LETTER OF INTENT

Between

THE INSTITUTE OF SEISMOLOGY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
(HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS “ISMES”)

and

THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
(HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS “UNESCO”)

in cooperation with

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SEISMOLOGY AND EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING, BUILDING RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF JAPAN
(HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS “IISEE”)

concerning

COOPERATION FOR REDUCING EARTHQUAKE DISASTER RISKS AND POST-EARTHQUAKE FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

Whereas, ISMES, UNESCO and IISEE, (hereinafter referred to collectively as “the Parties”) are concerned with the impact of phenomenon of intensive earthquake hazards in Kazakhstan,

Whereas, the Parties are mindful of the importance of international cooperation to contribute efforts for reducing the impact of earthquake hazards by expertise exchange as well as by post-earthquake field investigation under UNESCO’s programme on the International Platform for Reducing Earthquake Disasters (hereinafter referred to as “IPRED”),

Recognizing the importance of the principles of equality and mutual benefits.

The Parties have the intention to cooperate in the following:

a) Effective data exchange and information on earthquake disaster.

b) Field investigations after the occurrence of earthquake disasters in and around Kazakhstan.

The implementation of such cooperation shall be concluded in another arrangement by the Parties.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties have signed this Letter of Intent.

Signed on 26 June 2012.

Name: Prof. DR. TANATKAN ABAKANOV  
Position: Director  
Institution: Institute of Seismology, Ministry of Education and Science of Republic of KAZAKHSTAN  
Address: Al-Farabi avenue, 75a, Almaty, 050060, KAZAKHSTAN

Name: DR. SERGUEI LAZAREV  
Position: Director  
Institution: UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office  
Address: 67, Tole Bi Street. 050000. Almaty, KAZAKHSTAN

Name: DR. BADAOUI ROUHBAN  
Position: Director  
Institution: Section for Disaster Reduction, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO  
Address: 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris cedex 15, France

Name: DR. SHOICHI ANDO  
Position: Director  
Institution: IISEE, Building Research Institute of Japan  
Address: 1 Tachihara, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0802, Japan
Details of the System for Post-Earthquake Field Investigation

1. Countries affected by earthquake disasters may require immediate and significant assistance, whether it be in terms of human and material resources, devising actions to respond to the damage occurred or strengthening national capacities in the future disaster risk reduction.

2. ISMES, as a focal point of the UNESCO IPRED programme, has developed extensive expertise and experience in designing and coordinating field investigations, by bringing together highly-qualified experts in seismology and earthquake engineering, including those who have participated in international training courses carried out by IISEE.

3. On the international level, UNESCO has the mandate to promote scientific disciplines involved in disaster preparedness and mitigation under the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) system. In this capacity, UNESCO organizes the IPRED programme and is called upon to act as the technical coordinator of field investigations in situations of earthquake disasters.

4. The document aims at:
   - Strengthening the capacity of UNESCO to undertake post-earthquake field investigation, in response to requests for technical advices by countries affected by earthquake disasters in and around Kazakhstan;
   - Establishing the IPRED post-earthquake field investigation team (hereinafter referred to as “the Team”) which will act as a mechanism for providing technical advices to countries affected by earthquake disasters as well as sharing scientific findings to other earthquake-prone countries.

5. The Team shall be composed of highly-qualified technical experts, with demonstrated expertise in emergency management, in the fields of seismology, earthquake engineering and architecture. The Team shall be open and flexible in its nature and composition, and it is highly recommended that the worldwide network of ex-participants of IISEE international training courses be fully utilized so that they may be able to cooperate with or participate in the Team.

6. The Team shall be established jointly by ISMES and UNESCO in cooperation with IISEE. ISMES is recommended to establish a list of possible members of the Team before the occurrence of earthquake disasters and communicate it to UNESCO for its endorsement through its Almaty office.

7. The Team shall be called upon by UNESCO to respond to earthquake disasters in and around Kazakhstan, and the Team shall deliver the results to UNESCO through its Almaty office as soon as the field investigation is completed.

8. In principle, ISMES or the each individual of the Team shall bear the expenses of field investigations. UNESCO may, at the request of ISMES, consider the support of all or part of the expenses within the limits of its budget.
9. The liability of accidents during field investigations rests with each individual of the Team.

10. Field investigations shall be carried out as part of activities of the IPRED programme. However, the members of the Team participating in missions will not be granted status as UNESCO staff. Thus, the members will neither benefit from UN privileges and immunities, nor from UN security coverage, during such missions.