

Terms of Reference of the International Platform for Reducing Earthquake Disasters (IPRED)

The terms of reference of the International Platform for Reducing Earthquake Disasters (hereinafter referred to as “IPRED”) describe the mission, objectives and modalities of the IPRED.

1. The mission of the IPRED is to identify gaps and priorities through the sharing of scientific knowledge and experience in the field of seismology and earthquake engineering, and to support the development of political will and public awareness, for the purpose of ensuring the better preparation against earthquakes and building a culture of safety for the people in the world.
2. The principal objectives of the IPRED are as follows:
 - a. To exchange information and propose plans on collaborative research, training, and education regarding seismology and earthquake engineering in order to reduce earthquake disasters, especially on buildings and housing;
 - b. To address policy-relevant issues related to the reduction of earthquake disaster risks and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, including making recommendations on priorities in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (hereinafter referred to as “ISDR”) system;
 - c. To establish a system to dispatch experts to an earthquake stricken country in order to carry out post-earthquake field investigations and draw lessons for future risk reduction, by utilizing the worldwide network of the graduates of training courses organized by the International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (hereinafter referred to as “IISEE”) of Japan;
 - d. To support and cooperate with the IISEE in its activities including implementation of international training courses on seismology and earthquake engineering aiming at earthquake disaster reduction;
 - e. To propose and organize specific enquiries regarding seismology and earthquake engineering in order to investigate and address priority matters to the governments and regional or international communities;
 - f. To advise the IPRED members on scientific and technical issues regarding seismology and earthquake engineering; and

- g. To assist and coordinate scientific and technical activities within the ISDR system, including the initiatives of the Global Task Force on Building Codes (GTFBC) coordinated by UNESCO.
3. The IPRED will be supported and convened by the UNESCO Secretariat, and the IISSE will act as its Centre of Excellence (COE) and assist activities and maintenance of the IPRED.
 4. The working language of the IPRED is English.
 5. The membership of the IPRED at the initial stage comprises representatives of institutes or universities who have experiences of projects regarding earthquake disaster reduction in their countries, which were financially supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
 6. Institutes or universities who support the IPRED's mission and objectives and are willing to participate in the IPRED activities may be recognized as "institutional members" by registering at the UNESCO Headquarters. The registration shall be requested from the heads of institutes or universities to the Director, Section for Disaster Reduction of UNESCO by means of emails, faxes or mailed letters.
 7. Individuals who support the IPRED's mission and objectives may be recognized as "individual members" by registering at the UNESCO Headquarters. The registration shall be requested from each individual to the Director, Section for Disaster Reduction of UNESCO by means of emails, faxes or mailed letters.
 8. The IPRED develops its own action plans and meets face to face at least once each year. Additional meetings, including by means of telephone and video conferences, may be held if required.
 9. Relevant international or regional entities as well as governmental entities may delegate observers to the IPRED meetings.
 10. Where appropriate, the IPRED may invite guests to the meetings in order to share useful information or seek advices regarding the IPRED activities.
 11. Where appropriate, the activities implemented by the IPRED shall be included in the Joint Work Programme of the ISDR system in order to meet the criteria to be given a formal relationship with the ISDR system as a Thematic Platform.

12. Finances to carry out the IPRED activities may be obtained from contributions from supporters who support the IPRED's mission and objectives, or other subventions, donations and financial support. Each member who obtains such finances shall take full responsibility and accountability.
13. There is no membership fee to join the activities of the IPRED.
14. Changes to these Terms of Reference require approval by the focal points of institutional members with a minimum two-thirds majority.

Reference 1: Institutional Members of the IPRED (as of July 2011)

Country	Name of Institutes or Universities	Focal Point
Chile	Universidad Catolica de Chile (PUC)	Dr. Raul Alvarez Medel, Professor of PUC
Egypt	National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics (NRIAG), Ministry of Scientific Research	Dr. Salah M. Mahmoud, Professor, the Head of the Department of Geodynamics, NRIAG
El Salvador	Universidad de El Salvador (UES)	Dr. Edgar Armando Peña Figueroa, Professor of UES
Indonesia	Research Institute for Human Settlements (RIHS), Agency for Research and Development, Ministry of Public Works	Dr. Anita Firmanti, Director of RIHS
Japan	International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (IISEE), Building Research Institute (BRI)	Dr. Shoichi Ando, Director of IISEE
Kazakhstan	Institute of Seismology, Ministry of Science and Higher Education	Dr. Tanatkan Abakanov, Professor, Director of the Institute of Seismology
Mexico	National Center for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED)	Mr. Carlos Gutiérrez, Research Director of CENAPRED
Peru	Japan-Peru Center for Earthquake Engineering and Disaster Mitigation (CISMID), Faculty of Civil Engineering, National University of Engineering	Dr. Carlos Zavala, Director of CISMID
Romania	Technical University of Civil Engineering of Bucharest (UTCB)	Dr. Radu Vacareanu, Professor, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, UTCB
Turkey	Istanbul Technical University (ITU)	Dr. Faruk Karadoğan, Professor, Former Rector