytical” (“scientific” or “theoretical” may be more appropriate epithets) than those of senior researchers. Hence some young researchers are relatively bad at communication-type of discussion and we need time to analyze and prepare their counterarguments.
 - 3) Discussions on “Implementation” tend to be pragmatic and, sometimes, too practical that it comes to be too difficult to attain universal insights. Hence pure-theoretical thinking of young researchers may stimulate the NEXUS and contribute for it in “going a last mile”.

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS SESSION 2007

The NEXUS young scientists group is sending a proposal for an organized session in the IIASA-DPRI forum on “INTEGRATED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT”, September 16-21, in Ispra, Italy. The session will be organized as a sequel to the Young Scientists Sessions in 2005 and 2006.

In the past sessions, participants were expected to review papers in the preceding IDRiM conferences, to summarize the past achievement in each academic field, and finally to present theories and hypotheses which should be either tested as positive studies or proved by theoretical studies. The hypotheses are intended to be tested and shown in the coming forum in 2007.

The original objective of the group is to learn the achievement of the NEXUS-IDRiM, discuss on its results, try to use their expertise to improve the ideas and depict perspective of future studies that the NEXUS should tackle. The main purpose is to succeed and improve knowledge accumulated in the NEXUS-IDRiM.

On the other hand, the Young Scientists Session is the opportunity that Ph.D students make their international debut with the presentation of their concerns and specialties in the NEXUS-IDRiM. The new comers talk in the sub-session “Research Progress of Young Scientists”.

SESSION PROGRAM

September 16th, 14:00-17:40

- 1) Introduction (5 min)

Explanation of the group's concept and objective and the session program.

2) “Research Progress of Young Scientists” (76 min)

* 14 min. for presentation and 5 min. for discussion.

* Each presentation is expected to include 1) presenter’s brief introductions, 2) research results and 3) future works that the presenter and NEXUS-IDRiM should tackle.

Yu Chen, University of Bristol, UK

“A Performance-based Systems Thinking Approach to Managing Uncertainty”

Chunhua Li, Beijing Normal University, China

“An insight into integrated agricultural disaster risk management from the grain yield prediction of Jiangsu Province based on Gray-econometrics model with hazard variables”

Hitoshi Kobayashi, Osaka University, Japan

“Design and practice of re-constructing a community -DATA HANDAI project-”

Bo Chen, Beijing Normal University, China

“Case Study of Typhoon-Flood Disaster Chain (July,2006) in Xiangjiang River Basin of China by Field Survey”

3) “Results of Young Scientists Projects” (114 min)

* 14 min. for presentation and 5 min. for discussion..

* Each presentation is expected to include 1) presenter’s brief introductions, 2) summary of the results in some academic fields that the presenter majors in, comments on the past findings: what is important and what is incomplete, 3) introduction of notable theory or hypothesis: what should be more deeply analyzed and widely tested in many regions and 4) analytical and/or descriptive results on the hypotheses.

Tao Ye, DPRI, Kyoto University, Japan

“Diversifying Disaster Risk Internationally and Inter-temporally: A Combined Approach”

Koichi Shiwaku , Kyoto University, Japan

“Innovative School Disaster Education”

(Coffee Break, 10 min)

Komal Aryal, Northumbria University, UK, and Hideyuki Shiroshita, DPRI, Kyoto University, Japan

“Local disaster risk, governance and communication of risk information for sustainable disaster risk management: a case study from Nepal”

Subhajyoti Samaddar, DPRI, Kyoto University, Japan

“The Social Network Process of the Diffusion of Innovation – A Means of Coping Mechanism under Disaster Risks”

Mamoru Yoshida, DPRI, Kyoto University, Japan

“Payment scheme based on inspection result for building inspectors”

Muneta Yokomatsu, DPRI, Kyoto University, Japan

“Barriers to Insuring against Disaster in Developing Countries”

4) Comprehensive discussion with audience including senior researchers (10 minutes)

5) Concluding Remarks (5 minutes)

Summary of the discussion.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you want to join the session, or have an interest in the NEXUS young scientists group, please get contact with us by the following ways.

1. JOIN OUR MAILING LIST from <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/youngscientists-iasadpri/>
2. INQUIRY TO THE SESSION ORGANIZER to Muneta Yokomatsu, Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University, yoko@drs.dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp