

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 second 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, we would like to focus on showing a hypothesis to be scientifically tested. Please see the following pages for detailed agenda.

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 2006

The NEXUS young scientists group is sending a proposal for an organized session in the IIASA-DPRI forum on “INTEGRATED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT”, August 13th-17th, 2006 in Istanbul, Turkey. The session will be organized as a sequel to the Young Scientists Session, “Next Step of IDRiM Studies and Roles of NEXUS Young Scientists” in Beijing, 2005.

In this year's session, participants are 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 tested as positive studies in the various regions in the world. The hypotheses are intended to be tested and shown in the next 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.

BASIC POLICY FOR PRESENTATIONS IN THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS SESSION 2006

- Participants focus on her/his majored academic field in the NEXUS-IDRiM and carries out academic survey.
- Participants summarize what was presented or on a certain conclusion that was attained in the preceding IDRiM. (Not requirement for new participants of the forum.)
- In the session, presenters review on it, then point out a theory or hypothesis which should be tested as a descriptive study in the various regions in the world.
- The rationales should be supported with well-prepared and deep analysis either by theoretical or data-oriented approach.

- (If possible) authors of the reviewed theories and hypotheses present a reply (just without preparation). All the audience is involved in the discussion.
- The thoughts and discussions in the session are put together and we present our project for the next step.

TENTATIVE SESSION PROGRAM

1) Introduction (5 minutes)

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

2) Presentations (75 minutes)

Each presentation is expected to include:

- Presenter's brief introductions
- 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
- Notable theory or hypothesis: what should be more deeply analyzed and widely tested in many regions.

3) Comprehensive discussion with audience including senior researchers (25 minutes)

4) Concluding Remarks (15 minutes)

Summary of the discussion, and announcement of comparative positive studies as the young group's project in the next year.

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 Dr. Muneta Yokomatsu, Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University, yoko@drs.dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp